



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
OFFICE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS – BRUSSELS

OIB.02 – Budget, public procurement, internal control and programming

**OPEN PROCEDURE NoOIB.DR.2/PO/2015/077/687**

**SUPPLY OF FURNITURE, ASSEMBLED OR UNASSEMBLED, FOR CRÈCHES,  
AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDCARE FACILITIES AND KINDERGARTENS – Series 4**

**EN**

**Question 1:** Would an item complying with GPEM Recommendation D2-2000 of April 2000 do even though you ask for compliance with standards 1021-1 and 1021-2?

*Answer:* - As indicated in the answer to question 2 in the third series of Q&As, an item **classified CF** under Recommendation D2-2000 of the GPEM/CP is compliant with standards EN 1021-1 and 2 as the CF classification indicates that the product has passed test C (Cigarette) of standard EN1021-1 and test F (Flame) of standard EN 1021-2.

**Question 2:** Scatter cushions (5) - You ask for the standard applicable to ‘upholstered furniture’. Cushions are not considered items of furniture as such, but belong to two different families:

- Cushions for resting, to which standards 597-1 and 597-2 apply, or
- Cushions that fall in the category of toys, to which different standards apply, i.e. EN71-2 on the inflammability of toys.

May we propose an item that corresponds to standard EN71-2?

*Answer:* - The cushions under point 5 (scatter cushions) are not cushions for resting. These are **large** cushions with removable covers (not small cushions, as indicated by mistake in Annex 2.1), which are normally used for children to sit on. They are stuffed, very thick and sometimes referred to as ‘pouffes’ or ‘sitting cushions’. The contracting authority consequently confirms the need to comply with the relevant standards for upholstered furniture, EN 1021-1 and EN 1021-2 (ignitability of upholstered furniture).

**Question 3:** Low barriers (40) - Should the price quoted take account of two wall attachments (one on either side)?

*Answer:* Yes, the price quoted should take account of two wall attachments (one on either side).

**Question 4:** Motor-skills development module (24 and 25) - A floor area of between 1.5 and 5 m<sup>2</sup> is required. Is this the floor area taken up by all the units including empty spaces (total length x width) or the total surface area of the selected items?

*Answer:* - In the case of both the solid (24) and the foam (25) motor-skills development module, the floor area required (1.5 to 5 m<sup>2</sup>) should be understood as the floor area taken up by all the items, including empty spaces (total length x width).

**Question 5:** Cubby unit (7) – Should the price quoted include the six trays required?

*Answer:* - The price of the cubby unit should include the six trays required with the characteristics specified in Annex 2.1 to the tender specification.

**Question 6:** Wall easel (23) - You ask for an easel that will allow two or three children to paint.... Is an easel for two persons all right?

*Answer:* - A wall easel for two persons (children) is all right.

**Question 7:** Low corner unit (14) - You ask for:

Dimensions: approx. 42 x 85 cm (depth x height), width min. 40 cm

As regards the width, since this a corner unit it will have the same width as depth yet there aren't the same tolerances as for the other items (+ 42 cm). Would it be possible to change the dimensions to approx. 42 x 85 x 42 cm (depth x height x width).

*Answer:* - For the low corner unit (14), dimensions of approx. 42 x 85 x 42 cm (depth x height x width) will be accepted.

**Question 8:** Tables and chairs (26 to 38) - the size to be taken into account in bids is not specified for items 26 to 38. Can you provide us with that information?

*Answer:* - As there is little difference in price between the different sizes of tables, chairs and stools, the contracting authority decided to group these items together for certain sizes. So, for each of the items 26 to 38 tenderers must specify the price for the size indicated after the heading 'Dimensions'. If the dimensions indicated cover several sizes, the price must be the same for all those sizes. For example: for item (27) Square table - metal legs: crèche size/Size mark 00-2, tenderers must quote a single price (i.e. the price for crèche size/Size mark 00, and for size marks T1 and T2); for item (28) Square table - wooden legs: size mark 3-5, tenderers must quote a single price (i.e. the price for size marks 3, 4 and 5), etc.

**Question 9:** Website - You award 10 points for 5 functionalities but the framework contract does not give a detailed technical description of the site and, in particular, of the security requirements or DIGIT's prohibition of certain types of programme. The most recent OIB framework contracts were very explicit on this subject and gave

rise to a number of questions from potential tenderers who were told that they had to comply with DIGIT's requirements. The same framework contracts offered fair remuneration for the development, adaptation (DIGIT), updates and hosting of servers over four years. It is important to note that the previous contract was worth EUR 3 400 000 while this latest procedure has a maximum of EUR 1 300 000 from which to recover the costs incurred by a website. Would it not be reasonable to let candidates quote prices for the website and to allow the OIB the maximum discount on purchase prices? How will you assess in a fair and transparent manner whether a site is compatible or not with DIGIT's requirements?

Offering the site for free would mean that we would have to reduce the discount on the items we offer and would bring the quality-price ratio for the procedure down from 60 % Q/40 % P to 55 % Q/45 % P.

*Answer: - We confirm that the contracting authority does not require a website to be available for the purposes of this tender procedure but will award points for quality if such a site exists.*

**Question 10:** Incoterms Version 2010 - You refer to Incoterms DDP, but we would inform you that Incoterms DPP was replaced by Incoterm DAP, Delivery at place, on 1 January 2011. Please would you publish a corrigendum for this.

*Answer: - Incoterm DDP was retained in the 2010 Incoterms published on 1 January 2011 and was not replaced by Incoterm DAP. We confirm that the price totals are required 'delivery DDP'.*

**Question 11:** Technical factsheets/handbooks - The title uses the word handbook, which can cover all the usual things and allows repeated use by a group of users, while the text says 'all furniture (...) must be accompanied by technical factsheets/instructions'. Do you require the production of thousands of documents to cover the items delivered, some of which will be in large quantities and quite repetitive, e.g. in the case of stools, chairs, tables, etc.? Is this compatible with environmental policy/ISO 14001 or EMAS? Can you reconsider this point, e.g. by including reference to use of the website?

*Answer: - For each of the 40 basic furniture items, the technical factsheets must confirm compliance with the technical requirements in Annex 2.1 and with the mandatory standards described in point 2.4.3 of Annex 2 to the tender specification. It is up to tenderers to limit the documents in their technical bids just to the supporting documents that will serve to verify compliance with the requirements.*

**Question 12:** . Preparing the price quotation - This specification has reduced the four discounts specified per category of products in the previous contract to a single discount per catalogue. The four discounts correspond to the real economic situation of producers and reflects the range of items in their catalogues. Clearly a

producer that restricts its production to just a few groups of items, e.g. chairs, tables or cupboards, can offer a single discount on what it produces. From the moment you want to have huge catalogues with thousands of articles in them, like you did in the past, you get segmentation of the products into different families and inevitably outside suppliers who don't have the same profit margins and don't offer the same discounts. By insisting on a single discount you will end up being penalised with an average discount which will be negative for all the articles you buy in quantity. Another consequence will be that catalogues will be limited in their range. We would ask you to reconsider at least two discounts per catalogue.

*Answer: - We confirm that the contracting authority requires a single discount per make proposed for this tender procedure.*

**Question 13:** Answer to a previous question: *"You may refer to sales of all types of furniture in the list requested."*

This positive response gives the impression that any producer, e.g. of woodwork or kitchen products, that happens to have sold items of furniture specific to this procedure, can take part. Then if you take self-certification, you can easily end up with a candidate without any genuine professional qualifications pitching solely on the basis of the price because it doesn't have to include in its prices the heavy cost of certification by 14025-accredited laboratories, as is the case with most of our products. Can you look at this question again? Thanks in advance.

*Answer: - The contracting authority's aim is to open up competition as wide as possible in accordance with Article 102(2) of the EU's Financial Regulation. The tender evaluation process will ensure that the requirements of the tender specification have been met.*

*The contract notice says that 'the tenderer must provide:*

- list of furniture sales during the past 2 years. This list will include, per beneficiary: the name of the beneficiary, the list of supplies involved in the contract, the place or places of delivery, the total order value and the performance period.'*

*This effectively confirms that tenderers may refer to sales of all types of furniture in the list requested.*

*To avoid any ambiguity in this regard, the words 'involved in the contract' in the above extract will be deleted. Instead it should now read: 'This list will include, per beneficiary: the name of the beneficiary, the list of supplies, the place or places of delivery, the total order value and the performance period.'*

***This constitutes a corrigendum to the tender documents.***

**Question 14:** We have articles (cushions) that correspond to the French Decree on the safety of articles of bedding (see <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000026208931>).

This is why only the cigarette part of Standard 597 has been tested (and not the match part).

The specifications in the contract for these items go much further than national requirements. Is it possible to quote a price for an article that corresponds to this Decree? Thanks in advance for your reply.

*Answer: - The cushions under point 5 (scatter cushions) are not articles of bedding. These are **large** cushions with removable covers (not small cushions, as indicated by mistake in Annex 2.1), which are normally used for children to sit on. They are stuffed, very thick and sometimes referred to as 'pouffes' or 'sitting cushions'. The contracting authority consequently confirms the need to comply with the relevant standards for upholstered furniture, EN 1021-1 and EN 1021-2 ((ignitability of upholstered furniture).*