



October 2022

This replaces the August 2021¹ update to the Establishment of The Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting Core-Plus Specialization in Digital Services (FAC-C-DS)².

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 \(FAC-C-DS\).”](#)

Per item #5 of the memorandum, by FY-22, all contracting professionals assigned to acquisitions consisting primarily of digital services over the FAR Subpart 13.500(c) certain commercial item thresholds are required to obtain a Federal Acquisition Institute FAC-C Core Plus Specialization in Digital Services (FAC-C-DS) by successfully completing Digital IT Acquisition Professional Training—also known as DITAP.

In regards to the FY-22 date in item #5, how COVID-19 made it difficult for agencies to send participants to the DITAP training course and what happens if agencies don't meet the FY-22 date:

1. We would like to point out item #5 of the memorandum also 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.
2. The number of DITAP providers has expanded to accommodate greater demand to acquisition professionals assigned to acquisitions consisting primarily of digital services over the thresholds described in 13.500(c)). Every effort should be made to ensure FAC-C acquisition professionals in contracting office obtain a FAC-C DS prior to being assigned to procure digital services.

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?

¹ Available at https://techfarhub.cio.gov/assets/files/FAC_C_Digital_Services_Update_8-2021.pdf

² Available at https://techfarhub.cio.gov/assets/files/FAC_C_Digital_Services_5-18-18.pdf

- a. If the agency SPE does not provide a waiver in accordance with the memorandum, then compliance with the certification requirement would be expected.
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 13.500(c) certain commercial item thresholds?
 - a. 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 urge agencies to assign actions to current FAC-C-DS contracting staff, or, when not possible, meet compliance as soon as possible.
3. Where can I access more information about the DITAP program?
 - a. Information regarding DITAP can be found on the [TechFARHub](#).
 - b. Agencies and students should visit the DITAP providers webpages for specific details about each DITAP providers program.
4. Is the DITAP program open only to the 1102 series?
 - a. No. Over the last year DITAP providers have successfully graduated Level II/III FAC-C, FAC-COR and FAC-P/PM certificate holders. FAC-COR's and FAC-PM's should be encouraged to take DITAP training to create a cohesive team that fully understands how to build or buy digital services.
 - b. FAC-C holders who are required to take DITAP are given first priority during registration. FAC-COR or FAC-P/PM holders are placed on a waitlist and will be allowed to complete registration if all the seats aren't filled.
 - c. Non FAC-C holders earn the Continuous Learning Points (CLP's), and receive a "certificate" but not a FAC-C DS certificate. We are currently considering options regarding earning a FAC-C-DS certificate for non FAC-C holders.

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