

Public Procurement
(Suspension and Debarment)
Regulations 2008

Last updated – 03.06.2024

Table of Contents	Page Number
2. In these regulations –	1
3. Effect of suspension or debarment.....	1
4. Effect on existing contracts.....	1
5. Proposal by a public body for suspension or debarment of a bidder, supplier or consultant.....	1
6. Contents of proposal for debarment.....	2
7. Inquiries by Policy Office.....	2
8. Issuance of notice of proposed debarment.....	2
9. Contents of notice of proposed debarment	2
10. Response by bidder or supplier	3
11. Suspension pending completion of the debarment proceedings	3
12. Hearing on debarment	4
13. Procedures at hearing	4
14. Decision on debarment.....	4
14A. Court, arbitration or other similar proceedings.....	5
15. Application to modify or terminate debarment.....	5
16. Disclosure of the decision	5
17. Register of debarred and suspended bidders or suppliers	6

Amendments to Public Procurement (Suspension and Debarment Regulations 2008)

[Amended as per GN 170/2012; GN 96/2024]

Government Notice No.8 of 2008

THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT 2006

Regulations made by the Minister under section 61 of the Public Procurement Act 2006

1. These regulations may be cited as the Public Procurement (Suspension and Debarment) Regulations 2008.

2. In these regulations –

“Act” means the Public Procurement Act 2006;

“Director” means the Director of the Procurement Policy Office.

2A. In the absence of the Director, the functions of the Director under these regulations may be discharged, and his powers under these regulations may be exercised, by any member of the Policy Office appointed under section 4(1) of the Act. *(amended as per G.N. No.170 of 2012)*

3. Effect of suspension or debarment

No public body shall –

- (a) solicit or accept bids, proposals or quotations from a suspended or debarred bidder; or
- (b) consider bids, proposals or quotations submitted by a suspended or debarred bidder or supplier prior to its suspension or debarment.

4. Effect on existing contracts

Any suspension or debarment of a bidder or supplier under these regulations shall not affect any existing contract entered into between the bidder or supplier and a public body.

[Amended by GN 96/2024]

5. Proposal by a public body for suspension or debarment of a bidder, supplier or consultant

(1) A proposal by a public body for the debarment of a bidder or supplier shall be referred to the Director by means of a proposal for debarment.

(2) A proposal for debarment may include a recommendation that the bidder or supplier be suspended from participating in procurement pending the completion of debarment proceedings.

[Amended by GN 96/2024]

6. Contents of proposal for debarment

A proposal for debarment shall -

- (a) specify the name and address of the bidder or supplier;
- (b) recommend the period of debarment;
- (c) specify any of the grounds specified in section 53(1) of the Act for the proposed action;
- (d) be accompanied by a factual record from the public body, which shall include all evidence and information in the possession of, or known to the public body, relating to the proposed action.

[Amended by GN 96/2024]

7. Inquiries by Policy Office

(1) The Director may request from any source, information or evidence concerning possible grounds for suspension or debarment of a bidder or supplier.

(2) A public body which is requested to submit information under paragraph (1) shall provide the information or document which is in its possession within one month following the request made.

[Amended by GN 96/2024]

8. Issuance of notice of proposed debarment

(1) Where the Director considers that there are grounds for debarment, he shall issue to the bidder or supplier a notice of proposed debarment.

(2) The Director shall send a copy of the notice of proposed debarment to the public body which proposed the debarment.

9. Contents of notice of proposed debarment

A notice of proposed debarment shall -

- (a) inform the bidder or supplier that debarment is being considered;

- (b) inform the bidder or supplier as to whether suspension is contemplated pending the completion of debarment proceedings;
- (c) specify the grounds for the proposed debarment and, if applicable, the suspension;
- (d) set out the facts constituting the grounds for the proposed debarment and, if applicable, the suspension;
- (e) state the period of the proposed debarment;
- (f) inform the bidder or supplier of its right to make written representations and request for a hearing.

10. Response by bidder or supplier

- (1) A bidder or supplier may make representations in writing to the Director within 14 days of the receipt of the notice of proposed debarment.
- (2) Any representation made under paragraph (1) shall contain a certificate, signed by the bidder or supplier, that the information contained therein is true to the best of his knowledge.
- (3) The Director shall, within 7 days of the receipt of the representation, send a copy to the public body which proposed the debarment.

11. Suspension pending completion of the debarment proceedings

(1) On receipt of the representation made under regulation 10, the Director may decide as to whether the bidder or supplier may be suspended from participating in procurement proceedings pending the completion of debarment proceedings.

(2) Where the Director decides to suspend the bidder or supplier under paragraph (1), the Director may decide to terminate the suspension where he considers that the basis for the suspension, pursuant to subsection (1), no longer exists.

(3) Any decision of the Director under paragraph (1) shall remain in effect until -

- (a) a decision on the proposed debarment pursuant to section 14 is taken;
- (b) the expiration of the time specified in regulation 14(1); or

- (c) a decision of the Director under paragraph (2) terminating the suspension,

whichever is earlier.

(4) The Director shall send a copy of his decision under paragraph (1) to the bidder or supplier and to the public body which proposed the debarment.

12. Hearing on debarment

(1) The bidder or supplier shall have a right to a hearing on the proposed debarment and, where it has been suspended, to challenge his suspension, provided that the bidder or supplier requests for a hearing, in writing, within the time specified in regulation 10.

(2) A hearing under paragraph (1) shall take place within 10 days of the submission by the bidder or supplier of his request.

(3) The Director shall notify, in writing, the bidder or supplier and the public body which proposed the debarment of the time and place of the hearing.

13. Procedures at hearing

The Director shall make a record of the hearing, which shall include all documents and evidence submitted at the hearing and a transcript of any testimony given during the hearing.

14. Decision on debarment

(1) The Director shall decide on the proposed debarment within 50 days of the issue of a notice of proposed debarment.

(2) The Director shall determine the period under which the bidder or supplier shall be debarred from participating in procurement proceedings.

(3) The decision of the Director shall be recorded in writing and shall include a summary of the findings of fact and the reasons for decision.

(4) The Director shall forthwith send a copy of his decision under paragraph (1) to the bidder or supplier and the public body which proposed the debarment.

14A. Court, arbitration or other similar proceedings

Where the suspension or debarment of a bidder or supplier is being considered by the Director and the bidder or supplier initiates court, arbitration or other similar proceedings in relation to the suspension or debarment, nothing shall prevent the Director from proceeding with the suspension or debarment.

[Added by GN 96/2024]

15. Application to modify or terminate debarment

(1) A bidder or supplier who has been debarred may apply to the Director to terminate, or modify the period of, the debarment.

(2) An application under paragraph (1) shall be submitted, subject to paragraph (3), after the expiry of 6 months of the decision of debarment.

(3) The Director shall not consider an application under paragraph (1) where the bidder or supplier is under debarment following a previous decision of debarment by the Director.

(4) The applicant shall specify the reasons for modifying or terminating the debarment, and submit any evidence in support of his application.

(5) (a) On receipt of an application under paragraph (1), the Director shall send a copy of the application to the public body which proposed the debarment requesting for comments and recommendations from that public body.

(b) The public body shall submit its comments and recommendations within 14 days of the receipt of the copy of the application.

(6) The Director shall decide upon the application within 14 days of the receipt of the comments and recommendations of the public body.

(7) The Director shall notify in writing the bidder or supplier and the public body of his decision.

16. Disclosure of the decision

A decision of the Director in respect of a debarment or suspension of a bidder or supplier, as the case may be, shall be published in the *Gazette*.

17. Register of debarred and suspended bidders or suppliers

(1) The Director shall maintain a register of all suspended or debarred bidders which shall -

- (a) specify the name and address of every bidder or supplier under suspension or debarment;
- (b) set out the grounds for debarment or suspension, as the case may be, of the bidder or supplier; and
- (c) specify the period under which the bidder or supplier is on debarment or suspension, as the case may be.

(2) The register shall at all times during office hours be made available to the public.

18. These regulations shall come into operation on 17 January, 2008.

Made by the Minister on 14 January 2008 on the recommendation of
the Policy Office.
