



RFO-2025-21

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Office of the
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for Administration

Office of
Contracting and
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MEMORANDUM FOR USDA CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES

From: Hilary Erickson
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Office of Contracting and Procurement

Subject: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 51 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 51 for purposes of implementing the FAR Council's model deviation to FAR Part 51.

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 51, Use of Government Sources by Contractors, is removed in its entirety. All statutory text and essential text retained to support sound procurement will be moved to FAR Part 8

4. Instructions.

- The USDA acquisition workforce must follow the RFO Part 51 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 51 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO Part 51 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul) and is incorporated into this class deviation.

- 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 [E.O. 14275](#), [OMB M-25-25](#), 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 This class deviation is effective November 3, 2025, and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.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 procurement.policy@usda.gov.