



# THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER



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The Office of the Federal Register publishes seven major publications containing the official text of:

- Federal Laws
- Presidential Documents
- Administrative Regulations
- Public Notices
- Descriptions of Federal Organizations, Programs, and Activities

The *Federal Register* is a daily gazette containing Presidential documents and new and amended Federal regulations. The Office publishes the complete set of Federal rules in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. The *United States Government Manual* contains descriptions of Federal organizations and their programs and activities.

The Office publishes the President's public papers in the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents*. These online materials are also compiled into printed volumes of the *Public Papers of the Presidents*.

The Office publishes the laws of the United States first in pamphlet form, called slip laws, and then as part of a compilation in the *United States Statutes at Large*.

By law, the Government Printing Office is a partner in publishing and distributing, in paper and online, all of these publications.

The Office of the Federal Register also has responsibilities related to the Electoral College and the ratification of Constitutional Amendments.

The Office is part of the National Archives and Records Administration. The *Federal Register* and the rulemaking documents published in it serve as daily links to the democratic values espoused in the Charters of Freedom displayed in the Rotunda of the National Archives building.

The Office of the Federal Register is the one-stop location, whether online or in print, to keep abreast of all of the substantive actions of the Executive Branch and the Congress. Federal Register publications are available online at [www.ofr.gov](http://www.ofr.gov). A beta edition of the currently updated Electronic Code of Federal Regulations is available at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>.



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## THE FEDERAL REGISTER SYSTEM

The Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 15) and the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. Subchapter II) establish and outline the Federal rulemaking process — the process by which Executive Branch agencies issue legally binding rules. Those rules establish citizens' rights and responsibilities relating to the agencies' programs.

Agencies must provide the public with notice of proposed regulations to give citizens an opportunity to participate in policymaking. The public may submit comments and relevant data, and agencies must respond to public comments and justify final decisions. Agencies carry out these responsibilities by publishing rulemaking documents in the *Federal Register*.

Final rules published in the *Federal Register* become part of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register (ACFR) establishes policy for the Federal Register system. Its members include the Archivist of the United States as Chairman, the Public Printer, and an appointee of the Attorney General. The Director of the Federal Register serves as Secretary of the Committee.

## PUBLIC INSPECTION

The Federal Register Act requires that the Office of the Federal Register make available for public inspection all documents filed with the Office. Documents on public inspection are a preview of the documents that will appear, generally the next day, in the *Federal Register*. The documents can be found online at [www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx](http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx) or by visiting the public inspection area of the Office at 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC during business hours from 8:45 am to 5:15 pm.

The documents available for public inspection are available each morning and revised throughout the day as additional documents are placed on file.

## HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER

Although U.S. Presidents and Cabinet Secretaries had been issuing proclamations, orders, and departmental regulations since the earliest days of the Republic, the United States had no organized system for the central filing and publication of these documents until 1935.

The Federal Register system arose in response to the flurry of rules and regulations issued by the New Deal agencies in the 1930s and in response to the fact that those rules were largely inaccessible to the public and lacked order. The system also was established in response to the need to regularize Executive Branch rulemaking.

The *Federal Register* brought order to the administrative process by providing a uniform system for filing and publishing documents and by ensuring the American public access to Government information and evidentiary material. The right of individual citizens to participate in proposed rulemaking was implemented in 1946, when the Administrative Procedure Act expanded the Federal Register system.

The idea that citizens should be able to participate directly in the development of a regulation by exchanging information with agency officials may seem unexceptional to most Americans now. Visitors from foreign governments, however, are often startled by the notion that citizens have the right to intervene in the workings of the bureaucracy and to have their views considered as part of the decisionmaking process.

Since 1935, the Federal Register system has grown to include additional, special editions of the *Federal Register*, including: the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR); *The United States Government Manual*; the *Public Papers of the Presidents* series; the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents*; microfiche editions of the *Federal Register* and CFR; and online editions of virtually all of the publications of the Office of the Federal Register.

Additional responsibilities were delegated to the Office of the Federal Register from the Department of State in 1949. These include publishing the slip laws and the *United States Statutes at Large* and responsibilities relating to the operation of the Electoral College and the ratification of Constitutional Amendments.

# OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER PUBLICATIONS

## FEDERAL REGISTER

Published every Federal working day, the *Federal Register* is the official gazette of the United States Government. It provides legal notice of administrative rules and notices and Presidential documents in a comprehensive, uniform manner. The *Federal Register* contains:

- Federal Agency Regulations
- Proposed Rules
- Public Notices
- Executive Orders
- Proclamations
- Other Presidential Documents



## CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS INDEX AND FINDING AIDS

The *CFR Index and Finding Aids* contains a broad, cumulative subject index directing users to titles and parts of the *Code of Federal Regulations* relating to regulations of a specific subject matter or issued by a specific agency. The subjects used in the *Index* are taken from an official thesaurus of terms developed by the Office of the Federal Register.



## THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MANUAL

The *United States Government Manual* provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Branches. It also includes information on quasi-official agencies; international organizations in which the United States participates; and Federal boards, commissions, and committees. Previously published annually, it is now maintained as an online database at <http://usgovernmentmanual.gov>. A typical agency description includes:



- A list of officials heading major operating units
- A summary statement of the agency's purpose and role in the Federal Government
- A brief history of the agency, including its legislative or executive authority
- A description of its programs and activities
- Information, addresses, and phone numbers to help users locate detailed information on consumer activities, contracts and grants, employment, publications, and other matters of public interest

## CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) presents the official and complete text of agency regulations in an organized fashion in a single publication. The CFR is divided into 50 titles covering broad subject areas of Federal regulations. The printed edition, containing more than 220 volumes, is revised annually on a quarterly basis. The CFR is updated by amendments appearing in the daily *Federal Register*. Used together, these two publications establish the latest version of any given rule. The Office also publishes a currently updated online version, the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations or e-CFR.



## SLIP LAWS

After a bill is enacted into law, it is delivered to the Office of the Federal Register to assign it a Public Law number and statutory citation and to prepare marginal notes, citations, and the legislative history. Printed in pamphlet form, the slip law is an official publication of the law and admissible as competent legal evidence.



## UNITED STATES STATUTES AT LARGE

The *United States Statutes at Large* is legal and permanent evidence of all Federal laws. It is an indexed and bound compilation of the laws for each session of Congress, published annually. The series also contains concurrent resolutions, reorganization plans, proposed and ratified amendments to the Constitution, and proclamations issued by the President.

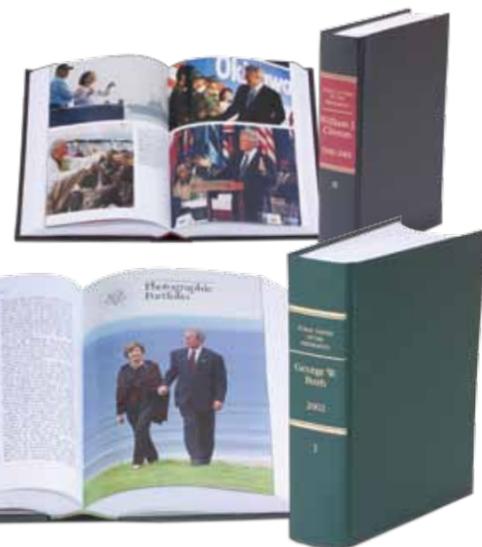


## DAILY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

The *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published online every day as the official text of Presidential speeches and remarks, signing statements, messages to Congress, and other materials released by the White House Press Secretary. The *Daily Compilation* serves not only as a source for the full text of Presidential documents, but also rounds out the picture of Presidential activities with a Digest of Other White House Announcements, a Checklist of White House Press Releases, and listings of Nominations Submitted to the Senate and Acts Approved by the President.

## PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS

The Office of the Federal Register began publishing the *Public Papers of the Presidents* series in 1957 as an official text of United States Presidents' public writings, addresses, and remarks. The series now covers administrations beginning with President Hoover. (The papers of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt were published privately before the commencement of the official *Public Papers* series.) Volumes are normally published twice a year and cover approximately a 6-month period. Each volume includes a Foreword by the President and a color portfolio of photographs depicting events occurring during the period covered.



## EXECUTIVE ORDERS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND OTHER PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Executive orders are official documents issued by the President in the course of managing the operations of the Federal Government and are generally directed to Executive agencies. Proclamations issued by the President are used for ceremonial purposes or deal with trade matters. Other Presidential documents include determinations, memorandums, notices, and reorganization plans. When received from the Executive Clerk at the White House, the Office numbers these documents consecutively in each category and publishes them in the *Federal Register*. They also are issued as part of the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents* and are compiled annually in Title 3 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.



## PRIVACY ACT COMPILATION

Under the Privacy Act of 1974, the Office of the Federal Register publishes a compilation of the descriptions of systems of records maintained on individuals by Federal agencies. This compilation includes the rules that agencies follow in helping individuals who request information about their records. Since 1995, the biennial *Privacy Act Compilation* has been available only in electronic format at <http://ofr.gov/Privacy/Agencies.aspx>.

## ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

### PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The Office of the Federal Register ensures the orderly collection and accurate official count of Electoral College votes for President and Vice President. These functions begin when the Office prepares and forwards material to the State Governors advising them of their responsibilities. As each State certifies its election results, the Office receives Certificates of Ascertainment authenticating the official slate of electors.

Electors meet in December to cast separate ballots for President and Vice President. The electors' signed Certificates of Vote are then forwarded to the Office, which ensures that each State's allotment of the 538 electoral votes is signed, sealed, and otherwise executed in accordance with law. The Office of the Federal Register makes copies of the electoral certificates available for public inspection and acts as an official information source for press and public inquiries.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The authority to amend the Constitution is derived from Article V. After Congress proposes an amendment by two-thirds majorities in the House and Senate, the Director of the Federal Register is charged with administering the ratification process.

When both Houses of Congress pass a joint resolution proposing an amendment, the Office publishes it in slip law form and notifies the appropriate officials in the States. When a State ratifies a proposed amendment, the Director takes custody of the Certificate of Ratification.

If three-fourths of the States (38) ratify, the Archivist certifies and announces the adoption of the amendment to the States. The Office publishes the Certificate of Adoption in the *Federal Register* and in the *United States Statutes at Large*. Afterwards, the Office of the Federal Register transfers the ratification documents to the Archives for permanent retention and preservation.

## FEDERAL REGISTER INDEX

The *Federal Register Index* is a monthly publication designed to lead users to documents published in the *Federal Register*. It is a consolidation of the Table of Contents entries from the daily *Federal Register*. The entries are arranged alphabetically by agency and, under each agency, by category of document. Each monthly *Index* is cumulative on a calendar year basis.



## LIST OF CFR SECTIONS AFFECTED

The *List of CFR Sections Affected* (LSA) is designed to direct users to changes to the *Code of Federal Regulations* published in the *Federal Register*. The LSA is published monthly in cumulative form. The issues of December, March, June, and September are annual cumulations for the groups of CFR titles designated on their covers.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### TO SEARCH PUBLICATIONS

[www.fdsys.gov](http://www.fdsys.gov)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLICATIONS

[www.ofr.gov](http://www.ofr.gov)

[www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov)

### TO ORDER PUBLICATIONS

U.S. Government Printing Office

phone: 1.866.512.1800

### TO COMMENT UPON REGULATIONS

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

### FOR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

[www.USA.gov](http://www.USA.gov)

### TO SUBSCRIBE TO LISTSERVS

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<http://listserv.access.gpo.gov/archives/fedregtoc-l.html>

Public Laws Electronic Notification Service (PENS)

<http://listserv.gsa.gov/archives/publaws-l.html>

### PUBLIC INSPECTION DESK

Office of the Federal Register

Suite 700

800 North Capitol Street, NW

Washington, DC

phone: 202.741.6000

hours: 8:45 am - 5:15 pm M-F

### MAILING ADDRESS

Office of the Federal Register – NF

National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road

College Park, MD 20740-6001

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

e-mail: [fedreg.info@nara.gov](mailto:fedreg.info@nara.gov)

Raymond A. Mosley

*Director of the Federal Register*