

Sec. 46a-68j-26. Affirmative action obligations of contractors required to file plans pursuant to Section 46a-68d of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253

(a) In addition to the obligations of Sections 46a-68j-23, 46a-68j-24 and 46a-68j-25, a contractor subject to the requirements of Section 46a-68d of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253, shall develop and implement an affirmative action plan conforming to Section 46a-68j-28. Such plan shall be filed with the commission within thirty (30) days after a bid has been accepted by an awarding agency, or in advance of or at the same time as the bid is submitted, as the contractor elects. For good cause shown, the commission may extend the time for filing a plan, provided that the awarding agency agrees in writing to withhold two per cent of the total contract price per month until the plan is filed and approved by the commission. No plan shall be considered a plan unless and until it has been approved by the commission. Plans shall contain all elements listed in Section 46a-68j-25, as well as the following elements more particularly described in Section 46a-68j-28:

- (1) employment analysis;
- (2) subcontractor availability analysis;
- (3) minority business enterprises goals and timetables;
- (4) program goals and timetables; and
- (5) minority business enterprises assistance and innovative programs.

(b) Any contractor currently operating an affirmative action program pursuant to an affirmative action plan containing substantially all the elements listed in Sections 46a-68j-25 (a) and 46a-68j-26 (a) may petition the commission for permission to file that plan in lieu of the plan otherwise required. An application to file such plan shall be in writing, with a copy of the proposed plan attached to the application, describing why the plan should be accepted by the commission. The commission may accept as substantially equivalent any plan meeting the requirements of Section 46a-68j-25 (b), provided that the plan or any supplements to it address all areas otherwise required by Sections 46a-68j-25 (a) and 46a-68j-26 (a). The Commission may also accept as substantially equivalent an affirmative action plan approved in the manner provided for in Section 46a-68k of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 46a-68k-1 through 46a-68k-8.

(c) The commission shall review affirmative action plans within sixty (60) days of receipt from the contractor. The commission may approve, approve with conditions or reject any plan so submitted. In addition to the standards announced in Section 46a-68j-25 (c), an approved plan must:

- (1) demonstrate a full and fair commitment to the utilization of minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers of materials.

The commission shall issue a certificate of compliance to a contractor when its affirmative action plan has been approved and shall notify the agency that the contract may be awarded.

(d) If a plan does not meet the standards for an approved plan, the commission may either disapprove or conditionally approve the plan. The commission shall notify the contractor and agency intending to award the contract in writing within ten (10) days of the disapproval or conditional approval. The notice shall state the reason for the commission action and may set forth proposals necessary to bring the plan into compliance. The

contractor shall submit a new or amended plan, or provide written assurances that it will amend its plan to conform to affirmative action requirements, within thirty (30) days of the date the notice is mailed by the commission. If the new or amended plan is disapproved, and the contractor fails to provide written assurances that it will amend its plan, the commission may take appropriate steps to obtain compliance with Section 46a-68d of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253 including a recommendation that the contract not be awarded, as the case may be.

(e) The commission may conditionally approve a plan only if:

(1) the plan contains all the elements listed in Sections 46a-68j-25 (a) and 46a-68j-26 (a) or equivalent authority accepted by the commission;

(2) the plan meets a majority of the criteria for approval under Sections 46a-68j-25 (c) and 46a-68j-26 (c);

(3) the contractor provides written assurances that it will amend its plan to conform to commission proposals submitted in accordance with Section 46a-68j-25 (d) to meet affirmative action requirements;

(4) the contractor promises to pledge its best good faith efforts to implement the commission's proposals within agreed upon timetables; and

(5) the contractor takes appreciable steps to implement at least some of the commission's proposals as a token of its commitment to achieve compliance prior to providing written assurances to the commission.

The commission shall closely monitor any contractor granted conditional approval of its affirmative action plan, and shall take all necessary action to assure that the contractor continues to meet affirmative action requirements. If a contractor fails to abide by its written assurances, the commission shall take appropriate action, including notifying the contractor and awarding agency that the commission has revoked its conditional approval or approval of the plan and that the agency should withhold payment to the contractor as provided for in Section 46a-68d of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253.

(f) At any time after the commission grants conditional approval of an affirmative action plan, a contractor may apply for full approval of the plan. An application for approval shall be in writing and shall state what action the contractor has taken to meet affirmative action requirements. The commission shall evaluate an application for approval of an affirmative action plan according to the procedures outlined in Sections 46a-68j-25 (c) and 46a-68j-26 (c). The commission shall notify the contractor and agency within ten (10) days of its decision. The commission shall treat such an application for approval as a new plan, and may approve, approve with conditions or disapprove the request.

(g) The commission shall closely monitor the implementation of affirmative action plans required by Section 46a-68d of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253. The commission may request, in the manner provided for in Section 46a-68j-33 (b), any and all information and support data relating to compliance with Section 46a-68d of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253. In conducting such a review, the commission may employ the review and monitoring authority vested in it in Sections 46a-68j-34 to 46a-68j-36, inclusive.

(Effective August 23, 1990)