



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue ▪ Alexandria, VA 22314

August 7, 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 1 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 1 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR Part 1.

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- Remove duplicative or outdated language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
- 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 focus on core procurement requirements.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES: 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. 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 requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 1 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 31 U.S.C. 3702, Authority to Settle Claims
- 41 U.S.C. 13 et seq, Agency Councils
- 41 U.S.C. 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

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

- The list of OMB approved control numbers contained in subpart 1.1 These control numbers are now listed on [Acquisition.gov](https://www.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. More guidance will follow on GSA’s internal process for routing class deviation requests.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The NSF acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO part 1 instead of FAR part 1 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council’s RFO part 1 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul), and is incorporated into this class deviation.

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

AUTHORITY: This class deviation is issued under the authority of E.O. 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.

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