

## 14.402-3 Postponement of openings.

(a) A bid opening *may* be postponed even after the time scheduled for bid opening (but otherwise in accordance with [14.208](#)) when-

(1) The *contracting officer* has reason to believe that the bids of an important *segment* of bidders have been delayed in the mails, or in the communications system specified for transmission of bids, for causes beyond their control and without their fault or negligence (*e.g.*, flood, fire, accident, weather conditions, strikes, or Government equipment blackout or malfunction when bids are due);  
or

(2) *Emergency* or unanticipated events interrupt normal governmental processes so that the conduct of bid opening as scheduled is impractical.

(b) At the time of a determination to postpone a bid opening under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, an announcement of the determination *shall* be publicly posted. If practical before issuance of a formal amendment of the invitation, the determination *shall* be otherwise communicated to prospective bidders who are likely to attend the scheduled bid opening.

(c) In the case of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, and when urgent Government requirements preclude amendment of the *solicitation* as prescribed in [14.208](#), the time specified for opening of bids will be deemed to be extended to the same time of *day* specified in the *solicitation* on the first work *day* on which normal Government processes resume. In such cases, the time of actual bid opening *shall* be deemed to be the time set for bid opening for the purpose of determining "late bids" under [14.304](#). A note *should* be made on the abstract of bids or otherwise added to the file explaining the circumstances of the postponement.

**Parent topic:** [14.402 Opening of bids.](#)