



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue ▪ Alexandria, VA 22314

September 18, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

TO: National Science Foundation, Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support  
National Science Foundation Acquisition Workforce

FROM: Patrick K. Breen  
Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 48 in Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

PURPOSE: This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 48 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (Council's) model deviation text to FAR part 48.

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- Remove duplicative or outdated language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.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES: FAR part 48, Value Engineering, has been updated to be more direct, active, and accessible. The model deviation text removes nearly 3,000 words (70%) from the current language.

Statutory and executive requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 48 model deviation include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- 41 U.S.C. § 1711, Value Engineering
- OMB Circular A-131, Value Engineering

Change	Description
Retained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• Sections 48.101, “General”, and 48.102, “Policies”, are retained and significantly streamlined.</li> <li>• Prescriptive information previously covered within section 48.104, “Sharing arrangements” is retained in the following clauses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 52.248-1 covers information previously at 48.104-1, “Determining sharing period”</li> <li>○ 52.248-1(f) and (g) covers information previously at 48.104-2, “Sharing acquisition savings”</li> <li>○ 52.248-1(j) covers information previously at 48.104-3, “Sharing collateral savings”</li> <li>○ 52.248-1(i)(5) covers information previously at 48.104-4, “Sharing alternative-no-cost settlement method”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prescriptive information previously covered in section 48.105, “Relationship to other incentives” is retained in clause 52.248- 1(k).</li> <li>• All clauses are retained with no changes to the text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 52.248-1 Value Engineering</li> <li>○ 52.248-2 Value Engineering—Architect-Engineer</li> <li>○ 52.248-3 Value Engineering—Construction</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• Section 48.000, “Scope of Part” is removed as the content is self-evident and did not add value.</li> <li>• The following terms are removed from section 48.001, “Definitions” as they were duplicative of definitions in clause 52.248-1, Value Engineering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Government costs</li> <li>○ Negative instant contract savings</li> <li>○ Net acquisition savings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Information in section 48.102(f) on calculating profit or fees for value engineering change proposal savings will be covered in the FAR Companion Guide.</li> <li>• Section 48.103, “Processing value engineering change proposals” is removed because required information is covered in the clauses at 52.248-1 and 52.248-3. Additional information on implementing</li> </ul>

	<p>approaches and principles will be covered in the FAR Companion Guide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information within section 48.104, on establishing sharing periods and rates will be covered in the FAR Companion Guide.</li> </ul>
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This table is not an exhaustive list

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The NSF acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO part 48 model deviation text instead of FAR part 48 as codified at 48 CFR chapter 43. The Council's RFO part 48 model deviation text is available at Acquisition.gov, under the "FAR Overhaul" link, and is incorporated into this class deviation.

- Contracting activities must review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this deviation and remove unnecessary processes or steps.

**APPLICABILITY:** This class deviation applies to all NSF procurement actions.

**AUTHORITY:** This class deviation is issued under the authority of EO 14275, [OMB Memo M-25-26](#), 48 CFR 1.4, and RFO FAR 1.304.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This deviation is effective as dated and shall remain in effect until it is incorporated into the FAR, or until this class deviation is rescinded, extended, or amended.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Contact Raymond McCollum at 703-292-4225 or [rmccollu@nsf.gov](mailto:rmccollu@nsf.gov).