



Thomas M. Cooley Law Libraries' Research Guide Series

Code of Federal Regulations

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I. OVERVIEW

The *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) and a related publication, the *Federal Register*, contain rules and regulations promulgated by the administrative agencies of the federal government. The *Federal Register* is issued chronologically and the CFR is arranged by subject.

The *Federal Register* is issued each day following a federal government working day. Published since 1936, the *Federal Register* is the federal government's official method of notifying citizens of administrative rules of general application. The *Federal Register* contains proposed rules, notices, and other supplementary material.

The CFR is an annual cumulation of final rules and regulations arranged by subject. Like the *United States Code* (USC), the CFR is divided into 50 titles. Although the numbers are sometimes similar, CFR titles do not correspond to USC titles. Title 1 contains General Provisions, Title 2 is reserved for future use, Title 3 contains Presidential documents and regulations, Titles 4 through 50 are broken down into subjects arranged alphabetically from Accounts to Wildlife and Fisheries. Citations to the CFR include titles, chapters, parts, and sections. Title 49, chapter VII, part 701, section 8 is written 49 CFR § 701.8 (the chapter, part, and section numbers become one number.)

The entire CFR is revised annually.

II. Finding Aids

The CFR has its own index volume which contains topics and subjects covered in the various titles, chapters and parts of the CFR. The Congressional Information Service (CIS) publishes the *CIS Index to the Code of Federal Regulation*. This is a four volume annual publication with quarterly supplements. Annotated codes (*United States Code Annotated* and *United States Code Service*) will often list related CFR cites following each section of a statute, although not every statute will have corresponding CFR material. At the back of the CFR Index Volume, a correlation table links federal statutes to the corresponding regulations.

For some areas of law, looseleaf publications are the most convenient, timely source for federal regulations. Tax and labor are two areas where looseleaf publications will print the statutes and related regulations in a single source. Often the best place to start research and



locate regulations is in a law review or other journal article on the topic in question. The article will provide relevant CFR cites, as well as statutes and cases.

Every CFR entry cites its SOURCE (where it first appeared in the *Federal Register*) and an AUTHORITY (the USC cite for the enabling legislation which gives the agency its power to promulgate regulations.)

III. UPDATING THE CFR IN PRINT

Once the appropriate CFR cite has been located, it is important to make sure the regulation is still in effect as regulations tend to change more frequently than statutes.

There are three steps to updating the CFR in print resources:

1) Note the revision date of the CFR volume that contains your regulation. It is listed on the front cover. Find the most recent monthly pamphlet of the *List of CFR Sections Affected* (LSA). Note the beginning date of coverage for your CFR title, listed on the inside cover of the LSA. If there is a gap between the CFR volume's revision date and the LSA, check quarterly LSA cumulations (March, June, September, and December) in reverse chronological order from the present until you have the complete date coverage.

2) Check for your CFR title and section in the lists of final and proposed regulations. If your title and section are not included in either list, there are no revisions or proposed revisions to the regulation through the period covered by the LSA. If it is included, there will be a citation to a page in the *Federal Register* where you can find the text of the change. To identify which *Federal Register* issue contains the change, check the "Table of FR Issue Pages & Dates," which is found in the back of the LSA issue.

3) Finally, to update from the time period between the latest LSA pamphlet and the present, look in the last issue of the *Federal Register* for each month since the last monthly LSA, ending with the latest issue of the current month. At the back of each issue of the *Federal Register* is a list of CFR sections affected during that month.

If your regulation appears in any of these *List of CFR Sections Affected*, there will be a citation to a page of the *Federal Register* where the new regulation will appear. If your section does not appear in any of these lists, it has not changed.

IV. INTERNET RESOURCES

CFR Online

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

This is the official United States government page where the CFR is located online.

