

Finding Federal Regulations

Introduction

Regulations created by administrative agencies are primary materials such as statutes and cases. Final rules and regulations of federal agencies are first published in the Federal Register, which comes out each business day, except Federal holidays. They are eventually published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which is a subject compilation of the rules and regulations in effect at the time of its publication. This guide offers more information about the Federal Register and the CFR and how to locate them.

About the Federal Register

Included in the Federal Register are final regulations, proposed regulations, notices of administrative actions (such as hearings), presidential proclamations and executive orders, reorganization plans, and other documents that the President orders to be published (including determinations, letters, and memorandums).

When a notice of proposed rulemaking or a proposed rule is printed in the Federal Register, the agency states why the rule is needed and under what "authority" [enabling act] the rule is promulgated. Names and telephone numbers of agency contacts are given so that the agency can receive comments on the proposed rule. These contacts can be very helpful when information is needed on regulatory activity in a particular area.

When the final rule is published in the Federal Register, a statement is usually included, summarizing the comments received and stating any changes in the final rule. There is also a citation to the Federal Register where the proposed rule was printed.

The "Unified Agenda" is published in the Federal Register during October and April of each year. The "Agenda" is a good place to review and prepare for any regulatory activity. Each agency lists the following in the "Agenda":

- All pre-rule actions
- All proposed rules that the agency has issued or expects to issue
- Currently effective rules under agency review
- Planned rules or actions and completed actions since the last agenda

Federal Register Citation Format:

Here is a sample Federal Register citation: **55 Fed. Reg. 41,174 (1990)**.

The citation refers to page 41,174 volume 55 of the Federal Register, published in 1990.

About the Code of Federal Regulations

The final regulations of federal agencies can be found in the CFR. The CFR is divided into 50 subject areas, called **titles**. The individual titles are arranged into **chapters** according to the issuing agency. The chapters are then divided into **parts**, which are further divided into **sections**.

The CFR is revised once a year, but not all at once. It is revised according to the following schedule:

- Titles 1 through 16 - as of January 1
- Titles 17 through 27 - as of April 1
- Titles 28 through 41 - as of July 1
- Titles 42 through 50 - as of October 1

Code of Federal Regulations Citation Format:

Here is a sample CFR citation: **14 CFR § 1240.100 (2000)**.

The citation refers to title 14, part 1240, section 100 of the 2000 CFR.

Ways to Search for Regulations

Indexes

- An official Federal Register index is issued monthly and is cumulated at the end of the calendar year. It is arranged alphabetically by agency, then by subject. If you are unsure of the agency issuing the regulation, you may have some difficulty using this index. Additionally, each issue of the Federal Register has a table of contents, which is arranged by agency.
- A volume titled *CFR Index and Finding Aids* should be located at the end of the CFR. In addition, the USCS has an *Index and Finding Aids to Code of Federal Regulations*.
- Another type of index is the publication *List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA)*. The LSA indexes the Federal Register by CFR citation. The LSA has tables that list any changes or proposed changes in regulations printed in the Federal Register since the last printing of the CFR title.

Annotated Codes

- The United States Code Service (USCS) has references to the CFR and can be found in print at KF62 1972 .L38 in the Core section and on Lexis-Nexis.
- The United States Code Annotated (USCA) also has references to the CFR and can be found in print at KF62 1927 .W45 in the Core section on Westlaw.

Looseleafs

Looseleaf materials may have the full text of regulations or citations to regulations. To locate looseleaf publications of interest, look at *Legal Looseleafs in Print* on Reserve at KF1 .L42. Examples of Looseleaf publications with CFR citations are: Federal Banking Law Reporter, Labor Relations Reporter and Standard Federal Tax Reporter.

Update, Update, Update

Do not forget to update your research. To update a CFR section:

1. Pull the CFR volume that contains the section you want to update. Look on the front cover and note the date of revision printed there. This date tells you how current that volume of the CFR is.
2. Go to the pamphlets called *LSA: List of CFR Sections Affected ("LSA")*. The LSA is kept next to the CFR. Find the most recent issue.
3. Look at the dates on the first page of the LSA to see how current the LSA is. Coverage should begin the day after the revision date of your CFR volume.
4. Find your regulation's title number and then see if your section is listed in this issue. It will be listed if it has been amended or repealed, and you will be referred to pages in the *Federal Register* for the text of any changes. Also look for any proposed regulations. In the LSA, proposed regulations are listed at the end of each title.
5. Now you need to switch your attention to the *Federal Register*. Check the last issue of each complete month of the *Federal Register* not included in the LSA. For example, if the coverage of the LSA ends December 31, 2000 and it is now March 2001, check the last issue of the *Federal Register* for January and February. Look at the table in the back of each of these issues of the *Federal Register* called *CFR Parts Affected During* this month.
6. The last step in updating your CFR research in print is to check the table of CFR Parts Affected During [month] in the most recent issue of the *Federal Register*.

Shepardizing Regulations

Shepards Code of Federal Regulations Citations lists citations to regulations in federal and state court opinions, law review articles, and *American Law Reports* ("ALR") annotations. This Shepard's set is located on the Index tables at call number KF78 .S45. It is also available online using computers located in the law library.

Where to Locate Print Copies of Regulations

Current Year

In the Ross-Blakley Law Library, the Federal Register and the CFR for the current year is located on the Government Documents Index Table.

Previous Year

The previous year of the Federal Register and the CFR are in the Government Documents stacks Range 3-4.

All Years

The Federal Register from 1936 to date is available in microfiche and filed in cabinets 22 and 23 in the microforms area. The CFR from 1938 to date are also available in microfiche and is filed in cabinets 19 and 20 in the microforms area.

Federal Regulations Online

GPO Access

- Free!
- [CFR 1996-current](#)
- [Federal Register 1994-current](#)
- [List of CFR Sections Affected \(LSA\) 1986-current](#)

Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute

- Free!
- Only current [CFR](#)

Regulations.gov

- Free!
- Search, view, and comment on Federal regulations

Lexis

- Subscription database
- The current CFR is in the ALLREG library and CFR file. For prior versions back to 1981, search the CFRARC file.
- Federal Register 1980-current is in the ALLREG library and FEDREG file

Westlaw

- Subscription database
- The current CFR is in the CFR database. For prior versions of CFR back to 1984, check the CFR scope information.
- Federal Register 1981-current is in the FR database.

Congressional Universe

- On-campus use. Remote access available for ASU students & staff
- Current CFR
- Federal Register 1981-current

Hein Online

- On-campus use. Remote access available for ASU students & staff
- 1936-current