

## 3.603 Responsibilities of the contracting officer.

(a) Before awarding a contract, the *contracting officer shall* obtain an authorization under [3.602](#) if-

(1) The *contracting officer* knows, or has reason to believe, that a prospective contractor is one to which award is otherwise prohibited under [3.601](#); and

(2) There is a most compelling reason to make an award to that prospective contractor.

(b) The *contracting officer shall* comply with the requirements and guidance in [subpart 9.5](#) before awarding a contract to an organization owned or substantially owned or controlled by Government employees.

**Parent topic:** [Subpart 3.6 - Contracts with Government Employees or Organizations Owned or Controlled by Them](#)