



Finding Federal Regulations in the University of Michigan Law Library

WHAT ARE REGULATIONS?

Administrative regulations are promulgated by government agencies. These specific rules interpret legislation and provide procedures for implementation and enforcement.

I. Relationship between the *Federal Register* and the *Code of Federal Regulations*

The *Federal Register* is the chronological publication of proposed regulations, final regulations, and related materials. The *Code of Federal Regulations* is a subject arrangement of regulations. A regulation will be published first in the *Federal Register* and will later be included in the appropriate volume of the CFR.

II. *Federal Register*

- A. Contents - Published daily and contains presidential documents, rules and proposed rules, and notices of hearings and Sunshine Act meetings. Not all of these items appear in the CFR.
- B. Location and Holdings - Volumes 1(1936)-48(1983) are on microfilm. From volume 49(1984)-on, issues of the *Federal Register* are on microfiche (**MICRO-10 S156**). The *Federal Register* is also available online at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> (1994 to present). The *Federal Register* is also available in *HeinOnline* (may require authentication), coverage is begins with volume 1 and runs through approximately 5 months before the current issue.
- C. Indexes
 - 1. Official Index (**Reserve**) - Issued monthly and is cumulative.

III. *Code of Federal Regulations*

The *Code of Federal Regulations* is a compilation of all current federal administrative regulations, arranged by subject.

- A. Structure - Published annually and revised on a quarterly basis. Comprised of 50 Titles, arranged by subject. Each Title is subdivided into Chapters, Parts, Subparts, and Sections, and is cited by Title and Section, e.g. 43 C.F.R. § 427.2.
- B. Location and Holdings - Current editions of the CFR are in **SMITH** and **REF COLL**. Superseded editions can be found on microfiche (**MICRO-10 S9**) from 1949 onwards. Title 3, which contains a compilation of each year's Presidential documents, is available on fiche from 1936 onwards. The CFR is also available online at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html> (1997 to present). The *Code of Federal Regulations* is also available in *HeinOnline* (may require authentication), coverage is currently limited to 1938-1983.

HOW TO FIND REGULATIONS

- I. *CFR Index and Finding Aids (REF COLL and SMITH)* – This is the paper index that comes with the CFR, in one volume. Main part is the subject/agency index. Not always specific enough – be flexible when searching for keywords.
- II. "Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules" – Contained in the *CFR Index and Finding Aids* volume. Use it to find regulations relating to a statute or presidential proclamation. Provides access by *United States Code* citation; *Statutes at Large* citation; Public Law number; date of Presidential notices, directives and memoranda; proclamation number, executive order number, and reorganization plan year and number.
- III. Topical Looseleaf Services – Often contain the text of relevant regulations and are updated frequently.

HOW TO UPDATE REGULATIONS

- I. Note date of revision on the cover of the CFR volume that contains your regulation. Will say something like "Revised as of July 1, 2005."
- II. *LSA: List of CFR Sections Affected* - (Shelved at the end of the CFR in **REF COLL** and **SMITH**). Check for references to your CFR section in the most recent LSA. This volume should reflect changes made since that title was revised. If there have been any changes, it will refer you to pages in the *Federal Register*. The *LSA* is also available in [HeinOnline](#) (may require authentication), coverage is currently limited to 1960-1980.
- III. *Federal Register* - Consult the last day of each month since the last LSA pamphlet. There will be a section in the back under "Reader Aids" called "CFR Parts Affected during [month]." Also check the last day of the current month.

ONLINE SOURCES

I. INTERNET

Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> - coverage: 1994 to present
Also available in [HeinOnline](#) (may require authentication) - coverage: 1936 to 5 months before present.

Code of Federal Regulations: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html> - coverage: 1997 to present.
Also available in [HeinOnline](#) (may require authentication) - full text coverage: 1938-1983.

II. LEXIS

Federal Register - Full text from July 1980

Code of Federal Regulations - Full text of the current and older editions back to 1981

III. WESTLAW

Federal Register - Full text from July 1980

Code of Federal Regulations – Full text of the current and older editions back to 1984.