

NOTICE: PROCUREMENT FRAUD

The U. S. International Trade Commission (USITC) has become aware of fraudulent procurement notices that have been, and continue to be, circulated in the name of the USITC through emails from non-USITC email addresses and those spoofing actual USITC email addresses, regular mail, and telephonic communications.

These notices are from individuals fraudulently alleging affiliation with the USITC, and they typically target small businesses. The notices usually include fraudulent requests for quotations/solicitations on behalf of the USITC or a fraudulent contract award for goods (frequently IT equipment including iPhones, hard drives, and memory). They invite bidders to submit quotations and then to ship goods and equipment to warehouses located outside of Washington, D.C.

The fraudulent correspondence and phone calls can look as if they originate from the USITC. Correspondence often includes the USITC seal the actual physical address of the USITC, and USITC email and website addresses. But the correspondence also usually includes non-USITC telephone numbers and non-USITC physical addresses for delivery of the requested goods. Targeted businesses have even reported that persons answering the telephones at number provided in the fraudulent correspondence have claimed to be USITC officials. In all cases, the correspondence is falsely signed in the name of actual USITC officials.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT:

- The USITC typically only publishes USITC contracting opportunities at valid procurement sites (e.g. www.fedbizopps.gov, NITAAC's CIO-CS & GSA's eBuy portals). Occasionally, the USITC solicits through email. When responding to any email purporting to be from the USITC, please ensure that it is from a valid USITC email address.
- The USITC has one established shipping address for goods (with only extremely rare exceptions). That address is 500 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20436.
- If you receive a solicitation purporting to be from the USITC, and you find it to be suspicious in any way, please contact the USITC at a valid phone number found on the Commission's public website (www.usitc.gov). The USITC's main telephone number is (202) 205-2000.
- Unauthorized use of the USITC name and seal, and the impersonation of USITC officials is illegal. The USITC has informed relevant law-enforcement authorities of these fraudulent activities.

ACTIONS TO TAKE:

- Exercise caution when responding to any suspicious communication purporting to be from the USITC.
- When in doubt, verify the authenticity of any such communication by contacting the USITC at a telephone number found on the USITC's official website (www.usitc.gov).
- Report any suspected fraud to the USITC and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) through the FBI's website at www.ic3.gov.