

## RFO-2025-49

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration

Office of Contracting and Procurement

1400 Independence Ave., SW Mailstop 9308 Room 126-W Whitten Building

Washington, DC 20250-9308

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## MEMORANDUM FOR USDA CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES

From: Hilary Erickson

Senior Procurement Executive

Office of Contracting and Procurement

**Subject:** Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 32 in

Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to

Federal Procurement

**1. Purpose.** This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 32 for purposes of implementing the FAR Council's model deviation to FAR Part 32.

**2. Background**. Executive Order (E.O.) 14275 on 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 Summary of Changes.** FAR Part 32, Contract Financing, has been updated to simplify the Part, remove outdated information, and add a new subpart (and corresponding clause) for Fast Payment Procedures (previously at subpart 13.4) for smaller dollar purchases.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR Part 32 model deviation include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- 10 U.S.C. §§ 3801 et seq and 41 U.S.C. §§ 4501 et seq, Contract Financing
- 31 U.S.C. § 1341, Anti-Deficiency Act
- 31 U.S.C. § 3324, Advances
- 31 U.S.C. § 3711, Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996
- 31 U.S.C. § 3727 and 41 U.S.C. § 6305, Assignment of Claims Act of 1940

- 31 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq, Prompt Payment Act
- 50 U.S.C. §§ 4501 et seq, Defense Production Act of 1950
- Pub. L. 102-190 Sec 806 as amended (10 U.S.C. § 4601 note prec.), Government-wide Application of Payment Protections for Subcontractors and Suppliers

Description
Section 32.001, " <b>Definitions</b> " is retained with plain language
updates.
• Most <b>provisions and clauses</b> are retained (or remain reserved).
Exceptions are noted in the "Moved / Updated" section below.
• Section 32.000, "Scope of Part", is updated to include the statutory
references for the Part.
<ul> <li>This section adds "(k) Fast payment procedures" to</li> </ul>
correspond with the newly introduced Subpart 32.12.
• Section 32.002, "Applicability of subparts", adds reference to
"Subpart 32.12, Fast Payment Procedure".
• Subpart 32.12, "Fast Payment Procedure", formerly at subpart 13.4
is added to the Part. This procedure is a method for expediting
payments on certain small-dollar supply contracts where traditional
receiving and acceptance processes are impractical. Moving the
procedure to Part 32 enhances acquisition agility.
• The <b>following clauses</b> are updated for clarity, to mirror updates made
throughout the Part, and/or to update cross-references or remove
outdated content:
o 52.232-3 (Clause), Payments Under Personal Services
Contracts
o 52.232-12 (Clause), Advance Payments
Including "Advance Payments Without Special
Account"
o 52.232-16 (Clause), Progress Payments
o 52.232-20 (Clause), Limitation of Cost
o 52.232-22 (Clause), Limitation of Funds
o 52.232-36 (Clause), Payment by Third Party
• The following clause is added to the Part:
o 52.232-90 (Clause), Fast Payment Procedure (previously at 52.213-1)
• The <b>FAR Companion</b> is expected to contain best practices and
guidance on the following:
<ul> <li>Contract Financing Payments</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Advance Payments for Other Than Commercial Acquisitions</li> <li>Deferment of Collection</li> </ul>
Limitation of Cost
Paragraph (d) under section 32.102, "Description of contract
financing methods" is deleted and marked reserved. The content
was largely explanatory, as the requirement to pay for accepted

Change	Description
	partial deliveries is a standard payment method governed by Prompt
	Payment rules in Subpart 32.9 and standard payment clauses, not a
	form of contract financing. See the FAR Companion for best
	practice.
	• Sections 32.304 through 32.306, under subpart 32.3, "Loan
	Guarantees for Defense Production", are deleted and marked
	reserved. These sections and associated subsections provided
	extensive procedural details for the loan guarantee program. While
	the program's authority remains in sections 32.302 and 32.303, the
	responsibility for implementation procedures is with the individual
	guaranteeing agencies and does not need to be spelled out in detail in
	the FAR.
	• Section 32.403 "Applicability", under subpart 32.4, "Advance
	Payments for Other Than Commercial Acquisitions", is deleted
	and marked reserved. The language provided a detailed list in
	paragraphs (a) through (h), of eight specific categories where advance
	payments might be appropriate. This served as illustrative guidance
	and a non-exhaustive checklist that is not based on statute or required
	in the FAR. See the FAR Companion for best practice.

This table is not an exhaustive list.

## 4. Instructions.

- The USDA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 32 and corresponding Part 52 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 32 and Part 52 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO Part 32 and Part 52 model deviation text is available at <u>Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul</u> and is incorporated into this class deviation.
- For new solicitations and contracts, when using any provisions or clauses that
  have been revised, utilize the RFO model deviation language at <u>RFO FAR Part</u>
  52. Do not include any of the removed provisions or clauses in 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.
- 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 USDA procurements.

- **6. Authority.** This class deviation is issued under the authority of <u>E.O. 14275</u>, <u>OMB M-25-25</u>, and 48 CFR 1.4, and RFO FAR 1.304.
- **7. Effective Date.** This class deviation is effective November 3, 2025, and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.
- **8. Points of Contact.** Questions regarding this class deviation may be directed to the USDA Procurement Policy Division at <a href="mailto:procurement.policy@usda.gov">procurement.policy@usda.gov</a>.