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DECISION



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

FILE: B-209563.2

DATE: August 4, 1983

MATTER OF: International Alliance of Sports Officials

DIGEST:

Protest of cancellation of solicitation, filed with GAO more than 10 working days after basis for protest was known, is untimely under Bid Protest Procedures. Even though protest was sent by certified mail it will not be considered as it was not sent later than the fifth working day prior to the final date for filing a protest.

International Alliance of Sports Officials (IASO) protests the cancellation of Schedules I and II of invitation for bids No. DABT10-82-B-0257 issued by the Department of the Army for sports officiating services at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

We dismiss the protest as untimely.

IASO states that on April 11, 1983, it was informed by the contracting officer of the cancellation. The protest, which was sent by certified mail on April 21, was received in our Office on April 26.

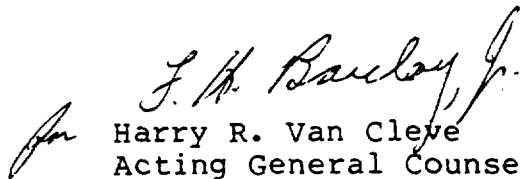
Our Bid Protest Procedures provide that in order for a protest to be considered by our Office, it must be filed within 10 working days after the basis for the protest is known to the protester. 4 C.F.R. § 21.2(b)(1983). This protest was filed 11 working days after IASO was informed of the cancellation, and therefore was received after the time limit prescribed in our procedures. While we will consider protests that are received after the specified time if sent by certified mail not later than the fifth working day prior to the final date for filing a protest, 4 C.F.R. § 21.2(b)(3), IASO's protest was sent by certified mail on April 21, less than 5 working days before the final date for filing (April 25).

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Finally, the fact that IASO received a standard letter from our Office acknowledging the receipt of its protest does not, as IASO suggests, imply that our Office ever considered that the protest was timely filed.

The protest is dismissed.


Harry R. Van Cleve
Acting General Counsel