

Date: October 22, 2025

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

Subj: Class Deviation for FAR Part 41 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 41 for purposes of implementing the Federal Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR part 41.

2. Background. [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14275, 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 41, Acquisition of Utility Services, has been retained, streamlined, and improved for clarity. All subparts have been retained. Plain language edits or other updates have been made throughout the part to remove unnecessary information or otherwise clarify the content. All clauses and provisions are retained.

Notably, the definition of "utility service" is updated. Services such as broadband internet and information technology services, which were nascent or nonexistent when the original regulation was drafted, are now explicitly carved out. This prevents agencies from incorrectly applying utility acquisition procedures. This change reduces the risk of improper sole-source justifications and promotes full and open competition in those dynamic markets.

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Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 41 model deviation include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- 40 U.S.C. § 501, Services for Executive Agencies
- 42 U.S.C. § 8287, Authority to Enter into Contracts

4. Instructions.

- The VA acquisition workforce must follow the RFO part 41 model deviation text instead of FAR part 41 as codified at 48 C.F.R. Chapter 1. The Council's RFO part 41 model deviation text is available at www.Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul and is incorporated into this class deviation.

5. Applicability. All VA procurements.

6. Authority. [E.O. 14275](#), [OMB Memorandum M-25-26](#), [48 C.F.R. Subpart 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. Point of Contact. Questions related to this deviation may be directed to va.procurement.policy@va.gov.

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