



RFO-2025-50

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

October 15, 2025

Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Administration

MEMORANDUM FOR USDA CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES

Office of
Contracting and
Procurement

From: Hilary Erickson
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Subject: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 53 in
Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to
Federal Procurement

Washington, DC
20250-9308

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

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 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](#) 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](#) 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 USDA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 53 and corresponding Part 52 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 53 and Part 52 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO Part 53 and Part 52 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul) 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 [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 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.