

Date: September 21, 2026



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY

ACQUISITION LETTER/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE LETTER/OTHER TRANSACTION LETTER

This Acquisition Letter, Financial Assistance Letter and Other Transaction Letter is issued under the authority of the Senior Procurement Executives of DOE and NNSA. It is intended for use by the procurement professionals of DOE, primarily Contracting, Grants, and Agreements Officers, and other officials of DOE that participate in the acquisition process. Other parties are welcome to its information, but definitive interpretation of its effect on DOE Solicitations, Notices of Funding Opportunity Announcements, Requests for Application, Awards, and other related procedures and actions may only be made by DOE Contracting, Grants, and Agreements Officers.

Federal Acquisition Regulations	No. AL 2026-06
Financial Assistance Regulations	No: FAL 2026-09
Other Transaction Regulations	No: OTL 2026-07

Subject: Strategic Integrated Procurement Enterprise System (STRIPES) Mandatory Use Policy

References:

STRIPES Center
FAR part 1 and DEAR part 1
FAR part 4
FAR part 52.1
Clauses
DOE Acquisition Guide Chapter 1.1
DOE Acquisition Guide Chapter 1.2

[STRIPES User Guides/Training Resources](#)
Federal Acquisition Regulations System
Administrative and Information Matters
Instructions for Using Provisions and

Acquisition Regulation System
Head of Contracting Activity Authority,
Functions, and Responsibilities

When is this Acquisition Letter (AL)/Financial Assistance Letter (FAL)/Other Transaction Letter (OTL) effective?

This AL/FAL/OTL is effective immediately upon issuance.

When does this AL/FAL/OTL expire?

This AL/FAL/OTL supersedes AL 2025-04 and remains in effect until superseded or canceled.

Who is the intended audience?

Department of Energy (DOE) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Heads of Contracting Activity (HCAs), Senior Contracting Partners (SCPs), Contracting/Grants/Agreements Officers, and STRIPES Points of Contact (SPOCs). Any reference in this guidance to Contracting Officer (CO) should be understood to include Grants Officer (GO) and Agreements Officer (AO). Any reference in this guidance to the DOE should be understood to include the NNSA, unless otherwise indicated.

Who are the points of contact?

DOE acquisition questions regarding this AL/FAL/OTL should be sent to the Contract and Financial Assistance Policy Division (MA-611) at DOE_OAPMPolicy@hq.doe.gov.

STRIPES system questions should be sent to the MA-HQ Systems Division (MA-622) at HQProcurementSystems@hq.doe.gov.

NNSA personnel may contact the Acquisition Policy and Oversight Division, Policy & Oversight Branch (NA-PAS-111), at (505) 845-5639.

What is the purpose?

The purpose of this AL/FAL/OTL is to provide guidance to DOE and NNSA HCAs, SCPs, COs/GOs/AOs, and SPOCs regarding the use of STRIPES for acquisition, financial assistance, and other transactions instruments. This policy is the basis for streamlining, improving oversight, and standardization.

This AL/FAL/OTL also provides information and guidance specific to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), DOE Acquisition Regulation (DEAR), Corporate and local clauses, Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, and Financial Assistance Special Terms and Conditions.

What is affected by this AL/FAL/OTL?

This AL/FAL/OTL applies to the following unclassified contract, financial assistance, and other transactions instruments:

- Solicitations
- Contracts
- Delivery/Task Orders
- Purchase Orders
- Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA)
- BPA Calls
- Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO)
- Requests for Applications (RFA)
- Financial Assistance Awards (cooperative agreements and grants)
- Other Transaction Awards (including, but not limited to, Technology Investment Agreements, Partnership Intermediary Agreements, Defense Production Act Agreements)
- Interagency Agreements (applicable to NNSA only)

This AL/FAL/OTL does not apply to actions listed at FAR 4.301, Contract Reporting, as well as actions that do not obligate funds, e.g., sales contracts, payment-in-lieu of taxes, International Voluntary Contributions, etc.

No classified material shall be created, stored, transmitted, or entered in STRIPES. Proper Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) markings must be applied when applicable.

What is the background information?

DOE implemented STRIPES to manage the contract, financial assistance, and other transactions lifecycle from planning to award closeout and ensure compliance with federal and agency-specific regulations (FAR, CFR and DEAR). The STRIPES application is a part of DOE's Corporate Business Systems (CBS) application suite and integrates with the Standard Accounting and Reporting System (STARS) and the iPortal Integrated Data Warehouse (IDW). STRIPES also interfaces with various agency-wide systems, such as the System for Award Management (SAM) and Grants.gov. STRIPES is a web-based information technology system that DOE developed to serve as the agency's system-of-record for contract, financial assistance and other transaction activities. STRIPES serves as the Department's contract writing system for contracts and, among other things, is utilized to centralize document management and electronic document filing for contracts, financial assistance, and other transactions.

Contracts

STRIPES is the primary system of record for the award and administration of DOE's contract instruments. STRIPES includes databases and templates for the latest FAR,

DEAR, Corporate, and local clauses. Corporate and local clauses are neither prescribed by the FAR nor the DEAR. STRIPES is an automated and efficient way to ensure new contracts have up-to-date provisions and clauses (and thus are compliant) when constructed completely in STRIPES.

Corporate clauses are administered by the Office of Acquisition Management (OAM), Contract and Financial Assistance Policy Division (MA-611) and go through an extensive development process to ensure they comply with statute, the FAR, the DEAR and other regulations. Corporate clauses are vetted by numerous entities to include the Office of General Counsel, NNSA, and HCAs among others. Corporate clauses are used to address situations and issues on a Department-wide basis. Their consistent use promotes a common understanding between DOE and its contractors, providing efficiency and transparency in contract execution. A listing of Corporate clauses is maintained in the STRIPES library, entitled “DOE Corporate Clauses (DOEC)” and is posted in Acquisition and Financial Assistance Answers. NNSA clauses are entitled “NNSA Local Clauses.”

Local clauses are developed and approved by site/program offices, in consultation with OAM as needed, to address site/program-specific circumstances. Administration of local clauses and local templates is the responsibility of the site/program offices and must be approved by the HCA, or designee, but not below the SCP. Local clauses should include a site/program specific naming convention to allow effective and efficient management of local clauses similar to the DOE Corporate clauses.

Site/program offices must review local clauses and templates annually and validate that the local clauses are: (1) still required and (2) do not conflict with the current FAR, DEAR, and/or Corporate clauses. Documentation of such should be maintained at the cognizant site/program office. Local clauses will be reviewed by the Procurement Management Review (PMR) team to ensure they are being managed properly.

Financial Assistance and Other Transactions

STRIPES is the primary system of record for the administration of DOE’s financial assistance and other transaction (FA/OT) instruments. Development of NOFOs, RFAs and FA/OT awards in STRIPES is not mandatory. However, all FA/OT NOFO, RFA, final merit review documents, pre-award, award, and post award files and documentation must be uploaded and maintained in STRIPES. Furthermore, administration of FA/OT awards must be conducted in STRIPES.

What guidance is included in this AL/FAL/OTL?

STRIPES is the system-of-record for all DOE elements for the award and administration of DOE unclassified contracts, financial assistance, and other transactions. No classified material shall be stored, transmitted, or entered into STRIPES. Required pre- and post-award documentation must be maintained in electronic form and reside in STRIPES as the official award file for contracts, financial assistance, and other transactions. Some

documents are exempted from this requirement by regulation as they must be maintained in paper copy.

Use of STRIPES to Complete Acquisition Actions

Actions for contract, FA, and OT instruments identified in this AL/FAL/OTL requiring CO/GO/AO approval must be completed in STRIPES.

The cancellation or termination of any solicitation or award must be completed in STRIPES. Solicitations must be cancelled by issuing a formal amendment. Award cancellations or terminations must be completed by executing a contract, financial assistance, or other transactions modification. In either case, the cancellation or termination must be clearly indicated along with the reason for cancellation or termination in the “description” field in STRIPES, and the CO/GO/AO must ensure that the circumstances surrounding the cancellation or termination are properly documented in the official file and correctly coded in applicable systems (e.g., STRIPES and FPDS-NG) to reflect the cancellation or termination.

Use of STRIPES for Maintaining the Official File

For all acquisition instruments identified in this AL/FAL/OTL the required pre- and post-award documentation must be maintained in STRIPES.

If documentation cannot be maintained in STRIPES (e.g. M&O contracts, classified contracts, or contracts where hundreds of modifications and supporting documents are anticipated), a memo to the file (uploaded as a supporting document) must indicate where files are stored and a point of contact to locate files if needed). Draft versions of documents are not to be stored in STRIPES.

Some pre- and/or post-award documentation or information should be stored or available in other official systems and is not required to be maintained in STRIPES. Examples of these documents include: (1) contractor invoices and payment approvals found and stored in the Financial Accounting Support Tool (FAST); (2) vendor/contractor performance evaluations completed in the Contractor Performance Assessments Reporting System (CPARS); and (3) vendor/contractor reporting submitted via SAM.

The Site Point of Contact (SPOC) is the field organization’s STRIPES Site Administrator. A listing can be found in the [STRIPES Center](#) under Frequently Asked Questions - STRIPES Site Points of Contact (SPOCs).