

**DECISION****THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548****FILE:** B-220852.4**DATE:** January 22, 1986**MATTER OF:** B & B Boat Building Inc.--  
Reconsideration**DIGEST:**

1. Requirement that request for reconsideration be filed within 10 working days after the basis for reconsideration is known or should have been known is not merely a technicality and will be strictly enforced.
2. Protesters are charged with constructive knowledge of GAO's Bid Protest Regulations.

B & B Boat Building Inc. requests reconsideration of our decision, B & B Boat Building Inc.--Reconsideration, B-220852.3, Dec. 24, 1985, 85-2 CPD ¶ \_\_\_\_. B & B characterizes our dismissal of its request for reconsideration as "based on meaningless technicalities," and contends that we are barred from enforcing our requirement that a request for reconsideration be filed within 10 working days after the basis for reconsideration is known or should have been known since we did not specifically inform it of that requirement.

Our timeliness standards are an important part of the protest process. Protests of the award of a government contract are very serious matters which deserve the immediate and timely attention of the protester, interested parties, and the contracting agency. Our Bid Protest Regulations establish an orderly process to insure equitable and prompt resolution of protests. 4 C.F.R. Part 21 (1985); J.M. Security Service, B-218207.2, May 3, 1985, 85-1 CPD ¶ 498. Thus, timeliness standards for the filing of protests and requests for reconsideration must be and are strictly construed by our Office. Marconi Electronics, Inc., B-218088.4, Mar. 27, 1985, 85-1 CPD ¶ 368. Because reconsideration requests are filed after the protest process has already consumed a considerable amount of time from the procurement involved, timeliness standards for the filing of requests for reconsideration

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are purposefully more inflexible than those for filing protests or meeting intermediate case development or processing deadlines. Moreover, under our Regulations, there is no provision for waiving the time requirements applicable to requests for reconsideration. See U.S. Financial Services, Inc.--Reconsideration, B-195945.6, B-198276.3, Nov. 3, 1981, 81-2 CPD ¶ 376.

B & B also contends that it should not be expected to adhere to our timeliness requirements because we did not send it a copy of the decision by registered mail nor did we inform it of these timeliness requirements when we mailed B & B our decision. Protesters are charged with constructive knowledge of our Regulations since they are published in the Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations. Engineers International Inc.--Reconsideration, B-219760.2, Aug. 23, 1985, 85-2 CPD ¶ 225. Thus, the fact that a protester is not familiar with these requirements is irrelevant as concerns the timeliness of its protest. Id. While it is true that we did not use registered mail in sending B & B a copy of the decision, B & B does not argue that it in fact filed its request for reconsideration within the required 10 day period. B & B's request for reconsideration was actually filed more than 6 weeks after the issuance of our decision.

We deny B & B's request for reconsideration.

for *Seymour Efron*  
Harry R. Van Cleve  
General Counsel

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