



Office of the Chief
Acquisition Officer

Date: January 26, 2026

From: Darnese M. Wilkerson, Chief Acquisition Officer

To: Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer (OCAO)

Subject: CLASS DEVIATION (CD) in Support of Executive Order (EO) 14275, "Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement" - Deviation to FAR Part 42, Contract Administration and Audit Services

1. Purpose

This Class Deviation (CD) implements the FAR Council's model deviation text for FAR Part 42, Contract Administration and Audit Services. This action aligns with Executive Order (EO) 14275, "Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement," and the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative.

The revision to FAR Part 42 improves usability by restructuring and organizing the content according to the logical progression of the acquisition lifecycle. The number of subparts was reduced from 17 to 13. Furthermore, the part strengthens the requirement for conducting performance evaluations.

2. Background

EO 14275, signed on April 15, 2025, established a policy that the FAR should contain only provisions required by statute or those essential for sound procurement. To implement this EO, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) is leading the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative, supported by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council. The initiative aims to eliminate unnecessary regulations and policies across all levels of the federal government.

Further guidance was provided by OMB Memorandum M-25-26, "Overhauling the Federal Acquisition Regulation," issued on May 2, 2025.

FAR Streamlining

As part of the RFO, the FAR will be streamlined to include only statutory requirements. Non-statutory content moved to new buying guides, collectively known as the Strategic Acquisition Guidance (SAG). The Council will first issue model deviation guidance by FAR part, followed by formal rulemaking through the notice and comment process. Agencies have 30 days to issue class deviations based on the model text once released.

A. Streamlining Agency Acquisition Supplements: Agencies must streamline their FAR supplements by removing regulations not based on statute or executive orders and by aligning with the FAR Council's deviation guidance. Supporting policies must also be updated to reflect

these changes. This is an excellent opportunity for NARA to formally publish a streamlined NARA FAR Supplement, ensuring consistency with the new FAR.

B. FAR Buying Guides and Supplemental Companion Guides (CG): As the FAR and agency supplements are streamlined, helpful non-regulatory content will be moved to these new FAR Buying Guides. These guides will offer practical instructions and best practices for implementing effective contracting methods, including those related to competition. The RFO Part 42 model deviation text is a plain language version that will be adhered to by all NARA contracting personnel.

3. Summary of Changes. FAR Part 42, Contract Administration and Audit Services, has been streamlined from 17 subparts to 13, and places more emphasis on contractor performance evaluations and using performance information throughout the acquisition lifecycle, not just for source selection information.

The update removes language limiting past performance information to future “source selection” purposes, and places an end date (April 1, 2026) on when evaluations should be marked as source selection.

This revision signals to acquisition teams that past performance information may be used throughout the acquisition lifecycle.

In addition, the deviated text makes certain permissive considerations during performance evaluations mandatory. For example, section 42.1503(b) previously suggested considerations to document on an evaluation report, but the deviated text (42.1103(b)) now states that these areas **must** be documented. This emphasizes the importance of documenting key information consistently.

Finally, the deviated text removes the limitation on evaluating performance on AbilityOne contracts (previously at 42.1502(h)). With removal of this limitation, contracting activities can now document performance evaluations for AbilityOne contractors, providing a useful tool to motivate good contract performance by AbilityOne contractors, and enabling high-performing AbilityOne contractors to use positive performance evaluations to compete for new opportunities.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 42 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 10 U.S.C. §§ 3741 et seq and 41 U.S.C. §§ 4301 et seq, Allowable Costs
- 10 U.S.C. § 3841 and 41 U.S.C. § 4706, Contractor Audits and Accounting
- 11 U.S.C. §§ 501 et seq, Creditors and Claims
- 31 U.S.C. § 1535, The Economy Act
- 41 U.S.C. § 1126, Policy Regarding Consideration of Contractor Past Performance
- 41 U.S.C. § 1326, Requirements for Executive Agencies
- 41 U.S.C. § 2313, Database for Federal Agency Contract and Grant Officers and Suspension and Debarment Officials
- 41 U.S.C. § 3102, Delegation and Assignment of Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities
- 41 U.S.C. § 4504, Conditions for Progress Payments
- 41 U.S.C. § 6305, Assignment of Contracts Act

Change	Description
Retained ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subpart 42.1, “Contract Audit Services”, is streamlined with plain language updates. ● Subpart 42.2, “Contract Administration Services”, is streamlined with plain language updates. ● Subpart 42.3, “Contract Administration Office Functions”, is retained. The list of 71 functions has been updated with plain language and revised cross-references to align with the new part structure. ● Most provisions and clauses have been retained (or remain reserved) with no changes. The only exception is noted in the “Moved/Updated” section below.
Moved and Updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subpart 42.4, “Corporate Administrative Contracting Officer”, is renumbered from subpart 42.6 and streamlined. ● Subpart 42.5, “Indirect Cost Rates”, is renumbered from subpart 42.7 and streamlined. ● Subpart 42.6, “Disallowance of Costs”, is renumbered from subpart 42.8 and streamlined. ● Subpart 42.7, “Bankruptcy”, is renumbered from subpart 42.9 and streamlined. ● Subpart 42.8, “Production Surveillance and Reporting”, is renumbered from subpart 42.11 and streamlined. ● Subpart 42.9, “Novation and Change-of-Name Agreements”, is renumbered from subpart 42.12 and streamlined. ● Subpart 42.10, “Suspension of Work, Stop-Work Orders, and Government Delay of Work”, is renumbered from subpart 42.13 and streamlined. ● Subpart 42.11, “Contractor Performance Information”, is renumbered from subpart 42.15. The structure of the “policy” and “procedures” sections (formerly 42.1502 and 42.1503, now 42.1102 and 42.1103) has been substantially improved. The subpart uses more headings, numbered lists, and subparagraphs to break down complex requirements into more digestible components. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subsection 42.1101 removes language limiting past performance information to future “source selection” purposes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ From: “Past performance information (including the ratings and supporting narratives) is relevant information, for future source selection purposes, regarding a contractor’s actions under previously awarded contracts or orders.” ▪ To: “Past performance information (including the ratings and supporting narratives) is relevant information, for future purposes, regarding a contractor’s actions under previously awarded contracts or orders.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subsection 42.1103(d)(4) provides an end date for marking performance evaluations as source selection. It now states, “Evaluations of contractor performance developed on contracts awarded prior to April 1, 2026 should be marked ‘Source Selection Information’”. This update emphasizes that past performance information is no longer limited only to future source selection purposes. ○ Subsection 42.1103(f) replaces the reference to FAPIIS (formally at 42.1503(g)) with the “responsibility/qualification reports in the System for Award Management (SAM), at SAM.gov”. ● Subpart 42.12, “Small Business Contract Administration”, is renumbered from subpart 42.16 and streamlined. ● Subpart 42.13, “Forward Pricing Rate Agreements”, is renumbered from subpart 42.17 and streamlined. ● The following clause has been updated to align cross-references: 52.242-3 (Clause), Penalties for Unallowable Costs ● The FAR Companion is expected to include best practice information not required in the FAR, on the following content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uses of performance information ○ Interagency agreements ○ Cognizant federal agency ○ Contract administration functions ○ Contract correspondence ○ Visits to contractors’ facilities ○ Evaluation of contract administration functions ○ Postaward orientation ○ Selecting contracts for postaward orientation ○ Postward subcontractor conferences ○ Procedures, related to distribution of documentation of indirect contract rates ○ Production surveillance and reporting requirements ○ Evaluation of Federal Prison Industries (FPI) performance
Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Former subparts 42.4, “Correspondence and Visits”, and 42.5, “Postaward Orientation”, are removed. Best practice content is expected to be moved to the FAR Companion. ● 42.1502 paragraph (h) is removed to allow for past performance evaluations of AbilityOne.

This table is not an exhaustive list.

4. Instructions

- The NARA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 42 deviated text instead of FAR Part 42 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Part 8. The FAR Council’s RFO text is

available at [FAR Overhaul - FAR Part 42 - Acquisition.gov](https://www.far.gov) and is incorporated by reference into this deviation.

- 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.

5. Applicability

The requirements in this Class Deviation (CD) apply to all solicitations and contract actions issued or awarded on or after **February 1, 2026**.

6. Authority

This class deviation is issued under the authority of Executive Order 14275 and OMB Memorandum M-25-26, 48 CFR Subpart 1.4.

7. Effective Date

This CD is effective as of the date signed and shall remain in effect until the provisions of the RFO are formally implemented in the FAR through a final rulemaking.

Darnese M. Wilkerson,
Chief Acquisition Officer

cc: NGC