



U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

Financial and Administrative Management

1615 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20419-0002

September 12, 2025

TO: MSPB Contracting Officers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MK", is written over the printed name.

FROM: Michaela Klarmann, Senior Procurement Official
Acting Director, Financial and Administrative Management

Subject: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 51 in Support of Executive Order 14275, Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

1. Purpose. This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 51 for purposes of implementing the FAR Council's model deviation to FAR part 51.
2. Background. On April 15, 2025, Executive Order (EO) 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement was signed by the President. Section 2 of the EO 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:

- 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 51, Use of Government Sources By Contractors, is removed in its entirety. All statutory text and essential text retained to support sound procurement will be moved to FAR part 8.

4. Instructions. The MSPB acquisition workforce shall:

- Follow the RFO part 51 model deviation text instead of FAR part 51 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO part 51 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul) and is incorporated into this class deviation.
- When using any provisions or clauses that have been revised, utilize the RFO model deviation language at RFO FAR part 52.
- Review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this deviation and remove unnecessary processes or steps.

5. Applicability. This class deviation applies to all MSPB procurements.

6. Authority. This class deviation is issued under the authority of EO 14275, OMB memorandum M- 25-26, 48 CFR 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 regarding this class deviation may be directed to: Michaela Klarmann, michaela.klarmann@mspb.gov.