# NIEM Conformance in RFPs

**Sponsoring Organization(s)**
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**Synopsis**
Increasingly agencies at all levels of government have begun to adopt NIEM as a data exchange standard. Further at the Federal level the DOJ and DHS have mandated that all projects supported in part or in full by grants shall use NIEM as a data exchange standard.

The paper discusses in detail what NIEM conformance requires and discusses the difference between compliance (which infers an enforcement mechanism) and conformance which currently is the standard that suppliers must meet in responding to RFP’s that require NEIM conforming data exchanges. It discusses the role of IEPD’s in achieving NIEM conformance as related to the RFP.

The paper discuss how RFP’s should be structured to insure that responses will be NIEM conformant and also how responses to RFP’s should be evaluated to be sure that they are in conformance with NIEM requirements. It provides an interesting table that compares recommended RFP language and how responses to that language should be evaluated.

The paper provides a list of additional references for NIEM conformance and includes a dictionary of acronyms usually associated with NIEM standards.

**Topic Areas**
Information Sharing/Interoperability Requirements

**Web Reference**