



Office of the Chief  
Acquisition Officer

**Date:** July 17, 2025

**From:** Darnese M. Wilkerson, Chief Acquisition Officer *DMW*

**To:** Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer (OCAO)

**Subject:** CLASS DEVIATION (CD) in Support of Executive Order (EO) 14275, "Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement" - Deviation to FAR Part 8, Required Sources of Supplies and Services

## 1. Purpose

This Class Deviation (CD) implements the FAR Council's model deviation text for FAR Part 8, Required Sources of Supplies and Services. This action aligns with Executive Order (EO) 14275, "Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement," and the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative.

The revised FAR Part 8 enhances usability by restructuring and organizing the part in the logical flow of the acquisition lifecycle. The model deviation language simplifies mandatory source guidance, clarifies that Governmentwide Best-In-Class (BIC) contracts are mandatory, and maintains focus on the importance of the AbilityOne Program. Additionally, burdensome, duplicative, or outdated language not required by statute has been removed. Key changes include:

- Making the use of Governmentwide "Best-in-Class" (BIC) contracts mandatory for commercial products and services when they meet an agency's needs.
- Streamlining mandatory source guidance and priorities.
- Consolidating definitions, which were previously spread across different subparts of Part 8, into a single section.
- Enhancing the speed of acquisition by moving Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) ordering procedures to the General Services Acquisition Manual (GSAM).
- Maintaining the statutory preference for the AbilityOne Program.
- Reducing the administrative burden associated with sourcing requirements to enhance acquisition efficiency.

## 2. Background

EO 14275, signed on April 15, 2025, established a policy that the FAR should contain only provisions required by statute or those essential for sound procurement. To implement this EO, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) is leading the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative, supported by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council. The initiative aims to eliminate unnecessary regulations and policies across all levels of the federal government.

Further guidance was provided by OMB Memorandum M-25-26, "Overhauling the Federal Acquisition Regulation," issued on May 2, 2025.

## FAR Streamlining

As part of the RFO, the FAR will be streamlined to include only statutory requirements. Non-statutory content moved to new buying guides, collectively known as the Strategic Acquisition Guidance (SAG). The Council will first issue model deviation guidance by FAR part, followed by formal rulemaking through the notice and comment process. Agencies have 30 days to issue class deviations based on the model text once released.

**A. Streamlining Agency Acquisition Supplements:** Agencies must streamline their FAR supplements by removing regulations not based on statute or executive orders and by aligning with the FAR Council's deviation guidance. Supporting policies must also be updated to reflect these changes. This is an excellent opportunity for NARA to formally publish a streamlined NARA FAR Supplement, ensuring consistency with the new FAR.

**B. FAR Buying Guides and Supplemental Companion Guides (CG):** As the FAR and agency supplements are streamlined, helpful non-regulatory content will be moved to these new FAR Buying Guides. These guides will offer practical instructions and best practices for implementing effective contracting methods, including those related to competition. The RFO Part 8 model deviation text is a plain language version that will be adhered to by all NARA contracting personnel.

## 3. Summary of Changes

FAR Part 8, Required Source of Supplies and Services, has been updated to enhance usability by restructuring and organizing the part in the logical flow of the acquisition lifecycle. The model deviation language simplifies mandatory source guidance, clarifies that Governmentwide Best-In-Class (BIC) contracts are mandatory, and maintains focus on the importance of the AbilityOne Program. Statutory requirements maintained in the RFO FAR part 8 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Use of Procedures Other than Competitive Procedures (10 U.S.C. § 3204)
- Products of Federal Prison Industries (10 U.S.C. § 3905)
- Purchase of Prison-Made Products by Federal Departments (18 U.S.C. § 4124)
- Services for Executive Agencies (40 U.S.C. § 501)
- Architectural and Engineering Services (40 U.S.C. § 1103 Note)
- Competitive Procedures (41 U.S.C. § 152(3))
- Requirements for Purchase of Property and Services Pursuant to Multiple Award Contracts (41 U.S.C. § 3302)
- Use of Noncompetitive Procedures (41 U.S.C. § 3304)
- Committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled (41 U.S.C. §§ 8501 et seq)
- Production and Procurement of Printing and Binding (44 U.S.C. §§ 501 et seq)
- Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-136)

Change	Description
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<b>Retained<sup>2</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aspects of the FSS ordering requirements, formerly in FAR Part 8, that were retained include, but are not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Seeking at least three quotes for acquisitions above the micro-purchase threshold (FAR 8.405-2 and 8.405-3).</li> <li>○ Providing brief explanations of the basis for award decision (FAR 8.405-2 and 8.405-3).</li> <li>○ Sole-source justification requirements are revised to statutory exceptions, and documentation requirements are streamlined (FAR 8.405-6).</li> <li>○ Exclusion of architect-engineer services (as defined in FAR 2.101) (FAR 8.403).</li> <li>○ Pricing discounts and concessions (FAR 8.405-4).</li> <li>○ Consideration of small businesses (FAR 8.405-5).</li> <li>○ Payment flexibilities (FAR 8.405-7).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Documentation requirements for other than fixed-priced orders (previously found in FAR 8.404, 8.405-2 and 8.405-3).</li> </ul>
<b>Revised</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Streamlining edits were made to simplify the ordering experience, provide greater flexibility, improve alignment to statutory requirements, align requirements to current practices, and support the RFO's use of guides and other resources. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Definitions and applicability guidance described in FAR 8.401, 8.403, and 8.404 were streamlined.</li> <li>○ The ordering procedures described in FAR 8.405-1, 8.405-2, and 8.405-3 have been streamlined. This included shifting the focus from statements of work (SOW) to a focus on the complexity of the acquisition and the availability of the product/service/solution at a fixed price.</li> <li>○ Conforming changes tied to brand-name items (also known as Items peculiar to one manufacturer) (FAR 8.405) were made to align with RFO FAR part 11.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Standardized processes for obtaining items not priced on FSS contracts. The revised FSS procedures establish a single method for obtaining such items, thereby reducing confusion associated with multiple terms and/or methods (e.g., open market and order-level materials (OLM)) (FAR 8.402(f) and 8.403(b), Note about OLM).</li> <li>● Acquisition flexibilities for simplified acquisitions (e.g., emphasize the use of the Periodic Table of Acquisition Innovations).</li> <li>● Clarified the capability for FSS contractors to use other FSS contracts in the performance of an FSS order.</li> <li>● Clarified that contractor team arrangements are authorized.</li> <li>● Clarified responsibilities surrounding Disputes (FAR 8.406-6).</li> </ul>
<b>Removed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outdated, unclear, or non-essential language was removed. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Section FAR 8.402 “General information” was removed as the majority of the section includes general information about the FSS program that can be provided via non-regulatory means (e.g., buying guides and the FSS program website).</li> <li>○ Requirements related to the “American Recovery and</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Reinvestment Act of 2009” (Pub. L. 111-5) (FAR 8.404(g)(1)), were removed as the program is no longer active.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Section FAR 8.406 “Ordering activity responsibilities” was removed as the essential requirements are already addressed elsewhere in the FAR (e.g., CPARS requirements).</li> <li>● The requirement for agency-head approval for single-award BPAs with an estimated value exceeding \$100 million (FAR 8.405-3) was removed, as it is non-statutory.</li> </ul>
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#### **4. Instructions**

The NARA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 8 deviated text instead of FAR Part 8 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Part 8. The FAR Council’s RFO text is available at [FAR Overhaul - FAR Part 8 - Acquisition.gov](#) and is incorporated by reference into this deviation.

#### **5. Applicability**

The requirements in this CD apply to all solicitations and contract actions issued or awarded on or after **October 1, 2025**.

#### **6. Authority**

This class deviation is issued under the authority of Executive Order 14275 and OMB Memorandum M-25-26, 48 CFR Subpart 1.4.

#### **7. Effective Date**

This CD is effective as of the date signed and shall remain in effect until the provisions of the RFO are formally implemented in the FAR through a final rulemaking.

**Darnese M. Wilkerson,**  
Chief Acquisition Officer

cc: NGC