Final Rule: Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act

OFCCP Final Rule to Improve Job Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities

Highlights of the Final Rule:

- Utilization goal: The Final Rule establishes a nationwide 7% utilization goal for qualified IWDs. Contractors will apply the goal to each of their job groups, or to their entire workforce if the contractor has 100 or fewer employees. Contractors must conduct an annual utilization analysis and assessment of problem areas, and establish specific action–orientated programs to address any identified problems.
- **Data collection:** The Final Rule requires that contractors document and update annually several quantitative comparisons for the number of IWDs who apply for jobs and the number of IWDs they hire. Having this data will assist contractors in measuring the effectiveness of their outreach and recruitment efforts. The data must be maintained for three years to be used to spot trends.
- **Invitation to Self-Identify:** The Final Rule requires that contractors invite applicants to self-identify as IWDs at both the pre-offer and post-offer phases of the application process using language prescribed by OFCCP. The Final Rule also requires that contractors invite their employees to self-identity as IWDs every five years, using the prescribed language. This language will be posted on the OFCCP web site (*coming soon*).
- **Incorporation of the EO Clause:** The Final Rule requires that specific language be used when incorporating the equal opportunity clause into a subcontract by reference. The mandated language, through brief, will alert subcontractors to their responsibilities as Federal contractors.
- **Record Access:** The Final Rule clarifies that contractors must allow OFCCP to review documents related to a compliance check or focused review, either on-site or off-site, at OFCCP's option. In addition, the Final Rule requires contractors, upon request, to inform OFCCP of all formats in which it maintains its records and provide them to OFCCP in whichever of those formats OFCCP requests.
- **ADAAA:** The Final Rule implements changes necessitated by the passage of the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 by revising the definition of "disability" and certain nondiscrimination provisions of the implementing regulations.