

# AI Acquisition Workforce Reading List

Annotated bibliography of the source documents a federal contracting officer or AI acquisition specialist needs to evaluate AI proposals competently. Every citation a federal CO needs, in one place, with plain-English commentary on what each document covers.

LIBRARY REFERENCE	ISSUED	VERSION	DISTRIBUTION
<b>EFAIRA- READING-LIST-V1</b>	<b>May 2026</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>Public Reference</b>

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## A. Scope

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Federal AI acquisition draws on at least four distinct streams of authoritative documents: White House and OMB policy, agency-specific guidance, technical standards from NIST and adjacent bodies, and oversight reports from GAO and Inspector General offices. This bibliography organizes the working set into seven categories, with a one-paragraph annotation on each document explaining what it actually says and when it surfaces in acquisition work.

This list is curated as a public good and reflects the federal AI landscape as of mid-2026. New documents are published continuously; consult the original sources for the most current authoritative text.

## B. Category 1 — OMB and White House Policy

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### OMB Memorandum M-25-22 (and earlier M-24-10 family)

Establishes minimum risk management practices for federal use of artificial intelligence. The minimum practices apply across in-house AI use and AI capabilities acquired through procurement. This is the foundational policy document a federal AI acquisition will be evaluated against. See also the related family of OMB AI memoranda from 2024 forward.

### Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI (current version)

Establishes the executive-branch direction on AI safety, security, and trust. Subsequent OMB memoranda implement specific elements. Acquisition practitioners reference the EO in determinations and findings to ground the acquisition's compliance posture in the broader policy stack.

### OMB FITARA guidance

Provides the structural authorities for agency Chief Information Officer involvement in IT acquisitions, which extends to AI capabilities. Surfaces in acquisition strategy and CIO sign-off requirements.

## C. Category 2 — NIST Technical Standards and Frameworks

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### NIST AI Risk Management Framework (AI RMF 1.0)

The voluntary framework most commonly cited in federal AI proposals. Organized into four functions: Govern, Map, Measure, and Manage. Federal acquisitions frequently reference AI RMF function alignment as a Section L instruction. Contractors who have not mapped their offering to AI RMF will struggle to score competitively.

## **NIST SP 800 series (cybersecurity baseline)**

The 800-series provides cybersecurity controls that AI systems must also satisfy when processing federal data. SP 800-53 control families remain the foundation; AI-specific controls layer on top. Acquisition practitioners cross-reference 800-series control selections against AI risk surface.

## **NIST AI Safety Institute consortium materials**

Ongoing technical work products from the AI Safety Institute consortium. Useful as authoritative grounding for proposal evaluation positions but typically more applicable to advanced or high-risk capability acquisitions.

## **D. Category 3 — Agency-Specific AI Guidance**

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### **DoD Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO) public guidance**

CDAO publishes responsible AI guidance and frameworks applicable across the Department of Defense. Civil-side acquisition practitioners can reference CDAO materials as a worked example of operationalizing OMB and NIST guidance, even when not directly applicable.

### **VA AI Adoption Framework**

Veterans Affairs has published an AI adoption framework that informs VA acquisitions. Acquisition practitioners at other agencies sometimes reference the VA framework as a model when drafting agency-specific AI use criteria.

### **GSA AI Guide for Government**

GSA materials supporting federal-wide AI adoption, including procurement-adjacent guidance. Useful as a starting point for general AI acquisition orientation.

## **E. Category 4 — Oversight and Lessons-Learned Reports**

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### **GAO-26-107859 (April 2026)**

*Artificial Intelligence Acquisitions: Agencies Should Collect and Apply Lessons Learned to Improve Future Procurements.* Examines federal AI acquisitions across multiple agencies. Identifies themes around lessons capture, acquisition approach selection, and workforce capability. Most directly applicable GAO report for

current AI acquisition work. The EFAIRA crosswalk PDF in this library interprets the recommendations into Section L and M evaluation language.

## Inspector General reports on federal AI use (various agencies)

Periodic IG reports surface acquisition deficiencies and lessons specific to individual agencies. Acquisition practitioners should consult relevant agency IG reports when drafting acquisition strategies for similar capability classes.

### F. Category 5 — Cybersecurity, Supply Chain, Compliance Overlays

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- **CMMC (Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification).** Required for DoD contractors handling Controlled Unclassified Information. AI capabilities delivered to DoD must satisfy CMMC requirements applicable to the data classification.
- **FedRAMP authorization (current revision).** Required for cloud services processing federal data. AI services hosted in the cloud must hold appropriate FedRAMP authorization for the data sensitivity level.
- **FAR / DFARS supply chain risk management clauses.** Surface in AI acquisitions when model dependencies traverse multiple vendor stacks. Particularly relevant for AI capabilities that depend on third-party foundation models or pre-trained components.

### G. Category 6 — Accessibility and Civil Rights Overlays

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- **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.** Accessibility requirements for federal AI systems. Transparency artifacts produced under OMB M-25-22 must also satisfy Section 508 accessibility standards.
- **EEOC guidance on AI in employment decisions (when applicable).** Relevant when federal acquisitions touch AI capabilities used in employment-related decisions. Less common in federal mission systems but applicable in HR-adjacent acquisitions.

### H. Category 7 — Procurement Integrity and Ethics Overlays

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- **Procurement Integrity Act.** Governs disclosure of procurement-sensitive information during source selection. Particularly relevant in AI acquisitions where evaluation requires deep contractor-specific information exchange.
- **FAR 9.5 organizational conflicts of interest.** Surfaces in AI acquisitions when contractors hold positions that could compromise impartial evaluation or performance. Independent third-party assessment products like the Encore Readiness Receipt are structured to avoid OCI exposure.

**How to use this reading list.** Open this PDF alongside a live acquisition document. Use Category 1 for the policy floor, Category 2 for technical standards alignment, Category 3 for agency-specific context, and Categories 4 through 7 for oversight overlays. Most evaluators will reference 3 to 5 of these documents directly in any given AI acquisition.

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