Federal Acquisition Regulation

50.000 Scope of part.
This part—
(a) Prescribes policies and procedures for entering into, amending, or modifying contracts in order to facilitate the national defense under the extraordinary emergency authority granted by Public Law 85–804 (50 U.S.C. 1431–1434) and Executive Order 10789, dated November 14, 1958. It does not cover advance payments (see Subpart 32.4); and
(2) Implements indemnification authority granted by Pub. L. 85–804 and paragraph 1A of E.O. 10789 with respect to any matter that has been, or could be, designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security as a qualified anti-terrorism technology as defined in the Support Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act of 2002 (SAFETY Act); and
(b) Implements SAFETY Act liability protections to promote development and use of anti-terrorism technologies.

Subpart 50.1—Extraordinary Contractual Actions

50.100 Definitions.
As used in this part—
Approving authority means an agency official or contract adjustment board authorized to approve actions under Pub. L. 85–804 and E.O. 10789.
Secretarial level means a level at or above the level of a deputy assistant agency head, or a contract adjustment board.

50.101 General.

50.101–1 Authority.
(a) Pub. L. 85–804 empowers the President to authorize agencies exercising functions in connection with the national defense to enter into, amend, and modify contracts, without regard to other provisions of law related to making, performing, amending, or modifying contracts, whenever the President considers that such action would facilitate the national defense.
(b) E.O. 10789 authorizes the heads of the following agencies to exercise the authority conferred by Pub. L. 85–804 and to delegate it to other officials within the agency: the Government Printing Office; the Department of Homeland Security; the Tennessee Valley Authority; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the General Services Administration; the Department of Defense, Army, Navy, Air Force, Treasury, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Transportation Departments; the Department of Energy for functions transferred to that Department from other authorized agencies; and any other agency that may be authorized by the President.

50.101–2 Policy.
(a) The authority conferred by Pub. L. 85–804 may not—
(1) Be used in a manner that encourages carelessness and laxity on the part of persons engaged in the defense effort; or
(2) Be relied upon when other adequate legal authority exists within the agency.
(b) Actions authorized under Pub. L. 85–804 shall be accomplished as expeditiously as practicable, consistent with the care, restraint, and exercise of sound judgment appropriate to the use of such extraordinary authority.
(c) Certain kinds of relief previously available only under Pub. L. 85–804, e.g., rescission or reformation for mutual mistake, are now available under the authority of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978. In accordance with paragraph (a)(2) of this subsection, Part 33 must be followed in preference to Subpart 50.1 for such relief. In case of doubt as to whether Part 33 applies, the contracting officer should seek legal advice.

50.101–3 Records.
Agencies shall maintain complete records of all actions taken under this Subpart 50.1. For each request for relief processed, these records shall include, as a minimum—
(a) The contractor’s request;