



# Global Acquisitions

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

## Acquisition Alert 26-19

**TO:** All Contracting Activities

**FROM:** Sharon D. James  
Acting Senior Procurement Executive  
U.S. Department of State

**SUBJECT:** Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 41 in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

- 1. Introduction:** The purpose of this Acquisition Alert is to issue a FAR class deviation to part 41 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's model deviation text to that part.
- 2. 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- Remove duplicative or outdated language;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 plain language;
- Revise language for the new FAR framework; and
- Retain language necessary for governmentwide acquisition standards.

This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative. This class deviation is issued under the authority of E.O. 14275, OMB M-25-25, and 48 CFR 1.4.

### ***Deviation Summary***

FAR part 41, Acquisition of Utility Services, has been retained, streamlined, and improved for clarity. Plain language edits or other updates have been made throughout the part to remove unnecessary information or otherwise clarify content. All subparts, clauses, and provisions are retained.

Notably, the definition of “utility service” is updated. Services such as broadband internet and information technology services, which were nascent or nonexistent when the original regulation was drafted, are now explicitly carved out. This prevents agencies from incorrectly applying utility acquisition procedures. This change reduces the risk of improper sole-source justifications and promotes full and open competition in those dynamic markets.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 41 model deviation include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- 40 U.S.C. § 501, Services for Executive Agencies
- 42 U.S.C. § 2204, Electric Utility Contracts
- 42 U.S.C. §§ 7251 et. seq., Department of Energy Organization Act
- 42 U.S.C. § 8287, Authority to Enter into Contracts

### ***Corresponding DOSAR Deviation Summary***

Based on the Council’s model deviated language, a class deviation is hereby issued to the Department of State Acquisition Regulation (DOSAR) with no required changes.

- 3. Acquisition Impact:** The changes resulting from this class deviation affect all DoS procurements issued on or after the effective date of the AA. The DOSAR does include a part correlating with FAR part 41 and there are no changes to the DOSAR.
- 4. Action Required:** The acquisition workforce must follow the RFO part 41 model deviation text instead of FAR part 41 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The FAR Council’s RFO model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul), and is incorporated into this class deviation.
- 5. Effective Date:** The model deviated language was released on September 25, 2025; however, this deviation will be effective on February 27, 2026.

**Acquisition Alert 26-19**

- 3 -

**6. Expiration Date:** This Acquisition Alert expires upon incorporation into the FAR, DOSAR, and/or DOSAM.

**7. Additional Information:** Questions regarding this Acquisition Alert may be directed to [AcquisitionPolicy@state.gov](mailto:AcquisitionPolicy@state.gov).

**8. Attachments:** [DOSAR Part 641 Deviation Line In Line Out](#)

**9. Referenced Documents, Checklists, Guides and Templates:**

[FAR Part 41 Practitioner Album](#)