



August 2021

The United States Digital Service (USDS) and our partners at the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) have received inquiries regarding item #5 in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 memorandum titled “Establishment of Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting Core-Plus Specialization in Digital Services (FAC-C-DS).¹”

Per item #5 of the memorandum, by FY-22, all contracting professionals assigned to acquisitions consisting primarily of digital services over the FAR Subpart 13.5 certain commercial item threshold, currently \$7 million (or \$13 million for acquisitions as described in 13.500(c))², are required to obtain a FAC-C core-plus specialization in digital services (FAC-C-DS) certification by successfully completing Digital IT Acquisition Professional Training (DITAP).

Most of the inquiries are in regards to the FY-22 date in item #5. We would like to point out item #5 of the memorandum states “Agency Senior Procurement Executives (SPE) may waive this requirement and allow them to be certified within one year after being assigned. This decision must be documented in writing and provided to the agency Acquisition Career Manager (ACM).” We are encouraging required workforce members not FAC-C-DS certified to work with their agency SPE and ACM to waive the FY-22 requirement, and work towards getting the appropriate certifications within one year.

We are also providing the following responses regarding other questions we have received about the FAC-C-DS certification and DITAP training:

1. What if my SPE doesn't waive the deadline for 1 year, then what?

If the agency SPE does not provide a waiver in accordance with the memorandum, then compliance with the certification requirement would be expected.

¹ Available at <https://techfarhub.cio.gov/initiatives/ditap/>.

² The thresholds for FAR Subpart 13.5 have been updated since the FY-18 memorandum was written. The FAR should be referenced for updated thresholds. This information can be found at <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/13.500>.

2. What if I don't meet the FAC-C-DS training requirement, but I am still assigned to acquisitions consisting primarily of digital services over the FAR Subpart 13.5 certain commercial item threshold, currently \$7.5 million (or \$15 million for acquisitions as described in 13.500(c))?

In accordance with the memorandum, the agency would be out of compliance. Agencies must be aware that noncompliance may result in increased risk to effectively soliciting, evaluating, and administering critical digital service contracts that could have lasting ramifications on the agency. We implore agencies to assign actions to current FAC-C-DS contracting staff, or, when not possible, meeting compliance as soon as possible.

3. Where can I access training?

Information regarding the DITAP training and providers can be found on the [TechFARHub](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact us at USDS@omb.eop.gov.