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Procurement News



FAR 52.244-6

THE CLAUSE BEHIND THE FLOWDOWN REQUIREMENTS

FAR 52.244-6 was renamed in October 2025, from Subcontracts for Commercial Items to Subcontracts for Commercial Products and Commercial Services. It's prescribed at FAR 44.403. If your standard subcontract template still cites the old title, that's worth fixing before your next award, not after DCMA asks about it.

Mandatory Flowdowns: What Contractors Need to Know

Mandatory flowdown requirements are federal contract clauses that a prime contractor is required to include in certain subcontracts because the FAR, DFARS, another agency regulation, or the specific clause itself requires the obligation to extend to subcontractors. These clauses apply in both directions.

Applies at Any Dollar Value

- 52.203-13, Code of Business Ethics.
- 52.203-17, Employee Whistleblower Rights.
- 52.203-19, Prohibition on Confidentiality Agreements.
- 52.204-21, Safeguarding Contractor Information Systems.
- The remainder of the required clauses must be included in the subcontract, regardless of whether the award value is $50,000 or $5 million.

Threshold Based Clauses

52.219-8 -Utilization of Small Business Concerns flows down when the subcontract meets the applicable requirements and provides further subcontracting opportunities.

This federal contract clause is designed to ensure that small businesses receive the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in federal contracting through subcontracts.

The requirement supports participation by small businesses, including veteran-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, HUBZone, small disadvantaged, and women-owned small business concerns..

DCMA Red Flags

The mandatory list is rarely the issue. Threshold based clauses are where problems arise. Reviewers often find clauses included when the subcontract does not meet the applicable conditions or omitted when it does. Either scenario can result in a finding.

Action Item

Review your standard commercial item subcontract template. If the clause is already included, confirm it uses the current clause title and October 2025 revision. If it contains older language carried forward from a prior contract file, update the template to the current version.

For more information on flowdown compliance, contact our experts today!