

## **DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS:**

Class Deviation, Department of Education Acquisition Regulation (EDAR) to Eliminate the Requirement to Include EDAR Clause 3452.239-73, Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) Compatibility, in solicitations and contracts.

### **FINDINGS**

Per EDAR 3439.703, EDAR Clause 3452.239-73, Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) Compatibility, is required in all solicitations and contracts where software will be developed, maintained, or operated on any system using the FDCC configuration.

The clause states the following:

*Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) Compatibility (MAR 2011)*

*(a) (1) The provider of information technology shall certify applications are fully functional and operate correctly as intended on systems using the Federal desktop core configuration (FDCC). This includes Internet Explorer 7 configured to operate on Windows XP and Windows Vista (in Protected Mode on Vista).*

*(2) For the Windows XP settings, see: [http://csrc.nist.gov/itsec/guidance\\_WinXP.html](http://csrc.nist.gov/itsec/guidance_WinXP.html), and for the Windows Vista settings, see: [http://csrc.nist.gov/itsec/guidance\\_vista.html](http://csrc.nist.gov/itsec/guidance_vista.html).*

*(b) The standard installation, operation, maintenance, update, or patching of software shall not alter the configuration settings from the approved FDCC configuration. The information technology should also use the Windows Installer Service for installation to the default “program files” directory and should be able to silently install and uninstall.*

*(c) Applications designed for normal end users shall run in the standard user context without elevated system administration privileges.  
(End of Clause)*

The clause is now obsolete. The Federal Desktop Core Configuration has been replaced with the United States Government Configuration Baseline (USGCB).

The requirement to comply with the United States Government Configuration Baseline is included via EDAR clause 3452.239–72 Department Security Requirements (DEVIATION). This clause is required in all contracts when the contractor’s employees will have access to proprietary or sensitive ED information including “Controlled Unclassified Information” as defined in 32 CFR Part 2002, ED Information Technology (IT) systems, systems maintained on behalf of ED, ED facilities/space, and/or perform duties in a school or in a location where children are present. (The Deviation to 3452.239-72 was approved on December 6, 2019.)

Specifically, paragraph a) of EDAR clause 3452.239–72, states the following:

*The contractor and its subcontractors shall comply with Department of Education personnel, cyber, and privacy, security policy requirements as set forth in “Security Requirements for Contractors Doing Business with the Department of Education” at <http://www.ed.gov/fund/contract/about/bsp.html>.*

The web address in paragraph a) links to a library where one of the documents therein is entitled, “Security and Privacy Requirements for IT Procurements.” Within that document, the requirement to comply with the USGCB is addressed in paragraphs x. and uu. of section 2.18, paragraph c. of section 2.24, and paragraph a. of section 2.29.

### **DETERMINATION**

I find the Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) Compatibility paragraph to be obsolete and replaced by the United States Government Configuration Baseline and the USGCB to be included in applicable contracts. Therefore, in accordance with FAR part 1.404 and EDAR 3401.404, I issue this class deviation to remove the requirement to incorporate EDAR Clause 3452.239-73. This deviation applies to all solicitations currently issued and all contracts awarded on or after the date of this approval.

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Denise Carter  
Acting Chief Acquisition Officer

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Date