



Global Acquisitions

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Acquisition Alert 26-04-01

TO: All Contracting Activities

FROM: Sharon D. James
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SUBJECT: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 17 in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

- 1. Introduction:** The purpose of this Acquisition Alert is to issue a FAR class deviation to part 17 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's model deviation text to that part. **The purpose of this amendment is to revise the effective date. Changes implemented as part of this amendment are outlined in red font.**
- 2. Background:** On April 15, 2025, 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- Remove duplicative or outdated language;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 plain language;
- Revise language for the new FAR framework; and
- Retain language necessary for governmentwide acquisition standards.

This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative. This class deviation is issued under the authority of E.O. 14275, OMB M-25-25, and 48 CFR 1.4.

Deviation Summary

FAR part 17, Special Contracting Methods, has been reorganized and streamlined, combining related topics and removing repeated information.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 17 model deviation include:

- 41 U.S.C. § 3903 and 10 U.S.C. § 3501, Multiyear Contracts
- 31 U.S.C. § 1341, Limitations on Expending and Obligating Amounts
- 31 U.S.C. § 1535, The Economy Act
- Pub. L. 110-417 Sec. 865, Preventing Abuse of Interagency Contracts
- Pub. L. 110-181 Sec. 801, Internal Controls for Procurements on Behalf of the Department of Defense by Certain Non-defense Agencies

Non-statutory requirements removed from FAR part 17 include:

- Section 17.105-2, regarding benefits of multiyear contracting is expected to be included in the FAR Companion.
- Content from previous sections 17.203 and 17.204 reflecting best practices for options in solicitations and contracts, and previous section 17.802(c) for best practices for reverse auctions is expected to be included to the FAR Companion.
- Criteria for identifying management and operating contracts, previously at section 17.604 “Identifying management and operating contracts.”

New subparts 17.6 and 17.7 establish policies and procedures specifically for acquisitions of supplies and services by nondefense agencies on behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Energy respectively.

Corresponding DOSAR Deviation Summary

There is Department of State Acquisition Regulation (DOSAR) coverage of part 17 at DOSAR part 617. Changes were made to align with this part based on the FAR Overhaul changes and to update with current operational practices.

3. Acquisition Impact: The changes resulting from this class deviation affect all DoS procurements issued on or after the effective date of the AA.

4. Action Required: The acquisition workforce must follow the RFO part 17 model deviation text instead of FAR part 17 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The FAR

Council's RFO model deviation text is available at Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul, and is incorporated into this class deviation.

- a. For new solicitations or contracts, when using any provisions or clauses that have been revised, utilize the RFO model deviation language at RFO FAR part 52. Do not include any of the removed provisions or clauses in future solicitations and contracts.
- b. For open solicitations or awarded contracts, the contracting officer has discretion regarding the need to enforce or amend the provisions or clauses. Note that without some of the removed provisions or clauses, the contracting officer may be required to separately address certain aspects in the contract.

5. Effective Date: The model deviated language was released on September 4, 2025; however, this deviation is effective **January 30, 2026, or 30 days following the end of the current lapse in appropriations; whichever is later.**

6. Expiration Date: This Acquisition Alert expires upon incorporation into the FAR, DOSAR, and/or DOSAM.

7. Additional Information: Questions regarding this Acquisition Alert may be directed to AcquisitionPolicy@state.gov.

8. Attachments: [DOSAR Part 617 lineout](#)

9. Referenced Documents, Checklists, Guides and Templates:
[FAR Part 17 Practitioner Album](#)