

Acquisition Alert 25-47

TO: All Contracting Activities

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SUBJECT: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 7 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 7 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- Remove duplicative or outdated language;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 7, Acquisition Planning, has been streamlined to emphasize flexibility, make clear distinctions for task and delivery orders, and remove prescriptive checklists. The summary of changes is as follows:

- Incorporates bundling and small business requirements that were removed from FAR Part 10.
- Revises section 7.103 Agency-head Responsibilities changed from a long list
 of specific tasks to a list of high-level responsibilities, such as creating
 streamlined procedures for different acquisition types (e.g., orders,
 commercial products and services).
- Establishes criteria for high-risk contracts and ensuring small business opportunities are considered.
- Updates Section 7.108 Additional Requirements for Teleworking to reflect modern terminology and simplified language.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 7 model deviation include-

- Planning and Solicitation (41 U.S.C. §§ 3301 et seq)
- Preference for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (10 U.S.C. § 3453)
- Consolidation of Contract Requirements (15 U.S.C. § 657q)
- Awards or Contracts (15 U.S.C. § 644)
- Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Equipment Rental (Pub. L. 115-254, Sec 555)
- Performance of Inherently Governmental and Critical Functions (OFPP Policy Letter 11-01)

Non-statutory requirements removed from FAR part 7 include the following:

- Section 7.105 Contents of Written Acquisition Plans and relevant content will be incorporated in the FAR Companion as guidance.
- Clauses removed:
 - o 52.207-1, Notice of Standard Competition
 - o 52.207-2, Notice of Streamlined Competition
 - o 52.207-3, Right of First Refusal of Employment
- Section 7.204, Responsibilities of Contracting Officers, was duplicative and is covered by FAR 52.207-4.
- Subpart 7.3 Contractor Versus Government Performance and its underlying sections have been deleted and marked "Reserved" as Congress has consistently placed a statutory hold on A-76 competitions since 2008.

Corresponding DOSAR Deviation Summary

Based on the Council's model deviated language, a class deviation is hereby issued to the Department of State Acquisition Regulation (DOSAR) to remove part 607 to reflect the FAR changes and to internalize review procedures.

- **3. Acquisition Impact:** The changes resulting from this class deviation affect all DoS procurements issued on or after the effective date of the AA.
- **4. Action Required:** The acquisition workforce must follow the RFO part 7 model deviation text instead of FAR part 7 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The FAR Council's RFO model deviation text is available at Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul, and is incorporated into this class deviation.
 - a. **For new solicitations or contracts:** when using any provisions or clauses that have been revised, utilize the RFO model deviation language at RFO FAR part 52. Do not include any of the removed provisions or clauses in future solicitations and contracts.
 - b. For open solicitations or awarded contracts: the contracting officer has discretion regarding the need to enforce or amend the provisions or clauses. Note that without some of the removed provisions or clauses, the contracting officer may be required to separately address certain aspects in the contract.
- **5. Effective Date:** While this Acquisition Alert is effective on November 3, 2025, the model deviated language was released on September 4, 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: DOSAR Part 607 Deviation Line In/Line Out Document
- 9. Referenced Documents, Checklists, Guides and Templates: <u>FAR Part 7</u> Practitioner Album