



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

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

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

SUBJECT: Class Deviation No. 2026-20 from the Federal Acquisition Regulation for FAR Part 53 in Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

FROM: Chrishaun Jones
Senior Procurement Executive
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 53 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR part 53.
- 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- Remove duplicative or outdated language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 53, Forms, has been streamlined and modernized. Most significantly, rather than maintaining a list of forms within the part text, it directs users to a centralized site (<https://acquisition.gov/FARforms>) as the authoritative repository for all acquisition related forms. As a result, this part no longer needs to be amended through the formal rulemaking process every time a form is updated, added, or removed. This drastically reduces the administrative burden on the FAR Council and increases the government's agility in managing its library of forms. The "Forms List" referenced in the new 53.101(b) now performs the

prescriptive function previously handled throughout this entire subpart, shifting the FAR's role from a static, self-contained text to a dynamic system that points to live, authoritative resources.

Readers should reference the table at <https://acquisition.gov/FARforms> to review retained forms and their citations for prescribed use throughout the FAR.

The clause 52.253-1, Computer Generated Forms, is retained and updated. The update deletes a reference to the FAR prescriptions, in paragraph (a).

This part does not directly implement any statutory requirements.

- 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 RFO TAR 1201.104(d) shall follow the [RFO FAR part 53 model deviation text](#) instead of FAR part 53 as codified at 48 CFR chapter 1. The Council's RFO FAR part 53 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://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 53 guidance.

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](#).

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.

Contracting activities must review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this class deviation and remove unnecessary processes and steps.

- 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.