



Global Acquisition

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Acquisition Alert 25-29

TO: All Contracting Activities

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SUBJECT: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 35
in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal
Procurement

- 1. Introduction:** The purpose of this Acquisition Alert is to issue a FAR class deviation to part 35 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's model deviation text to that part.
- 2. Background:** On April 15, 2025, Executive Order (E.O.) 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement was signed. Section 2 of the E.O. establishes the policy that the FAR "should only contain provisions required by statute or essential to sound procurement, and any FAR provisions that do not advance these objectives should be removed."

The FAR is being updated to:

- Remove language that is not required by statute;
- Remove duplicative or outdated language;
- Clarify or provide plain language;
- Revise language for the new FAR framework; and
- Retain language necessary for governmentwide acquisition standards.

This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative. This class deviation is issued under the authority of E.O. 14275, OMB M-25-25, and 48 CFR 1.4.

Deviation Summary

FAR part 35, Research and Development Contracting, has been revised to remove duplicative language, use plain language, and simplify procedures to allow for more flexibility for the acquisition team. This section retains requirements based in statute, but other subparts have been reorganized and removed for clarity.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 35 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 31 U.S.C. § 6303, Using Procurement Contracts
- 10 U.S.C. § 4126, Use of Federally Funded Research and Development Centers

Non-statutory requirements removed from FAR part 35 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- FAR 35.005, Work Statement and information related to Recoupment have been removed and will be added to the forthcoming companion guide.
- New subparts have been added to align with acquisition lifecycle phases (e.g. Pre-solicitation, Evaluation and Award, Post-award, etc.).
- Duplicative sections have been removed, as FAR parts provide sufficient information.
- The following subparts have been moved and updated to include plain language improvements:
 - Section 35.007 Solicitations moved to 35.101
 - Section 35.016 Broad Agency Announcements moved to 35.102
 - Section 35.008 Evaluation for Award moved to 35.201
 - Section 35.010 Scientific and Technical Reports moved to 35.301
 - Section 35.017 Federally Funded Research and Development Centers moved to subpart 35.4
- FAR 35.015, Contracts for research with educational institutions and nonprofit organizations has been removed. However, educational institutions are still highlighted as an organization-type that should be considered during evaluation.

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- New subparts 35.1, Presolicitation; 35.2, Evaluation and Award; and 35.3, Postaward create logical organization in alignment with the acquisition lifecycle, creating clear points of reference.
 - SF-298 is no longer a mandatory form to allow for flexibility in reporting.
3. **Acquisition Impact:** The changes resulting from this class deviation affect all DoS procurements issued on or after the effective date of the AA. The DOSAR does not cover FAR part 35 and therefore is not impacted by this deviation.
4. **Action Required:** The acquisition workforce must follow the RFO part 35 model deviation text instead of FAR part 35 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The FAR Council's RFO model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul), and is incorporated into this class deviation.
5. **Effective Date:** While this Acquisition Alert is effective upon issuance, the model deviated language was released on July 24, 2025.
6. **Expiration Date:** This Acquisition Alert expires upon incorporation into the FAR, DOSAR, and/or DOSAM.
7. **Additional Information:** Questions regarding this Acquisition Alert may be directed to AcquisitionPolicy@state.gov.
8. **Attachments:** None.
9. **Referenced Documents, Checklists, Guides and Templates:** None.