



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2026

TO: Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Acquisition Workforce

FROM: Matthew J. Manning
OPM Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 53 in Support of Executive Order 14275, Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

1. Purpose

This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 53 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation to FAR part 53.

2. Background

[Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14275, Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement](#), signed April 15, 2025, mandates a comprehensive review and simplification of the FAR.

The FAR is being updated to:

- Eliminate non-statutory language
- Remove redundant or obsolete language
- Enhance clarity through plain language
- Align with the new FAR framework
- Preserve essential governmentwide acquisition standards

This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative. This initiative will make the FAR more concise, understandable, and focused on core procurement requirements.

3. Summary of Changes

FAR part 53, Forms, has been streamlined and modernized. Most significantly, rather than maintaining a list of forms within the part text, it directs users to a centralized site (<https://acquisition.gov/FARforms>) as the authoritative repository for all acquisition related

forms. As a result, this part no longer needs to be amended through the formal rulemaking process every time a form is updated, added, or removed. This drastically reduces the administrative burden on the FAR Council and increases the government's agility in managing its library of forms. The "Forms List" referenced in the new 53.101(b) now performs the prescriptive function previously handled throughout this entire subpart, shifting the FAR's role from a static, self-contained text to a dynamic system that points to live, authoritative resources.

Readers should reference the table at <https://acquisition.gov/FARforms> to review retained forms and their citations for prescribed use throughout the FAR.

The clause 52.253-1, Computer Generated Forms, is retained and updated. The update deletes a reference to the FAR prescriptions, in paragraph (a).

This part does not directly implement any statutory requirements.

4. Instructions

- The OPM acquisition workforce must follow the RFO part 53 and corresponding 52 model deviation text instead of FAR parts 53 and 52 as codified at 48 CFR chapter 1. The Council's RFO part 53 model deviation text is available at Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul, and is incorporated into this class deviation.
- 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](#).
- 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.
- Contracting activities must review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this class deviation and remove unnecessary processes and steps.

5. Applicability

This class deviation applies to all OPM procurements.

6. Authority

This class deviation is issued under the authority of E.O. 14275, [OMB Memo M-25-26](#), 48 CFR 1.4, and RFO FAR 1.304.

7. Effective Date

This class deviation is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.

8. Points of Contact

Try asking OPM first (upload the new RFO language and OPM's implementing deviation, then ask your question). If you still need clarification, you may email the OPM Procurement Service Division Senior Procurement Executive at Senior_Procurement_Executive@opm.gov.

X

Matthew Manning
Senior Procurement Executive