U.S. AbilityOne Commission Notifies GSA of Progress on Domestic Sourcing and Shared Objectives for AbilityOne Products

Letter Highlights Stronger AbilityOne Commission Oversight, Extensive Product Reviews, Proposed Joint Working Group

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 12, 2026 — The U.S. AbilityOne Commission today notified the General Services Administration of progress on domestic sourcing and shared objectives for AbilityOne products produced by the approximately 41,000 people nationwide who are blind or have significant disabilities working on AbilityOne contracts.

The AbilityOne Commission's letter emphasizes Country-of-Origin accuracy, supply chain integrity, regulatory compliance, continuity for Federal customers, and implementation of GSA Class Deviation CD-2026-03, which removes the longstanding AbilityOne exception to Trade Agreements Act requirements in covered GSA channels.

The AbilityOne Commission letter includes the following key points:

- **Stronger AbilityOne Commission oversight of the AbilityOne Program:** Issued October 13, 2026, Commission Directive 27-01 *Transparency, Accuracy, and Accountability in Country-of-Origin Documentation* established added requirements for country-of-origin verification by Central Nonprofit Agencies (CNAs) and AbilityOne nonprofit contractors (NPAs), documentation, and reporting.
- **Extensive reviews of AbilityOne products by Central Nonprofit Agencies:** Reviews of more than 10,000 unique products (National Stock Numbers), including more than 3,500 GSA-managed products, were conducted by the CNAs – National Industries for the Blind and SourceAmerica – that facilitate the Program.
- **Ensuring improved quality and completeness of Country-of-Origin product data in GSA Verified Products Portal:** The CNA reviews significantly improved the quality and completeness of Country-of-Origin information available to the AbilityOne Commission, GSA, Federal customers, and AbilityOne distributors by updating the GSA Verified Products Portal and identifying products needing additional review or disposition.

- **More rigorous Central Nonprofit Agency oversight of nonprofit agency compliance with Federal government requirements:** The CNAs are now incorporating Country-of-Origin verification and monitoring into routine compliance oversight activities.
- **Proposed AbilityOne Commission-GSA Joint Working Group:** The AbilityOne Commission reiterated its recommendation to establish an AbilityOne Commission-GSA joint working group to coordinate waivers, purchase exceptions, inventories, product-status changes, stakeholder communications, and other implementation areas.
- **AbilityOne Commission request that GSA clarify its removal of AbilityOne products:** The AbilityOne Commission asked GSA to clarify information about AbilityOne products removed or suppressed from GSA sales channels before the November 12, 2026, implementation date and before affected parties could complete sourcing transitions or pursue available compliance pathways.
- **Emphasizing commitment to domestic sourcing and shared objectives:** The AbilityOne Commission supports the policy goals of the GSA class deviation and seeks implementation that is coordinated, predictable, and consistent with the agencies' respective authority.

About the U.S. AbilityOne Commission

The U.S. AbilityOne Commission oversees the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Commission is the operating name of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The AbilityOne Commission is an independent Federal agency composed of 15 Presidential appointees: 11 represent Federal agencies, and four serve as private citizens who are knowledgeable about employment barriers facing people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

About the AbilityOne Program

The AbilityOne Program facilitates the use of government procurement to provide employment in the United States for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. In FY 2025, approximately 41,000 individuals, including approximately 2,800 veterans and wounded warriors, were employed nationwide at approximately 400 nonprofit agencies. In addition, AbilityOne provided more than $4.7 billion in products and services to approximately 40 Federal government agencies.

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