Tailoring and Program Models - The models provide baseline approaches. A specific program should be tailored to the unique character of the product being acquired. (2) Program Structure. The structure of a DoD acquisition program and the procedures used should be tailored as much as possible to the characteristics of the product being acquired, and to the totality of circumstances associated with the program including operational urgency and risk factors. (a) MDAs will tailor program strategies and oversight, including program information, acquisition phase content, the timing and scope of decision reviews and decision levels, based on the specifics of the product being acquired, including complexity, risk factors, and required timelines to satisfy validated capability requirements. (b) When there is a strong threat-based or operationally driven need to field a capability solution in the shortest time, DoD is authorized to implement streamlined procedures designed to accelerate acquisition system responsiveness. Statutory requirements will be complied with, unless waived in accordance with relevant provisions. (c) In accordance with Section 806 of Public Law 114-92 (Reference (d)), the Secretary of Defense may waive acquisition law or regulation to implement a capability that would not otherwise be available to the DoD Components. This waiver authority may not be delegated.

Model 1: Hardware Intensive Program

Model 2: Defense Unique Software Intensive Program

Model 3: Incrementally Fielded Software Intensive Program

Alternative Pathways - Today, the Department predominately uses two acquisition pathways that are well understood and used regularly; one for Major Defense Acquisition Programs (described in DoDI 5000.02) and one for Urgent/Emerging Operational Needs (described in DoDI 5000.71). However, in today's near-peer competitive environment, DoD needs alternative pathways to acquire capabilities faster than these two models alone can support. The FY 2016 NDAA provided such an additional pathway, referred to as "middle tier acquisition." This provision recognizes DoD's need to move faster on promising technologies that are too early to declare as an acquisition program, but have the ability to provide significant Warfighter advantages if delivered faster.

The Milestone Documentation Identification (MDID) tool filters statutory and regulatory documentation requirements by milestone or decision point and program ACAT level. Access the MDID tool at https://www.dau.mil/tools/t/Milestone-Identification-Tool-(MDID)-

The Defense Acquisition Guidebook (DAG) is designed to complement those policy documents by providing the acquisition workforce with discretionary best practices that should be tailored to the needs of each program. Access the DAG at https://www.dau.mil/tools/t/Defense-Acquisition-Guidebook

DAU’s Service Acquisition Mall (SAM) is intended to help you get your job done by providing usable tools and templates to create your performance-based service acquisition requirements. Access the SAM at https://www.dau.mil/tools/t/Service-Acquisition-Mall

The DAU Provision Clause Matrix tool provides guidance on the use of all provisions and clauses contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS). Access the Provision Clause Matrix at https://www.dau.mil/tools/t/FAR,-DFARS,-VAAR,-DEAR-Provision-and-Clause-Matrix


Access the interactive version of this chart at https://www.dau.mil/tools/t/3LC

DoDI 5000.02