



RFO-2025-13

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Administration

Office of
Contracting and
Procurement

1400 Independence
Ave., SW
Mailstop 9308
Room 126-W
Whitten Building

Washington, DC
20250-9308

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MEMORANDUM FOR USDA CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES

From: Hilary Erickson
Senior Procurement Executive
Office of Contracting and Procurement

Subject: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 50 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 50 for purposes of implementing the FAR Council's model deviation to FAR Part 50.

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 50, Extraordinary Contractual Actions, and the SAFETY Act, has been updated for clarity and practical use.

Statutory requirements and presidential directives retained in the RFO FAR part 50 model deviation include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- 50 U.S.C. § 1431 et seq, National Defense Contracts
- 6 U.S.C. § 441 et seq, Support Anti-Terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies
- E.O. 10789, Contracting Authority in Connection with National-Defense Functions

Change	Description
Retained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All subparts and sections throughout the Part are retained. • All provisions and clauses are retained, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clause 52.250-1, Indemnification Under Public Law 85-804 ○ Provision 52.250-2, SAFETY Act Coverage Not Applicable ○ Provision 52.250-3, SAFETY Act Block Designation/Certification ○ Provision 52.250-4, SAFETY Act Pre-qualification Designation Notice ○ Clause 52.250-5, SAFETY Act—Equitable Adjustment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This clause was updated with plain language edits.
Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain language edits were made throughout to enhance readability and remove redundant, unclear, or non-essential language, decreasing the word count by more than 500 words.

This table is not an exhaustive list.

4. Instructions.

- The USDA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 50 and corresponding Part 52 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 50 and Part 52 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO Part 50 and Part 52 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul) and is incorporated into this class deviation.
- When using any provisions or clauses that have been revised, utilize the RFO model deviation language at RFO FAR Part 52.
- Review templates and related standard operating procedures to remove unnecessary process 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.