



No TikTok on Government Devices Act



Proposal Submission



Award and Account Establishment



After Research Commences



Closeout

What is the *No TikTok on Government Devices Act*?

In June 2023, the federal government imposed restrictions via the *No TikTok on Government Devices Act* (the “Act”) on the use of social networking services – in particular, the popular social media application TikTok – provided by ByteDance Limited.

Under the Act, USC faculty and staff are not permitted to download or use TikTok on any information technology – including but not limited to laptops, cell phones, software, and firmware – used in furtherance of a federal government contract.

What do USC faculty and staff need to do to ensure they are complying with these restrictions?

- *Do not download/use TikTok on government or university-issued equipment, or personal devices used in support of federal contracts (e.g., federal research contracts, service agreements).*
- *If you have TikTok already installed on devices you use in support of federal contracts, please delete the applications from those devices.*
- *If you are using personal devices for federally sponsored contracts (e.g., using your personal cell phone for e-mail communication related to a federal contract), do not download or use TikTok on those devices and, if those applications are already installed, please delete them from those devices.*
- *If your work requires use of TikTok (e.g., for a research project related to security risks associated with use of social media), please reach out to the Office of Culture, Ethics and Compliance (OCEC) for guidance.*

I am USC Staff and have TikTok downloaded on my personal phone, but I don’t work with federal contracts. Do I need to delete TikTok from my phone?

No. The prohibition applies to information technology used in furtherance of a federal contract. If you are not doing work under a federal contract, the TikTok prohibition does not apply.

I am a faculty member and have TikTok installed on my USC-supplied laptop. Do I need to delete TikTok from this device?

As long as you do not use the USC-supplied device in the support of a contract funded by the U.S. government, the TikTok prohibition does not apply and you do not need to delete TikTok.

I am a Lecturer in Communications and would like to give my students an assignment where they would record a short TikTok video. Students would use TikTok to record the video and then upload an mp4 file to Blackboard to submit the assignment. Is this permissible?

The prohibition on use of TikTok applies to its use in support of federal contracts (e.g., federal research contracts or service agreements). Based on the above description, the prohibition likely does not apply, but if the assignment relates to or arises out of work being performed in support of a federal contract, please reach out to OCEC for further guidance.

I still have questions about the *No TikTok on Government Devices Act*. Who can I contact for additional information?

USC plans to issue additional guidance as the legislation is clarified and evolves. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the Act or are not certain whether you work on a federal contract where these restrictions apply, please reach out to OCEC for guidance at compliance@usc.edu.



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