



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

June 2, 2025

ACQUISITION ALERT 2025-07

TO: Heads of Contracting Activities

FROM: Calvin J. Mitchell Jr. **Calvin J Mitchell Jr.** Digitally signed by Calvin J Mitchell Jr.
Date: 2025.06.03 10:10:54 -04'00'
Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Acquisition Management
Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 34 in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

- 1. Purpose.** This Acquisition Alert (AA) adopts a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 34 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR Part 34.
- 2. Background.** On April 15, 2025, the 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." On May 31, 2025, the enclosed class deviation was issued for the use of all Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) model deviation texts and corresponding EDAR deviations.

FAR part 34 describes acquisition policies and procedures for use in acquiring major systems consistent with OMB Circular No. A-109; and the use of an Earned Value Management System in acquisitions designated as major acquisitions consistent with OMB Circular A-11, part 7.

The RFO part 34 model deviation text retains FAR subparts 34.1 and 34.2. Subpart 34.1 deals with statutory requirements tied to 50 U.S.C. 4531 et seq. Subpart 34.2 deals with Earned Value Management requirements tied to OMB Circular A-11. Non-statutory requirements removed from FAR part 34 include the general guidance provided in sections 34.001 through 34.005.

- 3. Instructions.** The Department of Education's acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 34 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 34 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 34. The Council's RFO Part 34 model deviation text is available [here](#), and is incorporated into this class deviation. There is no EDAR Part 3434 and therefore no corresponding changes to EDAR are necessary.

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-4500
www.ed.gov

4. **Training.** Acquisition Professionals are highly encouraged to review the model deviation text and line through within 30 days.
5. **Effective Date.** This class deviation to FAR Part 34 is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.
6. **Points of Contact.** Direct questions regarding this class deviation to your respective policy points of contact.
7. **Enclosure.** Determination and Findings - Class Deviation for the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul

DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
Department of Education, All Contracting Activities
Class Deviation for the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul

This approves a class deviation to all Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Department of Education Acquisition Regulation (EDAR) parts for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text.

Findings

On April 15, 2025, the 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 more plain language
- Revise language for the new FAR framework
- Retain language necessary for governmentwide acquisition standards

This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative.

In explaining the Federal Acquisition System, the RFO FAR Part deviation text establishes bedrock principles. Most centrally, it sets a "mission first" message at the top of the guiding principles. The RFO model deviation also increases the emphasis on the best use of taxpayer dollars and calls out the value of time as another guiding principle. Additionally, it retains a focus on satisfying the customer, maximizing use of commercial products and services, promoting competition, and encouraging innovation.

The FAR Council Deviation guidance allows for agencies to deviate agency acquisition regulation supplements as it relates to the RFO.

Determination

In accordance with FAR 1.404 and EDAR 3401.404, I hereby issue a class deviation for the use of all RFO model deviation texts and corresponding EDAR deviations. The adoption date for each RFO part model deviation text will be the date of the corresponding Acquisition Alert. EDAR deviation texts may be issued in a separate Acquisition Alert. All Department of Education contracting activities must follow the RFO model deviation texts instead of the FAR Parts codified at 48 CFR. Should the language of the RFO FAR contradict any statutorily granted procurement authorities to the Department of Education including the Office of Federal Student Aid, the statutorily granted authorities prevail.

In the unlikely event that the Department wishes to vary from a RFO model deviation text, a separate deviation will be issued. This class deviation will remain in effect until incorporated into the FAR, EDAR or rescinded.

RICHARD LUCAS Digitally signed by RICHARD LUCAS
Date: 2025.05.31 08:30:12 -04'00'

Richard Lucas

Date

Acting Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO)