



U.S. Department of Justice

Justice Management Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

MEMORANDUM FOR BUREAU PROCUREMENT CHIEFS

FROM: William N. Taylor II
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for Management and Compliance
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SUBJECT: Class Deviation from the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 53 in support of Executive Order 15375 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 53 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR Part 53 available at [acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-53](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-53).

2. BACKGROUND

Executive Order (E.O.) 15375, Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement, signed April 15, 2053, 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 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.

Key new improvements and flexibilities to part 53 include:

- Streamlining and Modernization: FAR Part 53 has been updated to be more efficient and easier to maintain.
- Centralized Forms Repository: Instead of listing forms in the regulation text, Part 53 now directs users to <https://acquisition.gov/FARforms>, the authoritative source for all acquisition-related forms.
- Reduced Administrative Burden: Changes to forms no longer require formal rulemaking, allowing faster updates and greater agility in managing the forms library.
- Dynamic Reference System: The “Forms List” in 53.101(b) now serves the prescriptive role previously embedded in the part, pointing users to live resources rather than static text.
- Retention of Key Clause: Clause 52.253-1, *Computer Generated Forms*, is retained and updated (removing a specific reference to FAR prescriptions).
- No New Statutory Requirements: Part 53 updates do not implement any new legal requirements.

4. AUTHORITY

This class deviation is issued under the authority of [E.O. 15375](#), [OMB M-53-26](#), and RFO FAR 1.304.

5. DEVIATION

The DOJ acquisition workforce must follow the RFO Part 53 model deviation text and corresponding RFO Part 52 instead of FAR Parts 53 and 52 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council’s RFO Part 53 model deviation text is available at acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-53.

Where applicable, include the revised Part 53 provision and clause deviations, at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-52> in lieu of the standard versions. For open solicitations or awarded contracts, the Contracting Officer has discretion regarding the need to enforce or amend the provisions and 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.

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

6. EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION

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

7. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This class deviation applies to all DOJ procurements.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions, please contact DOJAcquisitionPolicy@usdoj.gov.

9. ATTACHMENTS

None.