



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

SUBJECT: Class Deviation No. 2026-02 from the Transportation Acquisition Regulation for TAR Part 1202 in Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

FROM: Chrishaun Jones
Senior Procurement Executive
Office of the Senior Procurement Executive

TO: Department of Transportation Chiefs of the Contracting Offices

- I. Purpose:** This memorandum approves a class deviation to the Transportation Acquisition Regulation (TAR) part 1202 for purpose of implementing, in the TAR, revisions necessary to comply with Executive Order (E.O.) 14275, “Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement.”
- II. Effective Date:** Immediately.
- III. 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 Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative will make the FAR more concise, understandable, and focused on core procurement requirements. This also applies to agency supplements to the FAR.

Under this initiative, 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- Remove duplicative or outdated language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.

To ensure alignment with issued E.O.s and other TAR parts, it is necessary to issue this RFO TAR CD in advance of a proposed rule to implement these requirements to ensure DOT policies and procedures align with these requirements. DOT intends on conducting further analysis and developing a rule for publication in the Federal Register for public comment after the release of this CD, and after FAR proposed and final rules are published.

IV. Summary of Changes: The following table is not an exhaustive list but includes notable updates to TAR part 1202:

Change	Description
Updated	• Subpart 1202.1—Definitions ○ 1202.101, Definitions. Under the definition for “Head of the contracting activity (HCA),” removed the words “shall be” and replaced with “is” after “Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)” when defining the HCA for that contracting activity. Also removed the last sentence as unnecessary.
Removed	General – Text has been deleted in the sections below to remove non-statutory guidance. • Subpart 1202.1—Definitions ○ 1202.101, Definitions. Removed the following definitions as unnecessary or are otherwise redundant for the public facing TAR under Part 1202: ▪ Agency Advocate for Competition ▪ Agency, Federal agency, or Executive agency ▪ Chief Financial Officer (CFO) ▪ Chief Information Officer ▪ Contracting officer ▪ Head of the Operating Administration (HOA) • Subpart 1202.70—Abbreviations ○ Removed the subpart in its entirety including the underlying section 1202.7000, General, and Table 1 to 1202.7000—Abbreviations and Acronyms. These are unnecessary for the TAR, and the usage can be determined when used the first time in each part in accordance with standard FAR drafting principles.

V. Required Actions: Contracting Officers shall follow the RFO TAR part 1202 deviation text, in lieu of TAR part 1202 deviation text as codified at 48 CFR chapter 12. The RFO TAR deviation text is shown in the Attachment.

Chiefs of the Contracting Offices (COCOs) must ensure this deviation is disseminated to the acquisition workforce and ensure compliance with the requirements in the CD.

VI. Applicability: This CD applies to all DOT Operating Administrations (OAs), the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST), and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), excluding the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in accordance with RFO TAR 1201.103-70(b).

VII. Authority: This CD is issued under the authority of RFO FAR 1.304, Class deviations; TAR 1201.404, Class deviations; and the revised citation at RFO TAR 1201.304, for the purpose of implementing policy in the TAR to comply with requirements of certain E.O.s, statutes, and other directives.

- VIII. Expiration Date:** This CD will remain in effect until it is incorporated into the TAR, superseded, or is otherwise rescinded, whichever occurs first.
- IX. Point of Contact:** Questions or comments regarding this deviation may be directed to DOTAcquisitionPolicy@dot.gov.

Attachment:

A: RFO TAR Part 1202 Deviation Text - Bold/Bracketed/Line-in Line-Out (BB-LILO)

Transportation Acquisition Regulation (TAR) Class Deviation (CD) No. 2026-02

Attachment A

RFO TAR Part 1202 Deviation Text

TAR Text Baseline is 48 CFR chapter 12 as of March 26, 2026.

Additions are shown as **[bolded and bracketed]** and deletions are shown in strikethrough deletions. TAR Text unchanged shown as asterisks.

Part 1202—Definitions of Words and Terms (RFO Deviation)

Subpart 1202.1 – Definitions

1202.101 Definitions.

~~Subpart 1202.70—Abbreviations~~

~~1202.7000 General.~~

Authority: [5 U.S.C. 301](#); [41 U.S.C. 1121\(c\)\(3\)](#); [and] [41 U.S.C. 1702](#); and ~~[48 CFR 1.301](#)~~ through ~~[1.304](#)~~.

PART 1202—DEFINITIONS OF WORDS AND TERMS (RFO DEVIATION)

Subpart 1202.1—Definitions

1202.101 Definitions.

Agency Advocate for Competition means the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.

Agency, Federal agency, or Executive agency, as used in the TAR, means the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is the principal fiscal advisor to the Secretary of DOT responsible for providing leadership, advice, and guidance in the development, implementation, and administration of DOT's budget, financial management, and performance management.

Chief Information Officer is the principal information technology (IT), cyber security, privacy, and records management advisor to the Secretary, and is the final authority on these matters within the Department.

Chief of the Contracting Office (COCO) means the individual(s) responsible for managing the contracting office(s) within an Operating Administration **[a contracting activity]**.

Contracting activity includes all the contracting offices within an Operating Administration and is the same as the term “procuring activity.”

Contracting officer means an individual authorized by virtue of their position or by appointment to perform the functions assigned by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), the Transportation Acquisition Regulation (TAR), and Transportation Acquisition Manual (TAM).

Department of Transportation (DOT) means, when referring to the various suborganizations and components of DOT, all of the Operating Administrations, as defined in the TAR/TAM, included within DOT.

Head of the agency or Agency head for Departmental procurement means the Deputy Secretary except for acquisition actions that, by the terms of a statute or delegation, must be done specifically by the Secretary of Transportation.

Head of the contracting activity (HCA) means the individual responsible for managing the contracting offices within an Operating Administration **[a contracting activity]** who is a member of the Senior Executive Service except for the HCA within the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS), which ~~shall be~~ **[is]** an individual no lower than one level above the COCO. ~~The term HCA is the same as the term “head of the procuring activity.”~~

Head of the Operating Administration (HOA) means the individual appointed by the President to manage the DOT operating administration.

Operating Administration (OA) means the following components of DOT—

- (1) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (FAA is exempt from FAR, TAR, and TAM pursuant to the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 ([Pub. L. 104-50](#)));
- (2) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA);
- (3) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA);
- (4) Federal Railroad Administration (FRA);
- (5) Federal Transit Administration (FTA);
- (6) Maritime Administration (MARAD);
- (7) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA);
- (8) Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST);
- (9) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA);
- (10) Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS); and
- (11) ~~Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R)~~ **[John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe)]**.

Small Business Specialist (SBS) means the individual appointed by each HCA to assist the Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization in carrying out the purpose of the Small Business Act.

Senior Procurement Executive (SPE) means the Director of the Office of the Senior Procurement Executive.

Subpart 1202.70—Abbreviations

1202.7000 General.

~~The following abbreviations or acronyms may be used throughout the TAR and the agency's associated internal policies and procedures in the TAM—~~

Table 1 to 1202.7000 —Abbreviations and Acronyms	
CFO	Chief Financial Officer.
CIO	Chief Information Officer.
COCO	Chief of the Contracting Office.
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative.
D&F	Determination and Findings.
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act.
HCA	Head of the Contracting Activity.
HOA	Head of the Operating Administration.

Table 1 to 1202.7000 —Abbreviations and Acronyms	
CFO	Chief Financial Officer.
J&A	Justification and Approval.
OA	Operating Administration.
OIG	Office of the Inspector General.
OSDBU	Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.
PCR	Procurement Center Representative.
RFP	Request for Proposal.
SBA	Small Business Administration.
SBS	Small Business Specialist.
SPE	Senior Procurement Executive.