



## Signs of corruption in public procurement

The procurement cycle consists of many steps that a procurement officer needs to go through, thus risks of corruption can be found throughout the cycle. The World Bank's guide to [The Basics of Integrity of Public Procurement](#) outlines the common signs or red flags of corruption to look out for in different stages of the tendering processes.

### Pre-tendering process:

Red flags	Related corruption schemes
Purchase of unnecessary or inappropriate items	Corruption
Manipulation of the procurement threshold to avoid prior review	Unjustified no-bid awards
Inadequate evaluation criteria or procedures	Manipulation of bids, excluding qualified bidders, corruption
Unreasonable pre-qualification requirements	Excluding qualified bidders
Ambiguous, misleading or incomplete contract specifications	Unbalanced bidding, corruption
Contract specifications are too narrow/broad	Rigged specifications, excluding qualified bidders, corruption

### Tendering process:

Tendering red flags	Tendering corruption schemes
Failure to make bidding documents available	Excluding qualified bidders, corruption
Short or inadequate notice to bidders	Excluding qualified bidders, corruption
Unusual bidding patterns	Collusive bidding
Apparent connections between bidders	Collusive bidding
Multiple contracts awarded to the same companies	Corruption
Rotation of winning bidders	Collusive bidding

Unreasonable high/low bids	Collusive bidding, unbalanced bidding, corruption
Non-transparent bid-opening procedures	Manipulation of bids, excluding qualified bidders, corruption
Disqualifications that are poorly supported	Excluding qualified bidders
Pressure to select a certain contractor, subcontractor, or agent	Corruption
Winning bid is very close to the budget or estimate	Unbalanced bidding, corruption
Long unexplained delays in the contract award or negotiations	Manipulation of bids, corruption

**Post-award process:**

<b>Post-award red flags</b>	<b>Post-award schemes</b>
Use of questionable agents or subcontractors	Corruption
Complaints regarding poor quality goods, works or services	Failure to meet contract specifications
Continued acceptance of poor quality goods, works or services	Corruption
Delivery of poor quality goods, works or services	Failure to meet contract specifications
Questionable contract changes	Falsely inflated or duplicated invoices, corruption
Questionable invoices	Falsely inflated or duplicated invoices, corruption
Absent or questionable documentation	Falsely inflated or duplicated invoices