

## 9.505 General rules.

The general rules in [9.505-1](#) through [9.505-4](#) prescribe limitations on *contracting* as the means of avoiding, neutralizing, or mitigating organizational conflicts of interest that might otherwise exist in the stated situations. Some illustrative examples are provided in [9.508](#). Conflicts *may* arise in situations not expressly covered in this section [9.505](#) or in the examples in [9.508](#). Each individual *contracting* situation *should* be examined on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed contract. The exercise of common sense, good judgment, and sound discretion is required in both the decision on whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, the development of an appropriate means for resolving it. The two underlying principles are-

- (a) Preventing the existence of conflicting roles that might bias a contractor's judgment; and
- (b) Preventing unfair competitive advantage. In addition to the other situations described in this subpart, an unfair competitive advantage exists where a contractor competing for award of any Federal contract possesses-
  - (1) Proprietary information that was obtained from a Government official without proper authorization; or
  - (2) *Source selection information* (as defined in [2.101](#)) that is relevant to the contract but is not available to all competitors, and such information would assist that contractor in obtaining the contract.

- **[9.505-1 Providing systems engineering and technical direction.](#)**
- **[9.505-2 Preparing specifications or work statements.](#)**
- **[9.505-3 Providing evaluation services.](#)**
- **[9.505-4 Obtaining access to proprietary information.](#)**

**Parent topic:** [Subpart 9.5 - Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest](#)