



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 49 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 49 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR Part 49.

BACKGROUND: On April 15, 2025, the [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement](#) was signed, mandates a comprehensive review and simplification of the FAR.

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- Remove duplicative or outdated language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
- Align with the new FAR framework
- Preserve essential governmentwide acquisition standards.

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

SUMMARY OF CHANGES: FAR part 49, Termination of Contracts, has been updated for clarity and usability.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 49 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 31 U.S.C. § 3729, False Claims
- 41 U.S.C. §§ 7101 et seq (Pub. L. 95-563), The Contract Disputes Act of 1978

Change	Description
Retained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 49.000, "Scope of Part", is simplified and retains the core scope of establishing policies and procedures for terminating contracts early. • Section 49.001, "Definitions", is retained and updated for plain language. • Section 49.002, "Applicability", is retained and updated for plain language with a simpler structure. • Subparts 49.1, 49.2, 49.3, 49.4, 49.5, 49.6 and the sections therein, remain mostly intact and are streamlined with some shifting and reorganizing of sections and subsections throughout. • All existing clauses are retained (or remain reserved if previously reserved) with no changes to the text.
Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain language edits were made throughout to enhance readability and remove redundant, unclear, or non-essential language, decreasing the word count by more than 2,500 words. • Subsection 49.108-7 "Government assistance in settling subcontracts", Section 49.113 "Cost principles", and Section 49.405 "Completion by another contractor" have been removed and may be moved to non-regulatory content.

This table is not an exhaustive list.

INSTRUCTIONS: The NSF acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO part 49 instead of FAR part 49 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO part 49 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.

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 the date of this letter and shall remain in effect until it is incorporated into the FAR.

POINT OF CONTACT: Contact Raymond McCollum at 703-292-4225 or rmccollu@nsf.gov .