

MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPECIAL PROVISION
FOR
PROMPT PAYMENT

CFS:JJG

1 of 4

APPR:JDM:DBP:07-29-13
FHWA:APPR:08-06-13

Add the following subsection to section 109, on page 106, of the Standard Specifications for Construction:

109.08 Prompt Payment.

A. Definitions.

Lower-tier subcontract. An agreement between a subcontractor of any tier and any individual or legal entity to perform a part of the subcontract work.

Lower-tier subcontractor. The individual or legal entity that performs part of the subcontract work through a lower-tier subcontract with a subcontractor.

Supplier. The individual or legal entity that agrees to provide materials or services to the prime Contractor, a subcontractor, or a lower-tier subcontractor for the performance of their contract work.

Sworn Statement. A written verification under oath reflecting all persons or entities, which have furnished labor, equipment, services or materials to a subcontractor or lower-tier subcontractor for performance of work on the project. The written verification includes union fringe benefit funds, original contract amount, current amount due, amounts paid to date and balance to finish the work for each person or entity.

Waiver of Lien. A written release and waiver of any claim or right to payment for payments actually received for labor, equipment, services or materials furnished for performance of work on the project.

The sworn statement and waiver of lien documents are used by the prime Contractor and its subcontractors for verifying payments made to lower-tier subcontractors/suppliers and are not to be submitted to the Engineer unless requested as an aid in determining an alleged prompt payment violation. These documents can be found at the following website under the Construction Field Services heading:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9622_11044_11367---,00.html

B. Progress Payments. For the first payment, or for a one time payment, the prime Contractor agrees to pay each subcontractor for the work associated with their subcontract no later than 10 calendar days from the date the prime Contractor receives payment from the Department.

For the second and subsequent payments, the prime Contractor agrees to pay each

subcontractor for the work associated with their subcontract no later than 10 calendar days from the date the prime Contractor receives payment from the Department.

The Contractor is required to provide payment information for previous payments made to subcontractors and suppliers before the Engineer will release the third and subsequent estimates. The payment information is provided through submittal of the information via the 2124A reporting system (MERS). System information can be found at the following web link.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/Prompt_Payment_2124A_Instructions_MERS_366314_7.pdf

The prime Contractor must bring any concerns about the satisfactory completion of subcontractor or lower-tier subcontractor work items, to the Engineer's attention as soon as the concern is discovered. If the work meets the requirements of satisfactory completion and the prime Contractor has been paid for that work, the Engineer must determine whether:

1. The prime Contractor has demonstrated a valid reason for withholding payment from the subcontractor or supplier, or
2. The subcontractor has demonstrated a valid reason for withholding payment from the lower-tier subcontractor or supplier.

If the Engineer determines the reason for withholding payment is valid, the Engineer will process a negative estimate to withdraw the amount involved in the complaint. If payment has not been made for the work related to the complaint, the Engineer will not include those items of work on an estimate until the issue has been resolved.

The prime Contractor remains responsible to make prompt payments on this project to their subcontractors and suppliers except as noted in subsection 109.08.D of this special provision, even if the prime Contractor is in violation of other contractual obligations and the Department is withholding payment from the prime Contractor for those violations.

The prime Contractor must include language in all subcontracts that the Department prohibits prime Contractors from holding retainage from subcontractors. All provisions of this prompt payment subsection apply to all subcontracts, lower-tier subcontracts, and supplier agreements and must be included in each subcontract for the contract, including all lower-tier subcontracts and agreements.

This prompt payment provision is a requirement of 49 CFR 26.29 and does not confer third-party beneficiary rights or other direct rights to a subcontractor against the Department. This provision applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontractors/suppliers at all tiers.

C. Satisfactory Completion. Progress and partial payments for contract work are issued based on the satisfactory completion of work. Satisfactory completion, for purposes of this prompt payment provision, is defined as:

1. Upon preliminary review, the Engineer finds the work completed in accordance with the contract, plans, and specifications; and,
2. Required documentation, including material certifications, payrolls, submission of 2124A, etc., has been received and reviewed and found to be acceptable by the Engineer; and,

3. Required subcontractor sworn statements and waivers of lien have been provided to the prime Contractor. The prime Contractor must provide notice to the Engineer if sworn statements and waivers of lien have not been received for completed work.

The Engineer will determine if the work meets the standards of satisfactory completion.

D. **Less than full payment release.** The Engineer may give written approval to:

1. Delay or postpone payment from the time frames specified herein,
2. Process partial payment from the prime Contractor to a subcontractor or supplier,
3. Process partial payment from a subcontractor to a lower-tier subcontractor or supplier.

The unpaid portion will be held by the Department.

The parties may initiate whatever dispute resolution procedure is specified in their agreement or is available under Michigan law. If dispute resolution or litigation is selected, the actions by both parties must proceed in a timely manner. The result of the dispute resolution proceeding or litigation must be provided to the Engineer promptly upon the conclusion of the proceeding. The Engineer will release the disputed payment being held by the Department in accordance with the outcome of the proceedings.

E. **Non-Payment Claims.** The prime Contractor, subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or supplier must notify the alleged offending party in writing of any prompt payment violations within 30 calendar days of the date the payment was to be received. Copies of the notifications must be provided to the Engineer and the prime Contractor (only if the prime Contractor is not the offending party).

The alleged offending party must respond in writing to the claimant within 10 calendar days of receipt of the notification of failure to meet prompt payment provisions. Copies of the response must be provided to the Engineer, the prime Contractor (only if the prime Contractor is not the offending party), and the Engineer of Construction Field Services. The prime Contractor, subcontractor, or supplier must also provide the required sworn statements and waivers of lien from the affected subcontractor or supplier to the Engineer within 10 days of receipt of the notification. The Department will consider the failure of the alleged offending party to respond to the notification from the claimant as an admission of the prompt pay violation which may result in sanctions.

The Engineer will review the written notice and response and will verify in writing if there is a valid prompt pay violation.

Independent of all procedures and requirements in this special provision the non-payment claimant has the additional option of submitting a lien claim to the MDOT Contract Services Division. MDOT will notify the project surety of the non-payment issue. It is the responsibility of the surety to ensure that all legitimately due payments are made. The submission of a lien claim will not nullify or affect any other requirements, obligations or procedures in this special provision.

F. **Remedies.** When the Engineer verifies a prompt payment violation, the prime Contractor within 5 days must propose one or a combination of any of the following actions items for review

and approval by the Engineer:

1. Issue payment to the subcontractor.
2. Issue payments to a subcontractor in the form of joint checks to the subcontractor and the subcontractor's lower-tier subcontractors and/or suppliers.
3. Issue payment directly to the subcontractor's lower-tier subcontractors or suppliers.
4. Request a negative estimate to withdraw the amount confirmed in the prompt payment violation.

If the prime Contractor fails to submit a timely remedy request or obtain an approved course of action within the 5 day time period, the Engineer will direct a course of action or issue a negative estimate to withdraw the amount confirmed in the prompt payment violation.

If the prime Contractor fails to fulfill the approved or directed course of action the Engineer will impose sanctions until such time as the approved or directed course of action is completed.

Any payments to a subcontractor's lower-tier subcontractor or supplier will be issued in the amounts reflected upon the subcontractor's sworn statements or in amounts independently verified by the Engineer as being due the subcontractor's lower-tier subcontractors and suppliers for work completed. Payments to a lower-tier subcontractor or supplier will be considered payment to the subcontractor directly so that payment for the same work cannot be claimed.

Any other use of joint checks must follow current Department procedures.

G. Sanctions. Failure to comply with any of the prompt payment requirements by the prime Contractor, subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor, or supplier may result in sanctions against the offending party. These sanctions may include, but are not limited to: withholding of estimates on projects where prompt payment violations are confirmed; reduction or removal of prequalification; and/or suspension of bidding privileges.