

MKU-DEV-2025-33

**MEMORANDUM FOR MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION (UDALL FOUNDATION)  
CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES**

**DATE:** September 16, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Class Deviations for FAR Part 3 in support of Executive Order 14275, *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*

**FROM:** David P. Brown, Executive Director

1. **Purpose.** This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 3 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's ("the Council's" or "RFO") model deviation text to FAR Part 3.
2. **Background.** On April 15, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14275, "Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement" to reform the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). This E.O. further advances the intent of E.O. 14192, "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation," signed on January 31, 2025, which established that the policy of the executive branch is to be prudent and financially responsible in the expenditure of funds and to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens placed on the American people. E.O. 14275 orders the Administrator of the Office of Federal Public Procurement Policy (OFPP), in coordination with the other members of the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council (FAR Council), the heads of agencies, and appropriate senior acquisition and procurement officials from agencies, to amend the FAR to ensure that it contains only provisions that are required by statute or that are otherwise necessary to support simplicity and usability, strengthen the efficacy of the procurement system, or protect economic or national security interests. This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative.

On May 2, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released Memorandum M-25-26, "Overhauling the Federal Acquisition Regulation," that directs all agencies to "Generally issue individual or class deviations to implement the FAR Council's deregulated coverage within 30 days after the Council releases its model deviation text[and] Provide copies of class deviations to the FAR Secretariat at [gsaregsec@gsa.gov](mailto:gsaregsec@gsa.gov) for public posting on Acquisition.gov."

Also on May 2, 2025, the Acting Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy at OMB released a Memorandum, "Deviation Guidance to Support the Overhaul of the Federal Acquisition Regulation." This Memorandum advises that agencies using the RFO model class deviation text do not need to further coordinate with the Council; class deviations that differ from the RFO model text require Council approval unless the difference is necessary to address agency-specific statutory direction.

On September 11, 2025, the FAR Council issued completed revisions for FAR Part 3, Improper Business Practices and Personal Conflicts of Interest, and FAR Part 52 provisions and clauses. The text retained with minimal deletions and minor updates made for plain language and streamlining. The model deviation does not implement FAR Case 2023-006, Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition. This content will be addressed in subsequent policy.

The fundamental rules of ethical conduct remain exactly the same. We must all continue to:

- **Act with Integrity:** Always conduct business honestly and transparently.
- **Avoid Conflicts of Interest:** Continue to identify and report any personal, financial, or family relationships that give rise to actual or apparent biases when working on a government contract.
- **Refuse Improper Gifts:** The strict rules against accepting gifts, favors, or anything of value from contractors or potential contractors have not changed.
- **Report Wrongdoing:** Every employee has a duty to report any suspected fraud, waste, abuse, or other violations of law or regulation.
- **Protect Sensitive Information:** Do not use non-public information you get from your government work for personal gain.

Statutory requirements and Presidential directives retained in the RFO FAR Part 3 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 10 U.S.C. § 4651, Expenditure of Appropriations: Limitation
- 10 U.S.C. § 4655 and 41 U.S.C. § 4704, Prohibition of Contractors Limiting Subcontractor Sales Directly to Federal Government
- 18 U.S.C. § 208, Acts Affecting a Personal Financial Interest
- 18 U.S.C. § 218, Voiding Transactions in Violation of Chapter
- 41 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq, Procurement Integrity Act
- 41 U.S.C. § 3509, Notification of Violations of Federal Criminal Law or Overpayments
- 41 U.S.C. § 4712, Enhancement of Contractor Protection from Reprisal for Disclosure of Certain Information
- 41 U.S.C. § 8701 et seq, Anti-Kickback Act of 1986
- E.O. 12731, Principles of Ethical Conduct for Government Officers and Employees

Change	Description
Retained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>majority of the part is retained and updated for plain language and streamlining</b>. These updates are designed to enhance clarity and reduce ambiguity and include employing active voice, breaking down complex sentences, and using formatting such as numbered lists to improve readability.</li> <li>• All <b>subparts remain</b> and keep the same structure.</li> <li>• Most <b>existing provisions and clauses are retained</b> (or remain reserved if previously reserved) with no changes to the text. The only exception is clause 52.203-15, Whistleblower Protections Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which is deleted as it is no longer needed.</li> </ul>

<b>Removed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsection 3.103-3 “<b>The need for further certifications,</b>” was removed as the content is not required in the FAR.</li> <li>• Section 3.301 “<b>General,</b>” was removed because it provided general background on anticompetitive practices but contained no enforceable rule or procedure.</li> <li>• Section 3.406 “<b>Records,</b>” was removed because it is redundant of existing record retention requirements.</li> <li>• Section 3.907 “<b>Whistleblower Protections Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Recovery Act),</b>” including all subsections, was removed as obsolete because it was specific to contracts funded by the ARRA Recovery Act, a 2009 economic stimulus package. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Removing this section includes deleting clause 52.203-15, Whistleblower Protections Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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This table is not an exhaustive list.

3. **Determination.** To fully comply with E.O. 14275, OMB implementation guidance, and direction related to use of model deviations, and the model deviations for revised FAR Part 3, the Udall Foundation shall follow the RFO Part 3 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 3 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 3. The FAR Council’s RFO Part 3 model deviation text is available at Acquisition.gov, under the “FAR Overhaul” link. This deviation applies to all solicitations and new contracts as of the date of the Memorandum. This deviation does not apply to contracts signed and executed on or before the date of this Memorandum.
4. **Instructions.** The Udall Foundation acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 3 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 3 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 3 and the RFO Part 52 model deviation text of FAR Part 52 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 52. The Council’s RFO Parts 3 and 52 model deviation text are available at Acquisition.gov, under the “FAR Overhaul” link, and are incorporated into this class deviation.

For new solicitations or contracts, when using any provisions or clauses that have been revised, the Udall Foundation acquisition workforce shall use 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.

The Udall Foundation acquisition workforce shall review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this deviation and remove unnecessary processes or steps.

A copy of this Class Deviation will be provided to the FAR Secretariat at [gsaregsec@gsa.gov](mailto:gsaregsec@gsa.gov).

5. **Applicability.** This class deviation applies to all Udall Foundation procurements.

6. **Authority.** This class deviation is issued under the authority of E.O. 14275, OMB Memo M-25-26, and 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.

**Points of Contact.** Questions regarding this class deviation may be directed to the Udall Foundation General Counsel, Gwendolyn Franks, at [franks@udall.gov](mailto:franks@udall.gov).