



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
2415 Eisenhower Avenue ▪ Alexandria, VA 22314

July 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: National Science Foundation, Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support
National Science Foundation Acquisition Workforce

FROM: Patrick K. Breen
Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 18 in Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

PURPOSE: This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 18 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (Council's) model deviation text to FAR part 18.

BACKGROUND: On April 15, 2025, the [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- Remove duplicative or outdated language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.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES: FAR part 18, Emergency Acquisitions, has been updated to streamline the acquisition flexibilities available for emergency acquisitions, and to retain increased thresholds, commercial procedures, and award preferences during an

emergency. Statutory requirements retained in the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) FAR part 18 deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 41 U.S.C. § 1903, Special Emergency Procurement Authority
- 42 U.S.C. Ch. 68, Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- 10 U.S.C. § 101(a)(13), Contingency Operation
- 22 U.S.C. § 2292b, International Disaster Assistance
- 46 U.S.C. § 55305, Cargo Preference Act of 1954
- 41 U.S.C. § 153, Contract in Support of Humanitarian or Peacekeeping Operation

Important Note: General acquisition flexibilities that support emergency procurement have been removed and are now located at <https://acquisition.gov/emergencyprocurement>.

Change	Description
Retained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased thresholds for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contingency operations ○ Defense or recovery from certain events, to include cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attacks ○ International disaster assistance ○ Emergency or major disaster response ○ Humanitarian or peacekeeping operations • Statutory requirements related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency declarations and major disaster declarations ○ Humanitarian or peacekeeping operations ○ Award preference for local organizations • Waiver of provisions for ocean transportation by U.S. flag vessels
Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General acquisition flexibilities covered in other sections of the FAR that support emergency procurements are now listed at https://acquisition.gov/emergencyprocurement. • References to resources such as the National Response Framework and Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) "Emergency Acquisitions Guide" are expected to be moved to non-regulatory guidance, as needed.

This table is not an exhaustive list.

INSTRUCTIONS: The NSF acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO part 18 model deviation text instead of FAR part 18 as codified at 48 CFR chapter 1. The Council's RFO part 18 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul) and is incorporated into this class deviation. This includes reviewing templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this deviation and removing unnecessary processes and steps.

APPLICABILITY: This class deviation applies to all NSF procurement actions.

REQUIRED ACTIONS: The NSF acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO part 18 model deviation text instead of FAR part 18 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO part 18 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul) and is incorporated into this class deviation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This deviation is effective as dated and shall remain in effect until it is incorporated into the FAR, or until this class deviation is rescinded, extended, or amended.

POINT OF CONTACT: Contact Raymond McCollum at 703-292-4225 or rmccollu@nsf.gov .