

PN 031 – 08/16/2021 - PROMPT PAYMENT - ODOT-LET CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Prompt payment requirements apply to ODOT (the Department) and, by extension, its Prime Contractors and Subcontractors (including DBEs and non-DBEs and including traditional subcontractors as well as material suppliers and trucking firms, collectively referred to herein as Subcontractors). The State of Ohio's laws related to prompt payment are published in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4113.61. ORC 4113.61 applies to all contracts. The Prime Contractor must comply with this Proposal Note, ORC 4113.61, C&MS 107.21 and, for contracts with U.S. Department of Transportation financial assistance (i.e., federally-funded contracts), Title 49, Part 26, Section 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (i.e., 49 CFR 26.29).

The Department monitors the payments made by Prime Contractors and Subcontractors for compliance with this Proposal Note, ORC 4113.61, C&MS 107.21 and, for federally funded contracts, 49 CFR 26.29. To facilitate this monitoring, the Department requires Prime Contractors to report their remitted payments to specified Subcontractors, and Subcontractors to report their remitted payments to specified lower-tier Subcontractors, as follows.

- Prime Contractors must report remitted payments to subcontractors (DBE/EDGE and non-DBE/EDGE), suppliers (DBE/EDGE only, unless the supplier sublets to a lower-tier DBE/EDGE firm), and trucking firms (DBE/EDGE only, unless the trucking firm sublets to a lower-tier DBE/EDGE firm) (collectively, Subcontractors).
- Subcontractors must report remitted payments to lower-tier subcontractors (DBE/EDGE and non-DBE/EDGE), suppliers (DBE/EDGE only), and trucking firms (DBE/EDGE only) (collectively, "Lower-tier Subcontractors").

The Prime Contractor must report remitted payments to Subcontractors within 10 calendar days of each payment it receives from the Department. Each Subcontractor must report remitted payments to Lower-tier Subcontractors within 10 calendar days of receipt of each payment received from the Prime Contractor. Payers must report return of retainage (and/or other amounts withheld) within 10 calendar days of release to the payee.

Unless the project type is excluded, all subcontractor payment reporting must take place within the Signet® application. Signet is a third-party software supported by the software vendor for usage by the Prime Contractor and subcontractors. Signet is only a reporting tool; it does not process financial transactions. ODOT does not provide direct technical support for Signet.

Projects of the following types (as indicated on the front page of the Proposal) are excluded from using Signet. In order to fulfill prompt payment reporting requirements, the Prime and Subcontractors MUST enter and verify remitted payments in AASHTOWare Project™ - Civil Rights & Labor (CRL).

- Mowing
- Herbicidal Spraying
- Raised Pavement Markers
- Pavement Marking
- Tree Trimming

All other project types are required to use Signet. Anyone needing access to Signet must submit a request to signet-support@infotechinc.com. Licensing and usage fees for the Signet service are incidental to the Project. The Signet vendor will charge a set fixed fee of \$1,000 per each Contract requiring Signet regardless of Contract value, Contract duration, or number of subcontractors. Prime Contractors are responsible for obtaining a Project-specific Signet license regardless of the number of subcontractor payments made. The Prime Contractor shall be responsible for paying this fee to the Signet vendor. Helpful information on reporting Subcontractor payments in Signet may be found (as of the date of this Proposal

Note) at <https://infotechinc.zendesk.com> (click Signet).

If any contractor or Subcontractor has not previously worked on an ODOT project and/or does not have a CRL account, that contractor or Subcontractor must request a CRL account by emailing DOT.Helpdesk@dot.ohio.gov. CRL feeds into Signet and vice versa, so contractors and Subcontractors MUST have accounts for both systems.

Prime Contractors and Subcontractors shall not record or verify payments in CRL for Projects requiring Signet.

The payer (whether Prime Contractor or Subcontractor) must report the following information:

- 1.) The name of the payee;
- 2.) The dollar amount of the payment to the payee;
- 3.) The date the payee was paid;
- 4.) The retainage or other amount withheld (if any), and the reason for the withholding (if other than for retainage).

Payment reporting(s) must be both gross (i.e., the amount owed without factoring in retainage and/or other amounts being withheld) and net. The payer must report its return of retainage (and/or other amounts withheld) in separate, standalone payment entries (i.e., without being commingled with a payment for work performed or materials supplied).

Payees must verify, in Signet, each payment reported by a payer within 10 calendar days of the payment being reported by the payer. This verification includes whether the payment was received, and if so, whether it was as expected or not.

The Prime Contractor must include the above prompt payment and reporting requirements in all Subcontractor (DBE/EDGE and non-DBE/EDGE), supplier (DBE/EDGE only, unless the supplier sublets to a lower-tier DBE/EDGE firm), and trucking firm (DBE/EDGE only, unless the trucking firm sublets to a lower-tier DBE/EDGE firm) agreements that it enters into and further require that all such subcontractors include the same prompt payment and reporting obligation in their lower-tier Subcontractor (DBE/EDGE and non-DBE/EDGE), supplier (DBE/EDGE only), and trucking firm (DBE/EDGE only) agreements. The project specific Signet license is applicable to all Project subcontracts and subcontractors.

Note: Payments made to non-DBE/EDGE suppliers and trucking firms need not be reported. However, as required in C&MS 107.21 and in accordance with ORC 4113.61, contractors are required to make payment to each subcontractor and supplier within 10 calendar days after receipt of payment from the Department for work performed or materials delivered or incorporated into the project—this requirement includes non-DBE/EDGE suppliers and trucking firms. If a contractor does not comply with this requirement, penalties in accordance with ORC 4113.61 may apply.

SUGGESTED SUB AGREEMENT LANGUAGE – FEDERAL-AID CONTRACTS

Suggested language for the federal-aid Prime Contractor to include in its subcontractor agreements:

As a Subcontractor, supplier and/or trucking firm*, you (the payee) must verify receipt of payments from the Prime Contractor. This verification must be performed within the Signet application. You must verify each payment within 10 calendar days of the payment being reported by the Prime Contractor. This verification includes whether the payment was received, and if so, whether it was as expected or not. Furthermore, you must report payments to your lower-tier Subcontractors (DBE*

and non-DBE), suppliers (DBE only), and trucking firms (DBE only). The payment data reported must include any retainage (and/or other amounts) withheld and any previously withheld amounts released. You must report payments within 10 calendar days of receipt of each payment received from the Prime Contractor. You must also report return of retainage (and/or other amounts withheld) within 10 calendar days of release to the payee. Your payees must then verify each payment reported by you (the payer) within 10 calendar days of the payment being reported. Your lower-tier Subcontractor (DBE and non-DBE), supplier (DBE only), and trucking firm (DBE only) sub agreements must include this prompt payment and reporting obligation.

If you have not previously worked on an ODOT project and/or do not have a CRL account, you must request a CRL account by emailing DOT.Helpdesk@dot.ohio.gov. CRL feeds into Signet and vice versa, so you MUST have accounts for both systems.

Do not use CRL to record or verify payments for this Project.

Suggested language for the subcontractor to include in its lower-tier sub agreements:

As a lower-tier subcontractor (DBE or non-DBE), supplier (except non-DBE) and/or trucking firm (except non-DBE), you (the payee) must verify receipt of payments from the payer (i.e., the maker of this sub agreement with you). This verification must be performed within the Signet system. Payees must verify each payment reported by the payer within 10 days of the payment being reported. This verification includes whether the payment was received, and if so, whether it was as expected or not.

Anyone needing access to Signet may submit a request to signet-support@infotechinc.com.

If you have not previously worked on an ODOT project, and/or do not have a CRL account, you must request a CRL account by emailing DOT.Helpdesk@dot.ohio.gov. CRL feeds into Signet and vice versa, so you MUST have accounts for both systems.

Do not use CRL to verify payments for this Project.

SUGGESTED SUB AGREEMENT LANGUAGE – NON-FEDERAL-AID CONTRACTS

Suggested language for the non-federal-aid Prime Contractor to include in its subcontractor agreements:

As a Subcontractor, supplier and/or trucking firm*, you (the payee) must verify receipt of payments from the Prime Contractor. This verification must be performed within the Signet application. You must verify each payment within 10 calendar days of the payment being reported by the Prime Contractor. This verification includes whether the payment was received, and if so, whether it was as expected or not. Furthermore, you must report payments to your lower-tier Subcontractors (EDGE and non-EDGE), suppliers (EDGE only), and trucking firms (EDGE only). The payment data reported must include any retainage (and/or other amounts withheld) and any previously withheld amounts released. You must report payments within 10 calendar days of receipt of each payment received from the Prime Contractor. You must also report return of retainage (and/or other amounts withheld) within 10 calendar days of release to the payee. Your payees must then verify each payment reported by you (the payer) within 10 days of the payment being reported. Your lower-tier Subcontractor (EDGE and non-EDGE), supplier (EDGE only), and trucking firm (EDGE only) sub agreements must include this prompt payment and reporting obligation.*

If you have not previously worked on an ODOT project and/or do not have a CRL account, you must request a CRL account by emailing DOT.Helpdesk@dot.ohio.gov. CRL feeds into Signet and

vice versa, so you MUST have accounts for both systems.

Do not use CRL to record or verify payments for this Project.

Suggested language for the subcontractor to include in its lower-tier sub agreements:

As a lower-tier subcontractor (EDGE or non-EDGE), supplier (except non-EDGE) and/or trucking firm (except non-EDGE), you (the payee) must verify receipt of payments from the payer (i.e., the maker of this sub agreement with you). This verification must be performed within the Signet application. Payees must verify each payment reported by the payer within 10 days of the payment being reported. This verification includes whether the payment was received, and if so, whether it was as expected or not.

If you have not previously worked on an ODOT project, and/or do not have a CRL account, you must request a CRL account by emailing DOT.Helpdesk@dot.ohio.gov. CRL feeds into Signet and vice versa, so you MUST have accounts for both systems.

Do not use CRL to verify payments for this Project.

SANCTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

PROMPT PAYMENT

Failure by the Prime Contractor to follow Prompt Payment requirements may result in the issuance of sanctions listed below. The Prime Contractor may also receive the below sanctions if any of their Subcontractors fail to follow Prompt Payment requirements.

- 1st Level Occurrence: The Department will issue a Letter of Reprimand to the Prime Contractor (applies if there is a failure to report payments in the Signet system (must use CRL if the project type is excluded as listed above) and/or failure to timely pay subcontractor(s));
- 2nd Level Occurrence: The Department may withhold an estimate in the amount due to the subcontractor(s) that was not reported or paid (applies if there is a failure to report payments in the Signet system (must use CRL if the project type is excluded as listed above) and/or failure to timely pay subcontractor(s));
 - If a Prime Contractor receives a 1st Level Occurrence reprimand for a project, all subsequent Prompt Payment violations on that project (same or different subcontractor) may result in withholding. In this situation, no 1st Level Occurrence reprimand letters will be sent.
- 3rd Level Occurrence: The Prime Contractor may be required to pay interest in the amount of 18% per annum of the payment due, beginning on the eleventh day following the receipt of payment from the owner and ending on the date of full payment of the payment due plus interest (applies if a pattern of not paying subcontractor(s) persists or the Contractor has falsified, misrepresented or withheld information, ODOT can pursue other remedies available by law including suspension, revocation and/or debarment).

Factors to be considered in issuing sanctions may include, but are not limited to the following:

- the Contractor's past project practices;
- the magnitude and the type of offense;
- the degree of the Contractor's culpability;

- any steps taken to rectify;
- the Contractor's record of performance on other projects; and
- the number of times the Contractor has been previously sanctioned by ODOT.

RETURN OF RETAINAGE

Failure by the Prime Contractor to follow Return of Retainage requirements may result in the issuance of sanctions listed below. The Prime Contractor may also receive the below sanctions if any of their Subcontractors fail to follow Return of Retainage requirements.

- 1st Level Occurrence: The Department will issue a Letter of Reprimand to the Prime Contractor (applies if there is a failure to report retainage being held in the Signet system (must use CRL if the project type is excluded as listed above) and/or failure to timely return retainage;
- 2nd Level Occurrence: The Department may withhold an estimate in the amount of retainage due to the subcontractor(s) (applies if there is a failure to report retainage being held in the Signet system (must use CRL if the project type is excluded as listed above) and/or failure to timely return retainage;
 - If a Prime Contractor receives a 1st Level Occurrence reprimand for a project, all subsequent Return of Retainage violations on that project (same or different subcontractor) may result in withholding. In this situation, no 1st Level Occurrence reprimand letters will be sent.
 - Repeat Occurrences: Continued non-compliance is a material breach of contract and will be treated as such. ODOT can pursue other remedies available by law including suspension, revocation and/or debarment.

Factors to be considered in issuing sanctions may include, but are not limited to the following:

- the Contractor's past project practices;
- the magnitude and the type of offense;
- the degree of the Contractor's culpability;
- any steps taken to rectify;
- the Contractor's record of performance on other projects; and
- the number of times the Contractor has been previously sanctioned by ODOT.