

TIMELINE OF A CONTRACT DISPUTES ACT CLAIM



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START

CDA CLAIM ACCRUES

A claim accrues on “the date when all events, that fix the alleged liability of either the Government or the contractor and permit assertion of the claim, were known or should have been known.” FAR 33.201.

6 YEARS AFTER ACCRUAL

Any claim must be properly asserted no later than six years after it arises. Government claims are asserted when the contracting officer issues a final decision to the contractor; contractor claims are asserted by request (certified if necessary) to the contracting officer for a final decision.

60 DAYS AFTER CONTRACTOR CLAIM

Generally the last date for contracting officer to either (1) issue a final decision on contractor’s claims, or (2) defer decision until a specific future date. If the contracting officer fails to act, the contractor’s claim is “deemed denied.”

ELECTION OF FORUM

Contractor decides whether to challenge the final decision before the appropriate Board of Contract Appeals or Court of Federal Claims.

Board of Contract Appeals

Court of Federal Claims

90 DAYS AFTER
Contracting Officer’s
Final Decision

Last day to file notice of appeal with Civilian or Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals.

1 YEAR AFTER
Contracting Officer’s
Final Decision

Last day to file suit at the Court of Federal Claims.

120 DAYS AFTER
Board Decision

Last day to appeal Board decision to the Federal Circuit.

60 DAYS AFTER
Court Judgment

Last day to appeal Court of Federal Claims decision to the Federal Circuit.

INDEFINITE

The case then proceeds according to an individualized schedule, as ordered by the judge.

Litigation, Deliberation,
and Decision