

# FRAUD WARNING

## FAKE EMAILS & FRAUDULENT REQUESTS FOR QUOTATIONS



OFFICE OF  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) has become aware of a scam involving disguised or “spoofed” email addresses. Individuals claiming to be senior DOI officials have used such addresses to solicit fraudulent Requests for Quotations (RFQs). **These are fake.** The fraudsters seek RFQs for electronic equipment (Apple iPhones, Samsung Galaxy phones, laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices) via “spoofed” email addresses. These “spoofed” emails appear to originate from government email domains, including doi.gov and its bureaus, but have non-government domain extensions such as “.us,” “.org,” “.net,” or “.com.” When a business responds to the fake RFQ, the scammer replies using an email address that is similar to a legitimate government email address but has a non-government email domain extension.



The fraudulent RFQs also appear nearly identical to legitimate RFQs used by DOI, often including the names of real agency officials.



The fraudster will accept the quote and the business is then provided with an address to which it can ship the devices. Payment is guaranteed within 30 calendar days of the goods having been received (“Net 30”).



The fraudulent RFQs have falsified contact information, including email addresses and phone numbers that send any correspondence back to the fraudsters instead of a legitimate government entity.



The shipping addresses vary but are typically commercial addresses accessible by the public, such as short-term storage companies.

When the business submits an invoice for payment to the supposed government agency, the invoice is either rejected or no response is provided because the government agency has no records of the fraudulent procurement.

### To avoid being victimized:

- Companies should verify RFQs and shipping addresses with agency officials by using publicly available contact information from reliable, official sources such as: [Contact Interior | U.S. Department of the Interior \(www.doi.gov/contact-us#no-back\)](https://www.doi.gov/contact-us#no-back).
- Companies should also carefully review email header information and confirm that it is from a valid government domain, such as [www.doi.gov](https://www.doi.gov).

If you have information about fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, or other crimes or violations of federal laws, rules, and regulations relating to Department programs and operations, please report it to the OIG Hotline. You can submit your complaint at [www.doi.gov](https://www.doi.gov)