



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

July 7, 2025

ACQUISITION ALERT 2025-10

TO: Heads of Contracting Activities

FROM: Calvin J. Mitchell Jr. **Calvin J Mitchell Jr.** Digitally signed by Calvin J Mitchell Jr.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Acquisition Management Date: 2025.07.07 16:05:21 -04'00'
Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 18 in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

- 1. Purpose.** This Acquisition Alert (AA) adopts a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 18 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR Part 18.
- 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." On May 31, 2025, the enclosed class deviation was issued for the use of all Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) model deviation texts and corresponding EDAR deviations.
- 3. Summary of Changes.** FAR Part 18, Emergency Acquisitions, has been updated to streamline the acquisition flexibilities available for emergency acquisitions, and to retain increased thresholds, commercial procedures, and award preferences during an emergency. Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR Part 18 deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 41 U.S.C. § 1903, Special Emergency Procurement Authority
 - 42 U.S.C. Ch. 68, Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
 - 10 U.S.C. § 101(a)(13), Contingency Operation
 - 22 U.S.C. § 2292b, International Disaster Assistance
 - 46 U.S.C. § 55305, Cargo Preference Act of 1954
 - 41 U.S.C. § 153, Contract in Support of Humanitarian or Peacekeeping Operation

Important Note: General acquisition flexibilities that support emergency procurement have been removed and are now located at <https://acquisition.gov/emergency-procurement>.

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Change	Description
Retained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased thresholds for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contingency operations ○ Defense or recovery from certain events, to include cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attacks ○ International disaster assistance ○ Emergency or major disaster response ○ Humanitarian or peacekeeping operations ● Statutory requirements related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency declarations and major disaster declarations ○ Humanitarian or peacekeeping operations ○ Award preference for local organizations ● Waiver of provisions for ocean transportation by U.S. flag vessels.
Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General acquisition flexibilities covered in other sections of the FAR that support emergency procurement are now listed at https://www.acquisition.gov/emergency-procurement. ● References to resources such as the National Response Framework and Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) "Emergency Acquisitions Guide" are expected to be moved to non-regulatory guidance, as needed.

This table is not an exhaustive list.

4. Instructions.

- The Department of Education’s acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 18 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 18 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council’s RFO Part 18 model deviation text is available at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-18>, and is incorporated into this class deviation. There is no EDAR Part 3418 and therefore no corresponding changes to EDAR are necessary.
- Review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this deviation and remove unnecessary processes and steps.

5. **Training.** Acquisition Professionals are highly encouraged to complete “Practitioner Album: FAR Part 18 – Emergency Acquisitions” at https://www.acquisition.gov/sites/default/files/practitioner_albums/far-part-18-emergency-acquisitions/content/index.html#/ within 30 days. Please complete the Practitioner Album and mark “yes” under the completion attestation within FAI CSOD.

6. **Effective Date.** This class deviation to FAR Part 18 is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.
7. **Points of Contact.** Direct questions regarding this class deviation to your respective policy points of contact.
8. **Enclosure.** Determination and Findings - Class Deviation for the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul

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DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
Department of Education, All Contracting Activities
Class Deviation for the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul

This approves a class deviation to all Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Department of Education Acquisition Regulation (EDAR) parts for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text.

Findings

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 deviation text establishes bedrock principles. Most centrally, it sets a "mission first" message at the top of the guiding principles. The RFO 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.

The FAR Council Deviation guidance allows for agencies to deviate agency acquisition regulation supplements as it relates to the RFO.

Determination

In accordance with FAR 1.404 and EDAR 3401.404, I hereby issue a class deviation for the use of all RFO model deviation texts and corresponding EDAR deviations. The adoption date for each RFO part model deviation text will be the date of the corresponding Acquisition Alert. EDAR deviation texts may be issued in a separate Acquisition Alert. All Department of Education contracting activities must follow the RFO model deviation texts instead of the FAR Parts codified at 48 CFR. Should the language of the RFO FAR contradict any statutorily granted procurement authorities to the Department of Education including the Office of Federal Student Aid, the statutorily granted authorities prevail.

In the unlikely event that the Department wishes to vary from a RFO model deviation text, a separate deviation will be issued. This class deviation will remain in effect until incorporated into the FAR, EDAR or rescinded.

RICHARD LUCAS Digitally signed by RICHARD LUCAS
Date: 2025.05.31 08:30:12 -04'00'

Richard Lucas

Date

Acting Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO)