



# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

September 12, 2025

### ACQUISITION ALERT 2025-26

TO: Heads of Contracting Activities

FROM: Calvin J. Mitchell Jr.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Acquisition Management  
Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 40

1. **Purpose.** This Acquisition Alert (AA) adopts a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 40 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR Part 40.
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.
3. **Summary of Changes.** Instead of navigating a patchwork of multiple subparts throughout the FAR and over a dozen different provisions and clauses to understand security requirements, readers can now refer to a single, logically organized part of the FAR, Part 40, Information Security and Supply Chain Security.
  - **Simplified:** FAR Part 40 is reorganized into three key subparts:
    - Subpart 40.1 - Processing Supply Chain Risk Information (previously reserved)
    - Subpart 40.2 - Security Prohibitions and Exclusions
    - Subpart 40.3 - Safeguarding Information (previously reserved)
  - **Consolidated:**
    - Regulatory requirements previously found at FAR subparts 4.4, 4.19 through 4.23, and 25.7 have been moved into Part 40.
    - More than a dozen separate provisions (5) and clauses (9) have been merged into 4 (1 provision and 3 clauses).

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Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR Part 40 model deviation include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- 41 U.S.C. §§ 1321 et seq, Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act (FASCSA)
- 41 U.S.C. § 4713, Authorities Related to Mitigating Supply Chain Risks in the Procurement of Covered Articles
- 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501 et seq, Federal Information Policy
- Pub. L. 115-91 Section 1634, Prohibition on Use of Products and Services Developed or Provided by Kaspersky Lab
- Pub. L. 115-232 Section 889, Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment
- Pub. L. 115-232 Section 1758, Requirements to Identify and Control the Export of Emerging and Foundational Technologies
- Pub. L. 115-390, Strengthening and Enhancing Cyber-capabilities by Utilizing Risk Exposure Technology Act (SECURE Technology Act)
- Pub. L. 117-328 Div R Section 102, Prohibition on the Use of TikTok
- Pub. L. 118-31 Section 1823, Prohibition on Procurement of Covered Unmanned Aircraft Systems from Covered Foreign Entities.

Change	Description
<b>Retained</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New subpart 40.1 incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sharing Supply Chain Risk Information (from FAR 4.2302): The requirement to share relevant supply chain risk information with the Federal Acquisition Security Council when applicable is moved to FAR 40.102.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Subpart 40.2 incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kaspersky Lab (from FAR 4.20): The prohibition on hardware, software, and services from Kaspersky Lab and its affiliates is now at FAR 40.202(b). Its definitions (Kaspersky Lab covered article, Kaspersky Lab covered entity) have been moved to the new definitions section at FAR 40.201.</li> <li>○ Section 889 (from FAR 4.21): The prohibition on contracting for certain Chinese telecommunications and video surveillance equipment and services is now located at FAR 40.202(d). The definitions are centralized at FAR 40.201.</li> <li>○ ByteDance/TikTok (from FAR 4.22): The prohibition on the presence or use of TikTok applications or services on government and contractor information technology is now located at FAR 40.202(a). The definitions are centralized at FAR 40.201.</li> <li>○ Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act (FASCSA) (from FAR 4.23): The prohibition on violating an</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>applicable FASCSA order is now located at FAR 40.202(e). Key definitions are centralized at FAR 40.201. The requirements for implementing FASCSA exclusion and removal orders have been streamlined and moved to FAR 40.204-1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prohibited Foreign Sources (from FAR 25.7): The prohibitions related to Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) restrictions, as well as specific prohibitions against contracting with entities doing business in Sudan and Iran now reside at 40.202(f), (g), and (h).</li> <li>● New subpart 40.3 incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Safeguarding Classified Information within Industry (from FAR 4.4): The policies and procedures for safeguarding classified information within industry, rooted in Executive Order 12829 and the National Industrial Security Program (NISP), have been moved to the new section 40.302.</li> <li>○ Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems (from FAR 4.19): The requirements for the basic safeguarding of covered contractor information systems that contain Federal Contract Information (FCI) are retained and moved to the new section 40.303.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Provision and clauses consolidated to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New provision 52.240-90, Security Prohibitions and Exclusions Representations and Certifications, replaces the following provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 52.204-24, Representation Regarding Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment</li> <li>▪ 52.204-26, Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services—Representation</li> <li>▪ 52.204-29, Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act Orders—Representation and Disclosures.</li> <li>▪ 52.225-20, Prohibition on Conducting Restricted Business Operations in Sudan—Certification.</li> <li>▪ 52.225-25, Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Engaging in Certain Activities or Transactions Relating to Iran—Representation and Certifications.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ New clause 52.240-91, Security Prohibitions and Exclusions, replaces the following clauses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 52.204-23, Prohibition on Contracting for Hardware, Software, and Services Developed or</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>Provided by Kaspersky Lab Covered Entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 52.204-25, Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.</li> <li>▪ 52.204-27, Prohibition on a ByteDance Covered Application.</li> <li>▪ 52.204-28, Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act Orders—Federal Supply Schedules, Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts, and Multi-Agency Contracts.</li> <li>▪ 52.204-30, Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act Orders—Prohibition.</li> <li>▪ 52.225-13, Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases.</li> <li>▪ 52.240-1, Prohibition on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Manufactured or Assembled by American Security Drone Act—Covered Foreign Entities</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New clause 52.240-92, Security Requirements, replaces the following clause: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 52.204-2 Security Requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ New clause 52.240-93, Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems, replaces the following clause: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 52.204-21 Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Removed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Part 40 has been streamlined by merging and consolidating content from Parts 4 and 25, removing redundancies, and improving clarity.</li> </ul>

This table is not an exhaustive list.

#### 4. Instructions.

- The Department of Education’s acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 40 and corresponding 52 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 40 and 52 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council’s RFO Part 40 model deviation text is available at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-40> and is incorporated into this class deviation. There is no EDAR 3440 and therefore no corresponding changes to the EDAR are necessary.
- For new solicitations or contracts, when using any provisions or clauses that have been revised, utilize the RFO model deviation language at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far->

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[overhaul-part-52](#). Do not include any of the removed provisions or clauses in future solicitations and contracts.

- 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
- For any solicitation or contract using RFO provisions or clauses, contracting officers may include the following language:  
*“System updates may lag policy updates. The System for Award Management (SAM) may continue to require entities to complete representations based on provisions that are not included in this solicitation. Contracting officers will rely on representations from offers based on provisions in the solicitation. Entities are not required to, nor are they able to, update their entity registration to remove these representations in SAM.”*
- Review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this deviation and remove unnecessary processes and steps.

5. **Training.** Acquisition Professionals are highly encouraged to complete “Practitioner Album: FAR Part 40 - Information Security and Supply Chain Security” at [https://www.acquisition.gov/sites/default/files/practitioner\\_albums/far-part-40-information-security-and-supply-chain-security/content/index.html#/](https://www.acquisition.gov/sites/default/files/practitioner_albums/far-part-40-information-security-and-supply-chain-security/content/index.html#/) within 30 days. Please complete the Practitioner Album and mark “yes” under the completion attestation within FAI CSOD.
6. **Effective Date.** This class deviation to FAR Part 40 is effective November 3, 2025 and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.
7. **Points of Contact.** Direct questions regarding this class deviation to your respective policy points of contact.
8. **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

Acting Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO)

Date