

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

Statement of Regulatory Priorities

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) aim is to increase human understanding of the solar system and the universe that contains it and to improve American aeronautics ability. NASA's basic organization consists of the Headquarters, nine field Centers, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (a Federally funded research and development center), and several component installations which report to Center Directors. Responsibility for overall planning, coordination, and control of NASA programs is vested in NASA Headquarters, located in Washington, DC.

NASA is updating its Strategic Plan in preparation for publication in 2026. The Agency's mission is to "explore the unknown in air and space, innovate for the benefit of humanity, and inspire the world through discovery." The 2026 Strategic Plan will be available at nasa.gov/performance and will guide NASA's program activities through a framework of strategic goals and objectives oriented toward mission success.

NASA's Regulatory Philosophy and Principles

The Agency's rulemaking program strives to be responsive, efficient, and transparent. NASA adheres to the general principles set forth in Executive Order (EO) 12866, *Regulatory Planning and Review*. NASA is a signatory to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council (FAR Council) along with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Department of War, the General Services Administration, and signatory to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). In accordance with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act ([41 U.S.C. Chapter 13](#)), the FAR Council assists in the direction and coordination of Government-wide procurement policy and Government-wide procurement regulatory activities in the Federal Government. The FAR at 48 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter 1, contains procurement regulations that apply to NASA and other Federal agencies. Pursuant to 41 United States Code (U.S.C.), section 1302, and FAR 1.103(b), the FAR is jointly prepared, issued, and maintained by the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of General Services, and the Administrator of NASA, under several of their statutory authorities.

NASA Priority Regulatory Actions

NASA is highlighting the priorities summarized below in this Agenda.

Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of NASA - Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

NASA is amending 14 CFR part 1250, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs, to align with the Department of Justice's Title VI regulations implementing EO 14281, *Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy*. These revisions would eliminate disparate-impact liability under NASA's Title VI rule, clarifying that enforcement is limited to instances of intentional discrimination. The amendments also streamline compliance procedures, modernize definitions, and harmonize NASA's requirements with Government-wide nondiscrimination policies, thereby ensuring consistent application across Federal agencies.

Because these amendments narrow the scope of liability for recipients of NASA financial assistance, they are considered deregulatory in nature. By removing disparate-impact liability, the revisions reduce potential compliance costs, investigative burdens, and litigation risks for grant recipients, including universities, nonprofit research organizations, and small entities, while maintaining strong protections against intentional discrimination. This action reflects NASA's commitment to promoting fairness and transparency in Federally assisted programs while aligning with the Administration's priorities to eliminate unjustified regulatory burdens.

NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Supplement (NFS)

NASA is amending its regulations in the NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) at 48 CFR, Chapter 18, to align with the requirements of EO 14275, *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*, and EO 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*.

EO 14192 establishes that the policy of the executive branch is to exercise prudence and financial responsibility in the expenditure of Federal funds, while alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens on the American people. EO 14275 directs the FAR Council to reform the FAR by streamlining and simplifying the Federal procurement system—removing outdated or burdensome requirements and ensuring greater agility, effectiveness, and efficiency in Federal acquisition. In accordance with these directives, Federal agencies are required to review and revise their respective FAR supplements,

including agency-specific policies and guidance, to ensure consistency with the reformed FAR. To comply with these directives, NASA will reform the NFS to align with this broader FAR modernization goal and is intended to support a more streamlined, efficient, and accessible procurement framework. As part of this initiative, NASA plans to amend each subchapter of the NFS and will issue seven proposed rules to revise Title 48 CFR, Chapter 18 (Parts 1801 through 1853).

This regulatory effort also supports the Administration's deregulatory priorities by: incorporating recent executive order requirements (e.g., removal of DEIA requirements) as well as public feedback received on the deviations and any comments received through the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs desk officer, including input from the *Deregulatory Request for Information*; advancing streamlining activities not reflected in the Unified Agenda, such as the repeal of outdated guidance documents (e.g. based on old Inspector General findings) and the reduction of unnecessary paperwork burdens; promoting fiscal responsibility by enhancing acquisition oversight; enhancing EO compliance (e.g., Made-In-America waiver requirements); and streamlining policy implementation. Additionally, NASA's proposed rulemakings are expected to improve acquisition efficiency and compliance and enhance small business access to contracting opportunities by lowering administrative barriers.

Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act

NASA is amending its existing regulations related to environmental quality at 14 CFR 1216 as directed by the Council on Environmental Quality per the *Memorandum from Executive Office of the President for Heads of Federal Departments and Agencies* to meet Executive Order requirements. These amendments include making conforming amendments 14 CFR subpart 1216.1 to accurately reflect the current positional structure and management authority for environmental program policy at NASA and amending 14 CFR 1216.3, which sets forth NASA's procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Amendments will also be made to implement procedures consistent with EO 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, including meeting deadlines laid out in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.

NASA is also amending its regulations to advance its deregulatory priorities and streamline existing processes, aligning with broader Government-wide initiatives. These rulemakings are expected to result in net benefits by reducing burdens and promoting principles of fiscal responsibility. The amendments will formally

integrate these efficiencies into the Agency's NEPA procedures, allowing NASA to clarify levels of review, streamline public notices, and to adopt categorical exclusions from other agencies, which avoids redundant environmental reviews for common activities. Furthermore, NASA will be able to take on the role of a lead agency, or work with others in a joint lead capacity, to streamline projects involving multiple entities, ensuring a single, coordinated environmental review. These anticipated actions reflect a commitment to open government by focusing on streamlined implementation and enhanced oversight, thereby making the review process more efficient for NASA's missions and improving interagency collaboration.

Implementation of the Administrative False Claims Act

NASA is amending its regulations at 14 CFR 1264 to implement the Administrative Fraud Claims Act (AFCA) included in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act. The AFCA requires NASA to amend its regulations originally issued under the Program Fraud Remedies Act of 1986 to update procedures for investigating, adjudicating, and imposing penalties and assessments for false claims and false statements submitted to the Agency.

In addition to being required by statute, the implementing regulations advance the Administration's deregulatory agenda and policy priorities. The proposed regulations promote both integrity in Government operations and fiscal responsibility by providing a mechanism for recovery of inappropriate payments of Government funds to contractors, grantees, and other funding recipients. The regulations also support efficiency by providing a streamlined process for recovery of Government funds while resolving potential concerns about the authority of officials empowered to adjudicate administrative fraud claims.

Streamlining of Paperwork Burdens

NASA continues to advance its regulatory efficiency by reducing paperwork burdens on the public and improving the quality and timeliness of information collection. In alignment with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB Circular A-11, Section 280, and EO 14192, NASA is implementing a multi-pronged strategy to streamline data collection and enhance customer experience.

Specifically, this includes working with program offices that need input by encouraging fewer, more targeted questions and aligning collections with mission-critical outcomes. Another method involves conducting voluntary feedback, which reduces unnecessary burden.

NASA continues to focus its collection requests on methods that allow selected members of the public to rapidly provide input on issues that support the Agency's key mission areas. One example uses OMB Control # 2700-0159, Generic Clearance for the NASA Office of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (OSTEM) Engagement Performance Measurement and Evaluation (Testing). This generic clearance allows NASA OSTEM to continue to test new and existing information collection forms and assessment instruments with members of the public to rapidly assess how and in what ways NASA Internships contribute to students' planned educational pursuits and career placements/trajectories, leading to a larger talent pool ready to help NASA meet challenging missions in the future.

Similarly, using OMB Control # 2700-0181, Generic Clearance for Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation), NASA is working to gain feedback using easy-to-complete methods that will improve its ability to engage small businesses with innovative technologies. One method has led to providing clearer guidance and sample templates for Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) proposals to reduce the burden on these businesses by making it easier to submit SBIR proposals that NASA can rapidly and effectively evaluate. This will allow more businesses with effective ideas and technologies to do business with NASA without having to start with the more burdensome traditional contracting processes.

These efforts support the Administration's goals of reducing regulatory burden, improving transparency, and enhancing service delivery. NASA's approach ensures that information collections are efficient, purposeful, and respectful of public time and resources.