

Date: June 11, 2025

From: Acting Executive Director, Office of Acquisition and Logistics (003A), and Acting Senior Procurement Executive

Subj: Class Deviation for FAR Part 1 in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

To: Heads of the Contracting Activities

1. Purpose. Deviate from Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 1 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR part 1.

2. Background. On April 15, 2025, the [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14275](#) on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement was signed. Section 2 of the E.O. establishes the policy that the FAR "should only contain provisions required by statute or essential to sound procurement, and any FAR provisions that do not advance these objectives should be removed."

The FAR is being updated to:

- Remove language that is not required by statute
- Remove duplicative or outdated language
- Clarify or provide more plain language
- Revise language for the new FAR framework
- Retain language necessary for governmentwide acquisition standards.

This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative.

In explaining the Federal Acquisition System, the RFO FAR part 1 model deviation text establishes bedrock principles. Most centrally, it sets a "mission first" message at the top of the guiding principles. The RFO FAR part 1 model deviation also increases the emphasis on the best use of taxpayer dollars and calls out the value of time as another guiding principle. Additionally, it retains a focus on satisfying the customer, maximizing use of commercial products and services, promoting competition, and encouraging innovation.

Statutory requirement retained in the RFO FAR part 1 model deviation include, but are not limited to:

- 31 U.S.C. § 3702, Authority to Settle Claims
- 41 U.S.C. Ch. 13 et seq, Acquisition Councils
- 41 U.S.C. Ch. 17 et seq, Agency Responsibilities and Procedures
- 41 U.S.C. § 1908, Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition Thresholds
- 41 U.S.C. § 3102, Delegation and Assignment of Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities

Class Deviation for FAR Part 1 in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

Non-statutory requirements removed from FAR part 1 include, but are not limited to:

- The list of OMB approved control numbers contained in subpart 1.1. These control numbers are now listed on Acquisition.gov.
- Subpart 1.2 – Administration
- Subpart 1.5 – Agency and Public Participation procedures.

Other key changes include:

- Class deviations require approval by the FAR Council except where required to implement agency-specific executive or statutory direction.

3. Instructions. The VA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO part 1 model deviation text instead of FAR part 1 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO part 1 model deviation text is available at www.Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul and is incorporated into the class deviation.

4. Applicability. All VA procurements.

5. Authority. [E.O. 14275](#), [OMB M-25-25](#) (revised to [OMB 25-26](#)), and 48 CFR 1.4.

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

7. Point of Contact. Questions related to this deviation may be directed to va.procurement.policy@va.gov.

Joseph P. Maletta