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Agriculture

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MEMORANDUM FOR USDA CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES

From: Hilary Erickson
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Office of Contracting and Procurement

Subject: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 43 in
Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to
Federal Procurement

1. Purpose. This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 43 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR Part 43.

2. Background. [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement](#), signed April 15, 2025, mandates a comprehensive review and simplification of the FAR.

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 43, Contract Modifications, has been streamlined to provide the essential contract modification standards for the workforce to limit risk to the public and government. Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR Part 43 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 31 U.S.C. § 1501, Documentary Evidence Requirement for Government Obligations
- 31 U.S.C. § 1341, Anti-Deficiency Act
- 41 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7109, Contract Disputes Act of 1978

Change	Description
Retained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-statutory definitions and procedures for contract modifications are retained to maintain uniformity across Government. Instructions for documenting and definitizing change orders are retained and clarified.
Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plain language edits have been made throughout, resulting in a 300 word decrease.

This table is not an exhaustive list.

4. Instructions.

- The USDA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 43 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 43 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO Part 43 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul) and is incorporated into this class deviation.
- Review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this deviation and remove unnecessary processes and steps.

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

6. Authority. This class deviation is issued under the authority of [E.O. 14275](#), [OMB M-25-25](#), and 48 CFR 1.4, and RFO FAR 1.304.

7. Effective Date. This class deviation is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.

8. Points of Contact. Questions regarding this class deviation may be directed to the USDA Procurement Policy Division at procurement.policy@usda.gov.