



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 13, 2026

TO: Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Acquisition Workforce

FROM: Matthew J. Manning
OPM Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 12 in Support of Executive Order 14275, Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement” – Deviation to FAR Part 12, Acquisition of Commercial Products and Commercial Services

1. Purpose

This Class Deviation (CD) implements the FAR Council’s model deviation text for FAR Part 12, Acquisition of Commercial Products and Services and provides updated and amendments to certain OPM implementing deviations. This action aligns with Executive Order (EO) 14275, “Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement,” and the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative.

The revised FAR Part 12 streamlines policies and procedures related to contract cost principles. Burdensome, duplicative, or outdated language not required by statute has been removed. Key changes include:

- Removal of Non-Statutory Content: Much of the procedural and detailed guidance that is not required by law is moved out of the FAR and into new "Buying Guides."
- Commercial procedures are now consolidated in Part 12.
- Simplified procedures for commercial acquisitions move from Part 13 to Part 12.
- Fewer Clauses and Provisions.
- Commercial service definition now includes construction.
- Evaluations are streamlined to be more efficient and minimally burdensome.
- Documentation for Commercial purchases are more streamlined.

2. Background

In accordance with [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14275, Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement](#), between May and September 2025, the FAR Council issued model deviation text by FAR part in support of the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative. This initiative is intended to make the FAR more concise, understandable, and focused on core procurement requirements.

In accordance with OMB Memorandum M-25-26, OPM issued implementing class deviations following release of each RFO FAR part deviation text. More information about the purpose of the RFO initiative and background on individual model deviation language can be found in the original OPM implementing deviation for each part.

Subsequent review has identified the need to update and amend OPM's implementing deviations for RFO FAR parts 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 23. The specific changes and rationale are discussed below.

3. Summary of Supplement Updates

RFO FAR Part 12, has been fundamentally re-engineered in its structure, scope, and operational mechanics to make federal buying faster, simpler, and more aligned with commercial practices. These changes reflect an effort to create a user-centric part that champions flexibility, and innovation when acquiring commercial products and services. Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR part 12 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Procurement of Commercial Products and Commercial Services (10 U.S.C. §§ 3451 et seq)
- Preference for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (10 U.S.C. § 3453 and 41 U.S.C. § 3307)
- Rights in Technical Data (10 U.S.C. § 3771 and 41 U.S.C. § 2302)
- Payments for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (10 U.S.C. § 3805 and 41 U.S.C. § 4505)
- Commercial Product (41 U.S.C. § 103)
- Commercial Service (41 U.S.C. § 103a)
- Commercially Available Off-the-Shelf Item (41 U.S.C. § 104)
- Procurement Notice (41 U.S.C. § 1708)
- Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (FASA) (Pub. L. 103-355)
- Defense Commercial Pricing Management Improvement (Pub. L. 105-261 Sec

RFO FAR parts 5, 12, 13, and 23	
Background	RFO FAR parts 5, 12, 13, and 23 included corresponding definition updates to part 2, but the implementing OPM deviations did not provide instructions to the workforce on how to use the revised part 2 definitions in concert with existing definitions in part 2.
Supplement Update	<p>In OPM’s class deviations implementing RFO FAR parts 5, 12, 13, and 23, section 4, “Instructions”, is updated to add the following bullet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OPM acquisition workforce must use the definitions (Part 2 – Definitions of Words and Terms) found on Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul. <p>The remainder of the deviation is unchanged.</p>
RFO FAR part 8	
Background	<p>The FAR Council initially released the RFO FAR part 8 model deviation text on August 14, which required use of Office of Federal Property Policy best-in-class (BIC) contracts. On August 29, OFPP updated the model deviation text to reference “required use” contracts at 8.104 instead of BIC contracts. It is understood that OFPP will be establishing a new class of “required use” contracts (and associated criteria) that will be separate from BIC contracts. “Required use” contracts will be mandatory. BICs may be prioritized, but are not mandatory.</p> <p>OPM’s class deviation implementing RFO FAR part 8 is amended as follows, to reflect the updated RFO FAR part 8 model deviation text:</p>
Supplement Update 1	<p>Section 3, “Summary of Changes”, is updated as follows:</p> <p>3. Summary of Changes. FAR part 8, Required Sources of Supplies and Services, is significantly updated. The model deviation language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances usability by restructuring and organizing the part in the logical flow of the acquisition lifecycle. • Simplifies mandatory source guidance. • Makes the use of Governmentwide Best-In-Class (BIC) contracts mandatory [Makes the use of OFPP-contracts mandatory]. • Retains focus on the importance of the AbilityOne Program.
Supplement Update 2	The fourth bullet in the “Retained” section of the table in Section 3, “Summary of Changes”, is updated as follows:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Existing Contracts. 8.104 replaces section 8.004, “Use of Other Sources”. Best-in-class (BIC) [OFPP-designated “Required Use”] contracts or BPAs are now required [mandatory] to be used when a commercial product or commercial service meets an agency’s need, unless approved by the Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA). If a BIC [“required use” contract] is not suitable, agencies should consider use of an existing governmentwide contract, BPA, or shared service.
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFPP is expected to provide more information about “required use” contracts in the future.
RFO FAR part 9	
Background	The OPM implementing deviation stated that all existing provisions and clauses are retained (or remain reserved if previously reserved) with no changes to the text. The implementing class deviation is amended as follows to highlight that some provisions and clauses were updated.
Supplement Update 1	<p>The third bullet in the “Retained” section of the table in Section 3, “Summary of Changes”, is updated as follows:</p> <p>From: All existing provisions and clauses are retained (or remain reserved if previously reserved) with no changes to the text.</p> <p>To: The following provision and clause are retained (or remain reserved if previously reserved) with no changes to the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52.209-8 remains reserved 52.509-12 (Provision), Certification Regarding Tax Matters 52.209-14 (Clause), Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus
Supplement Update 2	<p>A new section titled “Updated” is added to the table in Section 3, “Summary of Changes”. The following bullet is added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following provisions and clauses have been updated to reflect plain language, update cross-references, or to correspond with updates made within the part: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52.209-1 (Clause), Qualification Requirements 52.209-2 (Provision), Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations-Representation 52.209-3 (Clause), First Article Approval-Contractor Testing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note - The Alternates are not updated • 52.209-4 (Clause), First Article Approval-Government Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note - The Alternates are not updated • 52.209-5 (Provision), Certification Regarding Responsibility Matters • 52.209-6 (Clause), Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting With Contractors Debarred, Suspended, Proposed for Debarment, or Voluntarily Excluded • 52.209-7 (Provision) Information Regarding Responsibility Matters • 52.209-9 (Clause), Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters • 52.209-10 (Clause), Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations • 52.209-11 (Provision), Representation by Corporations Regarding Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under any Federal Law • 52.209-13 (Provision) Violation of Arms Control Treaties or Agreements-Certification
<p>Supplement Update 3</p>	<p>Section 4, “Instructions”, is updated to add the following bullets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>All other bullets in Section 4, “Instructions” are unchanged.</p>

Change	Description
<p>Retained</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised part structure consolidates all relevant guidance into process-oriented subparts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subpart 12.1 – Pre-solicitation ○ Subpart 12.2 - Solicitation, Evaluation, and Award ○ Subpart 12.3 – Post award ○ Subpart 12.4 - Micro-purchases

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions related to this part, such as “Commercially Available Off-the-Shelf Item or COTS Item” and “Non-developmental Item” still remain at FAR 2.101, with some edits. • The definition of “Commercial service” at FAR 2.101 clarifies that construction is included within the definition. • Section 12.000, “Scope”, now clarifies that simplified procedures authorized by statute are implemented in part 12. This includes using simplified procedures for acquisitions up to \$7.5 million (or \$15 million to support responses to emergencies or major disasters, or other specified situations). • Tables are added that help readers find information easier: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Table 12-1, Authority citations for restricting competition. ○ Table 12-2, Provisions to include as prescribed ○ Table 12-3, Clauses to include as prescribed ○ Table 12-4, Provisions and clauses to include as needed. • New section 12.101, “Preference”, retains the preference for commercial procurement. • New section 12.104, “Contract Type”, retains the preference to utilize fixed-price contracts to the maximum extent practicable. • Labor-hour or Time-and-Material contracts may still be used for commercial services, but a determination and findings must be executed by the contracting officer. • New section 12.201-1, “Simplified Procedures”, clarifies that for acquisitions valued up to \$7.5 million, the agency use a request for quotations (RFQ) followed by a purchase order (vs. RFP/part 15 procedures for acquisitions over \$7.5M). • New section 12.201-1(b) provides clear guidance as to the legal effect of quotations. • New section 12.201-1(d) encourages agencies to use additional innovative approaches to the maximum extent practicable when soliciting quotations and issuing purchase orders. • New section 12.201-2, “Other Procedures”, provides clear instruction that for acquisitions valued at greater than \$7.5 million, agencies are to use the procedures in the new subpart 12.2 in conjunction with the procedures in part 15 for requests for proposals (RFPs) or part 14 for invitations for bids (IFBs), as appropriate. Use of an RFP is the preferred method because it includes consideration of past performance when evaluating offers (see the new 12.203(a)(2)). • The deviated text clarifies that construction can now be procured commercially. When using the procedures in this subpart to acquire construction, comply with the requirements
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	<p>in part 36 for construction contracts and subpart 22.4 on labor standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contracting officer has broad discretion in establishing how quotations will be evaluated. For example, the contracting officer may perform a comparative evaluation of quotations. • The deviated text emphasizes that evaluation procedures are not subject to part 15 or 14. Contracting officers are not required to have evaluation plans, score quotations, or establish a competitive range before communicating with quoters or soliciting revised quotations (see 12.203(c)(2)). • The part is revised to clarify that if commercial products or commercial services that meet agency needs are available from any priority source identified in part 8, including existing contracts awarded for Governmentwide use (e.g., the Federal Supply Schedules and Governmentwide acquisition contracts), agencies must procure the commercial products or commercial services from that source. If not available, agencies use the streamlined procedures for solicitation, evaluation, and award in the new subpart 12.2. • Timely quotations and offers. The deviated text instructs contracting officers to exercise good business judgment in deciding whether to accept a quotation or offer received after the due date or time. • The definition of and requirements for subcontracts are retained, and will be moved to part 44. • The following provisions and clauses are retained with plain language and other edits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 52.212-1, Instructions to Offerors-Commercial Products and Commercial Services ○ 52.212-2, Evaluation-Commercial Products and Commercial Services ○ 52.212-4, Terms and Conditions-Commercial Products and Commercial Services
Removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 46 clauses and provisions from other FAR parts are removed as they are no longer required for commercial contracts. This change reflects an approximate 30% reduction in the number of clauses and provisions that are applicable to commercial contracts. • Further, the following clause and provision are removed as they are unnecessary. The majority of the references are no longer required, and any required references are retained through other means:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 52.212-3, Offeror Representations and Certifications-Commercial Products and Commercial Services○ 52.212-5, Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders-Commercial Products and Commercial Services
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4. Applicability

This supplement to applicable class deviations applies to all OPM procurements.

5. Authority

This class deviation is issued under the authority of E.O. 14275, [OMB Memo M-25-26](#), 48 CFR 1.4, and RFO FAR 1.304.

6. Deviation

The OPM acquisition workforce must follow the RFO Part 12 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 12 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council's RFO Part 12 model deviation text is available at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaulpart-12>.

7. Effective Date. This supplement is effective consistent with the effective date of the respective applicable OPM implementing deviation (check Section 7 of the applicable OPM implementing deviation) and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR. All OPM implementing deviations can be found on [acquisition.gov](https://www.acquisition.gov).

8. Points of Contact. Try asking OPM first (upload the new RFO language and OPM's implementing deviation, then ask your question). If you still need clarification, you may email the OPM Procurement Service Division Senior Procurement Executive at Senior_Procurement_Executive@opm.gov.

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