



**U.S. Department  
of Transportation**

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

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**SUBJECT:** Class Deviation No. 2025-10 from the Federal Acquisition Regulation for FAR Part 6 in Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

**FROM:** Chrishaun Jones  
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Office of the Senior Procurement Executive

**TO:** Department of Transportation Chiefs of the Contracting Offices

- I. Purpose:** This class deviation (CD) is issued under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 1 and Transportation Acquisition Regulation (TAR) part 1201 and authorizes a class deviation to FAR part 6 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR part 6.
- II. Effective Date:** Immediately
- III. 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- Remove duplicative or outdated language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 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.

FAR part 6, concerning Competition Requirements, has been streamlined to strengthen clarity and focus, helping to ensure procedures that support full and open competition are easier to understand and apply.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 6 model deviation, include, but are not limited to the following:

- 41 U.S.C. § 1705, Advocates for Competition
- 41 U.S.C. § 3301 and 10 U.S.C. § 3201, Full and Open Competition
- 41 U.S.C. § 3303 and 10 U.S.C. § 3203, Exclusion of Particular Source or Restriction of Solicitation to Small Business Concerns
- 41 U.S.C. § 3304, Use of Noncompetitive Procedures
- 10 U.S.C. § 3204, Use of Procedures Other than Competitive Procedures
- 42 U.S.C. § 5150, Major Disaster and Emergency Assistance, Use of Local Firms and Individuals
- 15 U.S.C. Chapter 14A, Aid to Small Business

The following table is not an exhaustive list but includes notable updates to FAR part 6.

Change	Description
<b>Retained</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAR part 6 continues to apply to all acquisitions, with limited exceptions for specific contracts and orders.</li> <li>• Advocates for Competition, previously at subpart 6.5, has been moved to section 6.003. Details about the role and responsibilities have been streamlined.</li> <li>• Guidance pertaining to Sealed Bidding has been streamlined and moved from subpart 6.4 to section 6.101.</li> <li>• Authorities for other than full and open competition, including only one responsible source, remain.</li> <li>• Contracting officers retain discretion to set aside acquisitions for small business concerns, including contract actions conducted under the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, and local firms during a major disaster or emergency.</li> <li>• Justification and approval requirements to support noncompetitive procedures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These requirements have been significantly streamlined.</li> <li>○ The revised language highlights that contracting officers require support from the broader acquisition team when making decisions regarding competition.</li> <li>○ The approval levels are now reflected in a plain language table format.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Removed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unnecessary or redundant language was removed throughout.</li> <li>• Examples include- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The word “advance” was removed from the phrase, “A lack of advance planning by the requiring activity.” The language now reads, “A lack of planning by the requiring activity.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>This avoids ambiguity surrounding the meaning of “advance” planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The list of specific small business socioeconomic categories was removed and replaced with a reference to part 19.</li> <li>● Illustrative examples of when to use certain exceptions to full and open competition have been removed and may be moved to non-regulatory content</li> </ul>
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**IV. Required Actions:** All DOT Operating Administrations (OAs), the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST), and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), excluding the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) per TAR 1201.104(d) shall follow the [RFO part 6 model deviation text](#) instead of FAR part 6 as codified at 48 CFR chapter 1. The Council’s RFO part 6 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](#) and is incorporated by reference into this CD. A line-out version of the changes may also be found [here](#) for reference.

Heads of the Contracting Activities (HCAs) must ensure this deviation is disseminated to the acquisition workforce and ensure compliance with the requirements in the revised FAR part 6 guidance.

**V. Applicability:** This CD applies to all DOT OAs, OST, and OIG, excluding the FAA in accordance with TAR 1201.104(d).

**VI. Expiration Date:** This CD will remain in effect until it is incorporated into the FAR or is otherwise rescinded, whichever occurs first.

**VII. Point of Contact:** Questions or comments regarding this deviation may be directed to [DOTAcquisitionPolicy@dot.gov](mailto:DOTAcquisitionPolicy@dot.gov).