

RFSO 15-22041

Q&A # 1

July 30, 2015

There is no vinyl available commercially that can withstand minus 20 Celsius to avoid cold crack during transportation and usage during the winter. There is no heated transport available from couriers such as UPS or Purolator. Vinyl Binder product travelling on a tractor trailer needs to be shipped via heated transport from Thanksgiving to April. A trailer moving at 100 KM per hour in ambient temperature of 0 Degrees Celsius can become as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius in the trailer during travel.

Q1: How do you evaluate the minus 20 Celsius standard?

A1: The bidder must provide written proof of testing.

Q2: Is this standard realistic?

A2: Yes.

Q3: What is the current fail rate for the binders during use and transport?

A3: Less than 1 percent.

Q4: Who is responsible for the failure?

A4: The supplier is responsible until the product is received in good condition.

A binder is constructed of vinyl or other substrate for the interior and exterior sheet, pasted chipboard for the middle medium and ring metal. Currently, there are no longer any manufacturers for the vinyl and this is imported either from the United States or Asia, the ring metal is imported from Asia. The pasted chipboard is available from Quebec or from Asia.

Q5: What are the criteria for calculating the 75% Canadian content?

A5: All printing and labour must be done in Canada; supplies, such as rings and vinyl, can be purchased outside of Canada.

If the binder is to be 4 colour process printed directly onto the vinyl why do the binders require an over-lay (trap sheet) over the surface of the binder front, spine and back. When the term trap sheet is used it implies that a printed paper sheet is positioned front spine and back and then sealed closed by the over-lay clear sheet to prevent removal of the printing from the binder cover. This appears redundant as it would cover the printing that has been positioned directly onto the vinyl.

Q6: Do you have a drawing and sample art for us to review so that we have a clear understanding of the specifications?

A7: The vinyl required is for protection only but must also meet the -20 requirements. NRC does not supply any art work until the selected bidder has been chosen.

There is a binder that is referred to as a turned edge (case made) binder. This binder is made by printing the graphic image by 4 colour process onto 100 LB coated paper and then clear laminated with 1.5 mil lamination film. This binder is resistant to cold crack at any temperature, has image abrasion resistance. Other than the ring fitting and lamination film it is made from 100% Canadian materials and labour. It can be run in smaller batches for inventory control and other than ring fittings drawn from in house standing raw material inventory. It would also be easier to comply with the draw down requirements of the contract. It is highly automated process and will result in cost savings for the NRC.

Q8: Will you consider an alternate better product for this contract?

A8: No, NRC will not consider any other type of binder.

Q9: Please give examples of the quantity draw down by ring size so that we can calculate production through put to ensure we will be compliant with expectations.

A9: As stated in the SOW, quantities vary according to public demand.

Q10: Please confirm that there are 9 Copies of English art and 9 Copies of French art for a total of 18 copies. An estimated breakdown by quantity English and French and ring capacity would be helpful in calculating standby inventory requirements.

A10: As provided in the SOW, the numbers clearly state the quantities and ring sizes. The language quantities are completely irrelevant to the SOW as NRC will place orders as needed to provide full service to our clients.

Q11: Are High Resolution PDF proofs acceptable?

A11: High-resolution proofs are not acceptable until a successful bidder has been chosen and master print proofs approved for all art.

Q12: Would NRC consider a formula for a materials price escalator/reducer to cover foreign material used in the binder due to currency fluctuations? The CAD is low in comparison to USD at this time and should improve during the contract period.

A12: No NRC would not consider this.

In order to preserve space in our warehouse and to keep binder fresh we keep inventories in various stages of production. For example we may keep some components in raw form, some product as binder flats waiting for ring assembly and some product fully completed/assembled in shipping cartons (takes maximum space).

Q13: Would this process be acceptable to NRC?

A13: Yes, NRC would accept this as long as it does not delay delivery by the required deadlines.

**PLEASE EMAIL melody.ellis@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca IF YOU'D LIKE
TO REQUEST QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN FRENCH**