

GSA ORDER

Subject: General Services Administration Acquisition Manual; GSAR Case 2021-G529,
Updates to References to Individuals with Disabilities

1. Purpose. This order transmits a revision to the General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR) to update the term “handicapped individuals” to “individuals with disabilities” pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 705(20).
2. Background. The General Services Administration (GSA) is amending the General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR) to provide more inclusive acquisition guidance for underserved communities by updating references from “handicapped individuals” to “individuals with disabilities,” pursuant to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. This change supports underserved communities, promoting equity in the Federal government. Additionally, this change conforms with references to individuals with disabilities in the Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act.
3. Effective date. March 7, 2022
4. Explanation of changes. For full text changes of the amendment see Attachment A, GSAR Text Line-In/Line-Out.

This amendment revises the language of the following GSAR subparts summarized below:

Subpart 538.2 - *Establishing and Administering Federal Supply Schedules*

538.273 - *FSS solicitation provisions and contract clauses*.

- At paragraph (b)(1), updated the clause titled to use the term “individuals with disabilities” in place of the term “handicapped individuals”.

Subpart 552.2 - *Text of Provisions and Clauses*

552.238-73 - *Identification of Electronic Office Equipment Providing Accessibility for the Handicapped*

- Clause title updated to use “Individuals with Disabilities” in place of “the Handicapped.”
- 552.238-73(a) - Updated to use the term “individuals with disabilities” in place of the term “handicapped individuals” throughout. Updated reference to the definition of “handicapped individuals” from 29 CFR 1613.702(f) to the definition of “individuals with disabilities” from 29 U.S.C. 705(20).
- 552.238-73(b) - Updated to use the term “individuals with disabilities” in place of the term “handicapped individuals” throughout.

5. Cancellations. None.
6. Point of contact. For clarification of content, contact Joseph Goldberg or Adina Torberntsson, GSA Acquisition Policy Division, at gsarpolicy@gsa.gov.

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GSAR Case 2021-G529
“Updates to References to Individuals with Disabilities ”

GSAR Text, Line-In/Line-Out

GSAR Baseline: Change 145 effective 01/20/2022

- Additions to baseline are indicated by **[bold text in brackets]**
- Deletions to baseline made by final rule are indicated by ~~strikethroughs~~
- Five asterisks (* * * * *) indicate that there are no revisions between the preceding and following sections
- Three asterisks (* * *) indicate that there are no revisions between the material shown within a subsection

Part 538 - Federal Supply Schedule Contracting

Subpart 538.2 - Establishing and Administering Federal Supply Schedules

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538.273 FSS solicitation provisions and contract clauses.

(a) * * *

(b) * * *

(1) 552.238-73, Identification of Electronic Office Equipment Providing Accessibility for ~~the Handicapped~~ **[Individuals with Disabilities]**. Use only in FSS solicitations for electronic office equipment.

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Part 552 - Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses

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Subpart 552.2 - Text of Provisions and Clauses

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552.238-73 Identification of Electronic Office Equipment Providing Accessibility for ~~the Handicapped~~ **[Individuals with Disabilities].**

As prescribed in [538.273\(b\)\(1\)](#), insert the following clause:

Identification of Electronic Office Equipment Providing Accessibility for ~~the Handicapped~~ (May 2019) **[Individuals with Disabilities (DATE)]**

(a) *Definitions.*

“Electronic office equipment accessibility” means the application/configuration of electronic office equipment (includes hardware, software and firmware) in a manner that accommodates the functional limitations of individuals with disabilities (~~i.e., handicapped individuals~~ **[as defined below]**) so as to promote productivity and provide access to work related and/or public information resources.

~~“handicapped individuals”~~ **“Individuals with disabilities”** mean qualified individuals with impairments as ~~cited~~ **[defined]** in 29 CFR 1613.702(f) **[29 U.S.C. 705(20)]** who can benefit from electronic office equipment accessibility.

“Special peripheral” means a special needs aid that provides access to electronic equipment that is otherwise inaccessible to ~~a handicapped individual~~ **[individuals with disabilities]**.

(b) The offeror is encouraged to identify in its offer, and include in any commercial catalogs and pricelists accepted by the Contracting Officer, office equipment, including any special peripheral, that will facilitate electronic office equipment accessibility for ~~handicapped individuals~~ **[individuals with disabilities]**. Identification should include the type of disability accommodated and how the users with that disability would be helped.

(End of clause)

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