

Date: July 22, 2025

From: Acting Executive Director, Office of Acquisition and Logistics (003A), and Acting Senior Procurement Executive

Subj: Class Deviation for FAR Part 6 in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

To: Heads of Contracting Activities

1. Purpose. Deviate from Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 6 to implement the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's model deviation text to FAR part 6.

2. Background. [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14275, 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 6, 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 Full and Open Competition
- 41 U.S.C. § 3303 Exclusion of Particular Source or Restriction of Solicitation to Small Business Concerns
- 41 U.S.C. § 3304, Use of Noncompetitive Procedures
- 42 U.S.C. § 5150, Major Disaster and Emergency Assistance, Use of Local Firms and Individuals

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| Change | Description |
|-----------------|--|
| Retained | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAR part 6 continues to apply to all acquisitions, with limited exceptions for specific contracts and orders. • Advocates for Competition, previously at subpart 6.5, has been moved to section 6.003. Details about the role and responsibilities have been streamlined. • Guidance pertaining to Sealed Bidding has been streamlined and moved from subpart 6.4 to section 6.101. • Authorities for other than full and open competition, including only one responsible source, remain. • 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. • Justification and approval requirements to support noncompetitive procedures. These requirements have been significantly streamlined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The revised language highlights that contracting officers require support from the broader acquisition team when making decisions regarding competition. ○ The approval levels are now reflected in a plain language table format. |
| Removed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unnecessary or redundant language was removed throughout. Examples include- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.” This avoids ambiguity surrounding the meaning of “advance” planning. ○ The list of specific small business socioeconomic categories was removed and replaced with a reference to part 19. • Illustrative examples of when to use certain exceptions to full and open competition have been removed and may be moved to non-regulatory content. |

This table is not an exhaustive list.

4. Instructions.

- The VA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO part 6 deviation text instead of FAR part 6 as codified at [48 CFR Part 6](#). The FAR Council's RFO

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part 6 model deviation text is available at 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 VA procurements.

6. Authority. [E.O. 14275](#), [OMB M-25-26](#), [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. Point of Contact. Questions related to this deviation may be directed to va.procurement.policy@va.gov.

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