

**CLASS DEVIATION
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION
FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (FAR) PART 24 – PROTECTION OF
PRIVACY AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

Findings

1. The objective of this class deviation is to implement the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council’s model deviation text to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 24 – Protection of Privacy and Freedom of Information, and applicable sections of FAR Part 52 – Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses.
2. On April 15, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order (E.O.) 14275, *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*. Section 2 of the E.O. established 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.”
3. On May 2, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued memorandum M-25-26, *Overhauling the Federal Acquisition Regulation*, initiating a major overhaul of the FAR (Revolutionary FAR Overhaul, or “RFO”), in coordination with the other members of the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council – i.e., the General Services Administration (GSA), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and federal buying agencies. The goal is refocusing the FAR on its statutory roots. To that end, 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

The OMB memorandum M-25-26 established a two phased approach to implementing enterprise deregulation as follows: Phase one, FAR Council deviation guidance, and phase two, formal rulemaking. Phase one involves the FAR Council issuing guidance on a rolling basis with clear, plain language model deviation text organized by FAR part. The goal is streamlining the regulation by aligning it more closely to its statutory base. According to the memorandum, agencies should adopt this model deviation text within 30 days by issuing individual or class deviations.

4. On May 2, 2025, the FAR Council issued further implementing guidance in a memorandum titled *Deviation Guidance to Support the Overhaul of the Federal Acquisition Regulation*. Pursuant to the FAR Council’s memorandum, “agencies that adopt the Council’s RFO class deviation text without change, or require different text only to address statutory direction unique to the agency, do not need to coordinate with the Council.”

5. On September 4, 2025, the FAR Council issued model deviation text for RFO FAR Part 24 – Protection of Privacy and Freedom of Information and the corresponding clauses at FAR Part 52 – Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses. RFO FAR Part 24 has been retained with minimal deletions and minor updates made for plain language. No changes were made to provisions or clauses. Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR Part 24 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, Freedom of Information
- 5 U.S.C. § 552a (Pub. L. 93-579), Privacy Act of 1974
- 5 U.S.C. § 574, Confidentiality
- 10 U.S.C. § 3309 and 41 U.S.C. § 4702, Prohibition on Release of Contractor Proposals
- 10 U.S.C. § 3705 and 41 U.S.C. § 3505, Submission of Other Information
- OMB Circular No. A-130, Managing Information as a Strategic Resource

Determination

In accordance with FAR 1.304 *Class deviations* and Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation (DEAR) 901.404 *Class deviations*, to fully comply with the requirement of E.O. 14275 and the revised FAR Part 24, it is hereby determined that a class deviation is appropriate pursuant to OMB memorandum M-25-26 (Attachment 1) and the FAR Council memorandum (Attachment 2) issued on May 2, 2025, using the RFO model deviation text for Part 24 and the applicable sections of Part 52 (Attachment 3). Specifically, DOE/NNSA will follow the RFO model deviation text for Part 24 in lieu of 48 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 24, and the RFO model deviation text for the applicable sections of Part 52 in lieu of the corresponding applicable sections of 48 CFR Part 52.224-1, 52.224-2, and 52.224-3. Once approved, the Department will share the deviation widely among its workforce to ensure full awareness of and compliance with the revisions to the affected regulations. This class deviation is effective November 3, 2025, and will remain effective until cancelled or incorporated into the FAR.

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Attachments:

OMB Memorandum M-25-26, *Overhauling the Federal Acquisition Regulation*
FAR Council Memorandum, *Deviation Guidance to Support the Overhaul of the Federal Acquisition Regulation*
RFO Parts 24 and 52 Model Deviation Text