

Subpart 401.4—Deviations From the FAR and AGAR

Parent topic: [PART 401—AGRICULTURE ACQUISITION REGULATION SYSTEM](#)

401.402 Policy.

Requests for authority to deviate from the provisions of the FAR or the AGAR shall be submitted in writing as far in advance of the situation as time will permit. Each request for deviation shall contain the following:

- (a) A statement of the deviation desired, including identification of the specific paragraph number(s) of the FAR and AGAR;
- (b) The reason why the deviation is considered necessary or would be in the best interest of the Government;
- (c) If applicable, the name of the contractor and identification of the contract affected;
- (d) A statement as to whether the deviation has been requested previously and, if so, circumstances of the previous request;
- (e) A description of the intended effect of the deviation;
- (f) A statement of the period of time for which the deviation is needed; and
- (g) Any pertinent background information which will contribute to a full understanding of the desired deviation.

401.403 Individual deviations.

In individual cases, deviations from either the FAR or the AGAR will be authorized only when essential to effect a necessary acquisition or where special circumstances make such deviations clearly in the best interest of the Government. Except for cost principles, the Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA) may approve individual deviations from the AGAR, after coordinating with the Office of General Counsel (OGC) and the SPE. No deviations from the FAR or AGAR may be authorized by an individual contracting officer or an individual contracting office. A copy of each deviation and its supporting documents shall be provided to the SPE. Deviations from the FAR shall not be made unless such action is authorized by the SPE after consultation with the OGC and any other appropriate office, based on a written justification stating clearly the special circumstances involved.

401.404 Class deviations.

Where deviations from the FAR or AGAR are considered necessary for classes of contracts, requests for authority to deviate shall be submitted in writing to the SPE for approval. The SPE may authorize class deviations from the FAR without consulting the Chairperson of the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council (CAAC) where urgency precludes consultation. The SPE shall subsequently inform the Chairperson of the CAAC of the deviation, including the circumstances under which it was required.