

SUPPORTING STATEMENT - PART A

Supporting Statement for Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR)—Information Security and Privacy Contract Clauses OMB Control No. 2900-0895

Summary of Changes from the Previously Approved Collection

- This is a “revision of a currently approved collection” because this submission revises the title from “Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation Clause 852.239-70, VA Information and Information System Security and Privacy” to “Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR)—Information Security and Privacy Contract Clauses”. The previous title implied that this OMB Control Number covered a single clause instead of multiple clauses.
- There are no additional revisions to the previously approved information collection (IC) instrument.
- Section 15 shows there is no change in burden hours from the previous approval. The burden cost of these information collections increased by \$52,050 because wage rates are higher.
- The 60-day comment period ended on 3/17/2026. VA received one comment. The comment and the agency response are noted in Section 8.

1. Need for the Information Collection

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Acquisition and Logistics (OAL), requests the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) grant an extension of previously approved information collections (IC) under OMB control number 2900-0895, for VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) clauses 852.239-70, Security Requirements for Information Technology Resources; 852.239-72, Information System Design and Development; and 852.239-73, Information System Hosting, Operation, Maintenance, or Use.

The three VAAR clauses contain the following information collection requirements as noted in the following table.

Information Collection Requirement	VAAR Clause
Contractor/subcontractor employee termination notification	852.239-70
Privacy Impact Assessment report & Plan of Action and Milestones	852.239-72, 852.239-73
Submission of proof of Information System security accreditation	852.239-70
Information System Security Plan	852.239-70
Annual validation of Information System Security Plan	852.239-70

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Annual submission of self-assessment	852.239-73
Report of any deficiencies on annual FISMA security controls assessment	852.239-73

Authority: Public Law 113-283, Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA), requires each federal agency to secure information and information systems that support the operations of the agency, including those provided or managed by a contractor, or other source.

2. Use of the Information

VAAR clause 852.239-70, Security Requirements for Information Technology Resources, is required in all solicitations, contracts and orders exceeding the micro-purchase threshold that include information technology services. This clause requires the contractor to be responsible for information technology security for all systems connected to a VA network or operated by the contractor for VA, regardless of location.

Clause 852.239-72, Information System Design and Development, is required in all solicitations, contracts, orders and agreements where services to perform information system design and development are required. Clause 852.239-73, Information System Hosting, Operation, Maintenance, or Use, is required in all solicitations, contracts, orders and agreements where services to perform information system hosting, operation, or maintenance are required.

Clauses 852.239-72 and 852.239-73 are intended to protect VA sensitive information and information technology by requiring contractor and subcontractor personnel to be subject to the same Federal laws, regulations, standards, and VA directives and handbooks as VA and VA personnel regarding information and information system security.

3. Use of Information Technology

VA almost always requests or allows offerors/contractors to submit these ICs electronically – typically via email or uploaded into VA-provided portal links. VA complies with the policy in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 4.002 (Deviation, Nov 2025) that mandates using electronic commerce whenever practicable and cost-effective.

4. Non-duplication

The information obtained through these collections is unique and is not already available for use or adaptation from another cleared source.

5. Burden on Small Businesses

These information collections do not impose a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses or entities.

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Small businesses will be affected in the same way as large businesses, in order to comply with the statute and safeguard VA sensitive information and information systems. All the reporting requirements are included in the solicitation and/or contract. VA permits contractors to submit information in their own form and format and use electronic submission, thus reducing burden to the extent practicable.

6. Less Frequent Collection

Less frequent collection of information could expose vulnerabilities in VA sensitive information and information technology.

VA does not expect that a contractor/subcontractor will submit a response more often than quarterly, unless a second contractor employee working on a VA system or with access to VA information leaves the contractor or subcontractor's employ during that quarter.

7. Paperwork Reduction Act Guidelines

These collections of information do not require collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines delineated in 5 C.F.R. §1320.5(d)(2). More specifically to one requirement – the nature and extent of confidentiality, the protection of contractor proprietary, trade secret, or other confidential information; the Government's right to use that data is covered by contract-specific clauses available to all offerors.

Contract laws and regulations specify record retention requirements for contracts. FAR subpart 4.7, Contractor Records Retention, states the required records retention period based on different contract actions and circumstances.

8. Consultation and Public Comments

Part A: PUBLIC NOTICE

A 60-Day Federal Register Notice (FRN) for the collection was published on Friday, January 16, 2026. The 60-Day FRN citation is 91 FR 2276.

One comment was received during the 60-Day Comment Period. The comment and our Agency's response are included below.

Comment received 3/11/2026, tracking number mmm-91jv-goro:

Absolutely terrifying use of our veterans information to specifically target those who have sacrificed the most for your nation. It's repulsive, and it will result in loss of life.

VA Response: VA elects to not change information collection 2900-0895 in response to this comment. VA uses the three Department of Veterans Affairs

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Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) contract clauses to ensure security when a contractor has access to VA information or information systems.

The commenter misunderstood this collection. This collection does not gather or share information about Veterans and will not lead to loss of life. These three contract clauses help protect veteran information held by VA and protect VA information systems.

A 30-Day FRN for this collection was published on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. The 30-Day FRN citation is 91 FR 14636.

Part B: CONSULTATION

No additional consultation was conducted apart from soliciting public comments through the Federal Register for this submission.

9. Gifts or Payment

No payments or gifts are being offered to respondents as an incentive to participate in the collection.

10. Confidentiality

- A Privacy Act Statement is not required for these collections because we are not requesting individuals to furnish personal information for a system of records.
- A System of Record Notice (SORN) is not required for these collections because records are not retrievable by Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
- A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is not required for these collections because PII is not being collected electronically.
- No assurances of privacy/confidentiality will be provided to respondents. However, data will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. Information provided to VA by a contractor is subject to being requested by third parties under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), as amended (5 U.S.C. 552), but business-proprietary information is generally exempt from public disclosure under the FOIA.
- These information collections do not require the submission of proprietary information.

11. Sensitive Questions

No questions considered sensitive are being asked in these collections.

12. Respondent Burden and its Labor Costs

Part A: ESTIMATION OF RESPONDENT BURDEN

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The update does not alter the burden hour calculation below, from what was reported previously.

i. 852.239-70, Security Requirements for Information Technology Resources:

Total Burden Hours: 2,375; Cost \$124,189

Total Number of Respondents: 10,405

Average Number of Respondents: 2,601

Total Annual Responses: 10,405

Average Annual Responses: 2,601

Contractor/subcontractor employee reassignment and termination notification

No. of respondents	x No. of responses per respondent	x No. of minutes	÷ by 60	Number of Burden Hours
1,357	1	5		

Maintain and provide information technology security plan

No. of respondents	x No. of responses per respondent	x No. of minutes	÷ by 60	Number of Burden Hours
3,016	1	30		

Submission of proof of information technology security accreditation

No. of respondents	x No. of responses per respondent	x No. of minutes	÷ by 60	Number of Burden Hours
3,016	1	10		

Verification of annual IT security plan validation

No. of respondents	x No. of responses per respondent	x No. of minutes	÷ by 60	Number of Burden Hours
3,016	1	5		

ii. 852.239-72, Information System Design and Development:

Total Burden Hours: 673; Cost \$35,191

Total Number of Respondents: 1,345

Average Number of Respondents: 1,345

Total Annual Responses: 1,345

Average Annual Responses: 1,345

Privacy Impact Assessment Report & Plan of Action and Milestones

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No. of respondents	x No. of responses per respondent	x No. of minutes	÷ by 60	Number of Burden Hours
1,345	1	30		673

iii. 852.239-73, Information System Hosting, Operation, Maintenance, or Use:

Total Burden Hours: 1,767, Cost: \$92,396
 Total Number of Respondents: 3,634
 Average Number of Respondents: 1,211
 Total Annual Responses: 3,634
 Average Annual Responses: 1,211

Privacy Impact Assessment report & Plan of Action and Milestones

No. of respondents	x No. of responses per respondent	x No. of minutes	÷ by 60	Number of Burden Hours
1,345	1	30		673

Submission of annual self-assessment

No. of respondents	x No. of responses per respondent	x No. of minutes	÷ by 60	Number of Burden Hours
2,138	1	30		1,069

Report of any deficiencies on annual FISMA security controls assessment

No. of respondents	x No. of responses per respondent	x No. of minutes	÷ by 60	Number of Burden Hours
151	1	10		25

- 1) Total Submission Burden (Summation or average based on collection)
 - a) Total Number of Respondents: 15,384
 - b) Total Number of Annual Responses: 15,384
 - c) Total Respondent Burden Hours: 4,815 hours

Part B: LABOR COST OF RESPONDENT BURDEN

- 1) VAAR Clause 852.239-70
 - Number of Total Annual Responses: 10,405
 - Response Time: 2,375 hours
 - Respondent Hourly Wage: \$52.29
 - Labor Burden per Response: \$12
 - Total Labor Burden: \$124,189

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- 2) VAAR Clause 852.239-72
 - Number of Total Annual Responses: 1345
 - Response Time: 673 hours
 - Respondent Hourly Wage: \$52.29
 - Labor Burden per Response: \$26
 - Total Labor Burden: \$35,191
- 3) VAAR Clause 852.239-73
 - Number of Total Annual Responses: 3,634
 - Response Time: 1,767 hours
 - Respondent Hourly Wage: \$52.29
 - Labor Burden per Response: \$25
 - Total Labor Burden: \$92,396
- 4) Overall Labor Burden
 - a) Total Number of Annual Responses: 15,384
 - b) Total Labor Burden: \$251,776

Total estimated annual cost for all respondents: \$251,776 (4,815 hours at \$52.29 per hour). The Respondent hourly wage was determined by using the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/purchasing-managers-buyers-and-purchasing-agents.htm> (searched for “13-1020 Buyers and Purchasing Agents”). The BLS gathers information on full-time wage and salary workers. According to the latest (2024) available BLS data, the median hourly wage is \$38.38 on BLS wage code – “13-1020 Buyers and Purchasing Agents” plus 36.25% per OMB Memo M-08-13 dated March 11, 2008, yields an hourly wage of \$52.29.

13. Respondent Costs Other Than Burden Hour Costs

There are no annualized costs to respondents, other than the labor burden costs addressed in Section 12 of this document, to complete these collections.

14. Cost to the Federal Government

Part A: LABOR COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1) Collection Instrument(s)
 - VAAR Clause 852.239-70
 - Burden Hours: 2,375
 - Hourly Rate: \$47.20
 - Cost: \$112,100

VAAR Clause 852.239-72

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Burden Hours: 673
Hourly Rate: \$47.20
Cost: \$31,766

VAAR Clause 852.239-72
Burden Hours: 1,767
Hourly Rate: \$47.20
Cost: \$83,402

- 2) Overall Labor Burden to the Federal Government
 - a) Total Number of Annual Responses: 15,384
 - b) Total Labor Burden: \$227,268

It is estimated that the review will be prepared by a Contract Specialist equivalent to a GS-11. Based on a GS-11, step 5 salary, for 2026 – see Salary Table 2026 GS (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/>) plus 36.25% per OMB Memo M-08-13 dated March 11, 2008, the hourly rate is ($\$34.64 \times 136.25\% = \47.20).

Part B: OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

- 1) Cost Categories
 - a) Equipment: \$0
 - b) Printing: \$0
 - c) Postage: \$0
 - d) Software Purchases: \$0
 - e) Licensing Costs: \$0
 - f) Other: \$0
- 2) Total Operational and Maintenance Cost: \$0

Part C: TOTAL COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1) Total Labor Cost to the Federal Government: \$227,268
- 2) Total Operational and Maintenance Costs: \$0
- 3) Total Cost to the Federal Government: \$227,268

15. Reasons for Change in Burden

There is no burden hour change. The burden cost estimate has increased since the previous approval due to revised wage rates to more current and appropriate levels. But estimates on respondents and burden hours related to the burden cost calculation remain unchanged. This results in an increase of \$52,050 in burden cost as detailed below.

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Summary of the cost differences between this SS and last SS

SS Block #	Cost This SS	Cost Last SS	Increase (Decrease)	Reason
12	\$251,776	\$228,327	\$23,449	Increase in BLS wage rate.
14	\$227,268	\$198,667	\$28,601	Increase in GS wage rate.

16. Publication of Results

The results will not be published.

17. Non-Display of OMB Expiration Date

We are not seeking approval to omit the display of the expiration date of the OMB approval on these collection instruments.

18. Exceptions to "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Submissions"

We are not requesting any exemptions to the provisions stated in 5 C.F.R. § 1320.9.