



**City of Tacoma  
Environmental Services Department  
Solid Waste Management Plastic 20,30,45,60, and 90 Gallon  
Containers RFID Tags and Replacement parts  
RFB ES20-0223F**

**QUESTIONS and ANSWERS**

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Samol Hefley by January 14, 2021. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at [www.TacomaPurchasing.org](http://www.TacomaPurchasing.org): Navigate to *Current Contracting Opportunities / Supplies*, and then click *Questions and Answers* for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

**Question 1:** Since IPL is the current supplier of waste containers, does the City need to have samples of our product for this request for bids?

Answer 1: Yes, Sample will need to be provided for this bid.

**Question 2:** We understand to coordinate with Joe Breer for delivery arrangements, but is the delivery address 3510 S. Mullen Street, Tacoma WA, 98409-2200? if not, please supply correct address.

Answer 2: Correct, the delivery address is 3510 S. Mullen Street, Tacoma WA 98409

**Question 3:** May bidders offer more than one cart for a size category within the same bid submission?

Answer 3: Yes as long as they all meet specifications.

**Question 4:** Standard Terms and Conditions, page 13, Item J – required decreases to be passed immediately. This practice is unequitable with industry standard price adjustments policies, and the City has not included that in other more specific passages regarding price adjustments. Please confirm that the City will delete this requirement and require annual adjustments per specifications found in other areas of the bid

Answer 4: This is part of Standard Terms and Conditions. SWM is ok with annual adjustments or language that states future orders instead of immediately.

**Question 5:** Section 3, Item K, describes requirements for guarantee/warranty maintenance and repair services, annual inspections, repairs outside the warranty period. Ten days are allowed to correct deficiencies (greater time is allowed in other section of bid). Please confirm that these requirements are not required, but the City will require its warranty requirements stated within Section 4 – Technical Provisions.

Answer 5: Warranty language in Section-4 Technical Provisions requires vendor to replace defected items under warranty within 30 days of notification. SWM is firm on this language as customer demand may not be met otherwise.

**Question 6:** Section 3, Item K.D, E, G – Standard industry warranties do not include repairs and maintenance services, but do require replacement of defective product. We do have a Cart Maintenance Program, and should the City require a separate maintenance/repair agreement, we respectfully request that the City indicate this to bidders to price out correctly for this bid.

**Answer 6:** SWM is agreeable to vendors replacing defective items under warranty and does not wish to include a separate maintenance/repair agreement as part of the contract.

**Question 7:** Section 3, Item P – requires “The contractor will deliver and stage all trash stations...”. Will the City confirm that this is a typographical error and not applicable to this roll cart bid?

**Answer 7:** Delivery of containers and parts to the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center, including payment and contracting with a hauler is the responsibility of the vendor.

**Question 8:** Section 4, page 7, item D and E.a requires Plastics News under HDPE Injection Molding-General Purpose (GP). Will the City allow the resin index that matches the resin used by the bidder for manufacture of its carts?

**Answer 8:** SWM is agreeable to using the resin index that represents the material used by the manufacturer.

**Question 9:** Section 4, page 8, item G.b requires a complete cart for defective tub. Our warranty provides standard industry coverage of part for part replacement. This is both equitable and sustainable practice. Will the City accept part for part replacements if the body/tub, or any cart component, fails?

**Answer 9:** Section-4 Item G.c allows for replacement of defective parts if the remaining portion of the unit is functional.

**Question 10:** Section 4, page 8, Item D, requires 30 days to provide containers and hardware warranty replacements. This timeframe is good for “off-the-shelf” parts such as wheels, axles, and small parts, but the body and lid are custom made with markings applied at time of need, without inventory kept of those parts. We respectfully request estimated 60 days to provide those custom bodies and lids replacements.

**Answer 10:** Warranty language in Section-4 Technical Provisions requires vendor to replace defected items under warranty within 30 days of notification. SWM is firm on this language as customer demand may not be met otherwise.

**Question 11:** Section 4, page 9, item J on the page requires that the lid and body be of the same molding process, but does allow both injection molding and rotational molding, with both medium and high density polyethylene. Our carts are rotationally molded with medium density polyethylene for superior strength and durability, and lids are injection molded with high density polyethylene for a durable cart covering. We have provided carts with this combination to the City

for years. We respectfully request that the City allow this combination for carts, which has been the style of carts provided to the City in past years of contracts.

Answer 11: SWM is agreeable to the described combination and other disclosed variations that meet minimum structural requirements.

**Question 12:** Section 4, page 11, Item O requires specific measurements. Our carts all meet the requirements of ANSI Standards for compatibility and dimensions with North American Type B (semi-automated) and Type G (automated arm) lifters, plus requirements of ANSI Standards for safety testing. Also, these carts have been provided to the City in past years of contracts. Will the City allow:

- a. O.e – 30 Gallon – 21.75" for hip or gripping surface diameter?
- b. O.f – 45 Gallon – 25.75" for hip or gripping surface diameter? (The City has this measurement on our carts in use currently.)
- c. O.g – 60 Gallon – 25.6" bottom diameter?
- d. O.h – 90 Gallon – 29.5" Hip/gripping surface diameter, 29.3" bottom diameter, and 29.75" maximum width?

Answer 12: SWM will consider deviations from the specific measurements below contingent on the sample carts usability with current City collection equipment.

**Question 13:** Section 4, page 11, Item Q – requires that the lid prevent inclusion of rodents. Any manufacturer's cart, regardless of brand, are subject to the chewing by rodents. Their chewing and damage is uncontrollable by the manufacturers, as natural vandalism. Our carts have a tight fit lid on our special rim that provides a ledge for the lid to rest. This tight fit keeps odors in the cart, thereby not attracting rodents, vermin, small animals, and the like. We respectfully request that the City remove the requirement for the lid to prevent inclusion of rodents.

Answer 13: SWM wishes to maintain the language as part of the agreement with the understanding that the minimum standard for medium density polyethylene does not completely eliminate the potential for rodent presence.

**Question 14:** Section 4, pages 12-13, Items j, 1-4, require markings to be molded on the lid. Will the City also allow these markings to be hot stamped in white, as in past contracts with the City?

Answer 14: Yes

**Question 15:** Section 4, page 13, Item R – requires a "electro statically coated" axle. Our industry standard galvanized (zinc coated) axles are durable in wet/humid surroundings and do not carry the cost of the required axles. Our galvanized axles have been in use by the City on carts purchased from us for many years. We respectfully request that the City also allow axles that are galvanized steel. These axles have been provided to the City for years of past contracts.

Answer 15: SWM is agreeable to vendors providing galvanized steel axles as an acceptable standard.

**Question 16:** Section 4, page 13, requires minimum 12" wheels for 90-gallon containers, and requires 2" to 2 ¾" width of wheels for all sizes. Industry standard for wheels for larger sized carts has been 10" and 12" for over 30 years, and we respectfully request that the City allow minimum 10" wheels for 90 gallon carts. Likewise, the

width of 1.75" has been industry standard for well over 30 years, and we respectfully request that the minimum wheel width be 1.75" for all cart sizes. These wheels have been provided to the City for years of past contracts.

Answer 16: SWM will consider slight variations of wheel dimensions as long as container performance standards are not compromised due to the difference.

**Question 17:** J. PRICE ESCALATION/DE-ESCALATION CLAUSE/ Addendum #1: The preferred index for this item is Chemical Data Index for medical quality Injection Molding HDPE. We respectfully request the City accept this Index be used as the basis for price adjustments.

Answer 17: SWM is agreeable to using the resin index that most accurately represents the material used by the manufacturer

**Question 18:** K. GUARANTEE/WARRANTY, C. We respectfully request the City allow 30-45 days for warranty evaluation. Please note the industry standard warranty is 10-years.

Answer 18: Warranty language in Section-4 Technical Provisions requires vendor to replace defected items under warranty within 30 days of notification. SWM is firm on this language as customer demand may not be met otherwise.

**Question 19:** K. GUARANTEE/WARRANTY, G. Please clarify, is the City noting that any repairs completed on carts covered under warranty will be billed to the contractor?

Answer 19: Contractor is responsible for repair or replacement of warranty items. All repairs completed by SWM staff will be minor in nature and not billed to the contractor or agreed to using a separate agreement outside of this contract.

**Question 20:** SECTION 4 – TECHNICAL PROVISIONS: S. Wheels: Will the City accept industry standard 10" plastic wheels on the 95-gal carts?

Answer 20: This will allow the City to maintain the same wheel inventory for both 65- & 95-gal carts.

**Question 21:** SECTION 4 – TECHNICAL PROVISIONS: S. Wheels: Will the City accept industry standard wheels with a 1.75" tread?

Answer 21: SWM will consider slight variations of wheel dimensions as long as container performance standards are not compromised due to the difference.

**Question 22:** Each line item includes the word "Assembled". Does the City require the bidder to offload and assemble the containers? Please note carts ship assembled less the wheel axle and wheels. Installation requires no specialty tools and takes approximately 15 seconds.

Answer 22: Delivery of containers and parts to the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center, including payment and contracting with a hauler is the responsibility of the vendor. SWM staff has historically and is available to off-load, stage and assemble wheels and axles during pre-scheduled delivery times. SWM is not responsible for additional freight charges incurred by the contractor for delays or wait times.

