

Appendix C

IRS CONTRACT LANGUAGE FOR GENERAL SERVICES

I. PERFORMANCE

In performance of this contract, the Contractor agrees to comply with and assume responsibility for compliance by his or her employees with the following requirements:

- (1) All work will be performed under the supervision of the contractor or the contractor's responsible employees.
- (2) Any Federal tax returns or return information (hereafter referred to as returns or return information) made available shall be used only for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this contract. Information contained in such material shall be treated as confidential and shall not be divulged or made known in any manner to any person except as may be necessary in the performance of this contract. Inspection by or disclosure to anyone other than an officer or employee of the contractor is prohibited.
- (3) All returns and return information will be accounted for upon receipt and properly stored before, during, and after processing. In addition, all related output and products will be given the same level of protection as required for the source material.
- (4) No work involving returns and return information furnished under this contract will be subcontracted without prior written approval of the IRS.
- (5) The contractor will maintain a list of employees authorized access. Such list will be provided to the agency and, upon request, to the IRS reviewing office.
- (6) The contractor agrees that the safeguard provisions of this agreement apply to Federal and State returns and return information and to other State information such as DOL (Department of Labor), BMV (Bureau of Motor Vehicles) and Secretary of State.
- (7) The contractor must require all officers and employees engaged in the contract to read and sign confidentiality statements provided by Maine Revenue Services. The signed statements must be delivered to the Maine Revenue Services Contract Administrator.
- (8) To ensure that the confidentiality of taxpayer information is protected from any type of disclosure, the contractor must require all of its officers and employees engaged in the contract to complete confidentiality training, to be provided by Maine Revenue Services, before performing any work and at least annually thereafter.

- (9) All materials and information given to the Provider by the Department, or acquired by the Provider on behalf of the Department, whether in verbal, written, electronic, or any other format, shall be regarded as confidential information.
- (10) In conformance with applicable Federal and State statutes, regulations, and ethical standards, the Provider and the Department shall take all necessary steps to protect confidential information regarding all persons served by the Department, including the proper care, custody, use, and preservation of records, papers, files, communications, and any such items that may reveal confidential information about persons served by the Department, or whose information is utilized in order to accomplish the purposes of this Agreement.
- (11) In the event of a breach of this confidentiality provision, the Provider shall notify the Agreement Administrator immediately.
- (12) The Provider shall comply with the Maine Public Law, Title 10, Chapter 210-B (Notice of Risk to Personal Data Act).
- (13) The Department may require background checks for Provider staff assigned to the project whose job responsibilities require access to confidential state or federal taxpayer data.
- (14) The agency will have the right to void the contract if the contractor fails to provide the safeguards described above.

II. CRIMINAL AND CIVIL SANCTIONS

1. Any person who violates 36 MRSA, Section 191, shall be guilty of a Class E crime in the State of Maine.
2. Any further disclosure of federal tax returns or federal tax information inadvertently or purposely obtained as a result of or in contravention of this contract is governed by the contractor's obligation to act in accordance with the following:
 - a) Each officer or employee of any person to whom returns or return information is or may be disclosed will be notified in writing by such person that returns or return information disclosed to such officer or employee can be used only for a purpose and to the extent authorized herein, and that further disclosure of any such returns or return information for a purpose or to an extent unauthorized herein constitutes a felony punishable upon conviction by a fine of as much as \$5,000 or imprisonment for as long as 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution. Such person shall also notify each such officer and employee that any such unauthorized further disclosure of returns or return information may also result in an award of civil damages against the officer or employee in an amount not less than \$1,000 with respect to each instance of unauthorized disclosure. These penalties are prescribed by IRC sections 7213 and 7431 and set forth at 26 CFR 301.6103(n)-1.

- b) Each officer or employee of any person to whom returns or return information is or may be disclosed shall be notified in writing by such person that any return or return information made available in any format shall be used only for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this contract. Information contained in such material shall be treated as confidential and shall not be divulged or made known in any manner to any person except as may be necessary in the performance of the contract. Inspection by or disclosure to anyone without an official need to know constitutes a criminal misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine of as much as \$1,000 or imprisonment for as long as 1 year, or both, together with the costs of prosecution. Such person shall also notify each such officer and employee that any such unauthorized inspection or disclosure of returns or return information may also result in an award of civil damages against the officer or employee [United States for Federal employees] in an amount equal to the sum of the greater of \$1,000 for each act of unauthorized inspection or disclosure with respect to which such defendant is found liable or the sum of the actual damages sustained by the plaintiff as a result of such unauthorized inspection or disclosure plus in the case of a willful inspection or disclosure which is the result of gross negligence, punitive damages, plus the costs of the action. These penalties are prescribed by IRC section 7213A and 7431.
- c) Additionally, it is incumbent upon the contractor to inform its officers and employees of the penalties for improper disclosure imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Specifically, 5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1), which is made applicable to contractors by 5 U.S.C. 552a(m)(1), provides that any officer or employee of a contractor, who by virtue of his/her employment or official position, has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established thereunder, and who knowing that disclosure of the specific material is prohibited, willfully discloses the material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.
- d) Granting a contractor access to FTI must be preceded by certifying that each individual understands the agency's security policy and procedures for safeguarding IRS information. Contractors must maintain their authorization to access FTI through annual recertification. The initial certification and recertification must be documented and placed in the agency's files for review. As part of the certification and at least annually afterwards, contractors should be advised of the provisions of IRC Sections 7431, 7213, and 7213A (see Exhibit 6, *IRC Sec. 7431 Civil Damages for Unauthorized Disclosure of Returns and Return Information* and Exhibit 5, *IRC Sec. 7213 Unauthorized Disclosure of Information*). The training provided before the initial certification and annually thereafter must also cover the incident response policy and procedure for reporting unauthorized disclosures and data breaches. (See Section 10) For both the initial certification and the annual certification, the contractor should sign,

either with ink or electronic signature, a confidentiality statement certifying their understanding of the security requirements.

III. INSPECTION

The IRS and the Agency shall have the right to send its officers and employees into the offices and plants of the contractor for inspection of the facilities and operations provided for the performance of any work under this contract. On the basis of such inspection, specific measures may be required in cases where the contractor is found to be noncompliant with contract safeguards.