

Code of Federal Regulations and List of CFR Sections Affected Helpful Hints

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

Content and File Format
Browse *CFR* Titles
Retrieve *CFR* Section by Citation
Maximum Responses
Identification Codes

Sample Searches

Search by Subject
Search by Agency Name

List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA)

Content and File Format
Browse the *LSA*
Maximum Responses
Identification Codes

Sample Searches

Search by *CFR* Citation
Search by Subject

[Additional Instructions for Searching Databases](#)

Code of Federal Regulations

Content and File Format

The [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#) is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The online *CFR* is a joint project authorized by the publisher, the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Office of the Federal Register (OFR), and the Government Printing Office (GPO) to provide the public with enhanced access to Government information.

The *CFR* is divided into 50 titles, which represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters, which usually bear the name of the issuing agency. Each chapter is further subdivided into parts that cover specific regulatory areas. Large parts may be subdivided into subparts. All parts are organized in sections, and most citations in the *CFR* are provided at the section level.

Each volume of the *CFR* is revised once each calendar year and is issued on a quarterly basis approximately as follows:

Title 1 through Title 16.....as of January 1
Title 17 through Title 27.....as of April 1
Title 28 through Title 41.....as of July 1
Title 42 through Title 50.....as of October 1

CFR volumes are added to *GPO Access* concurrent with the release of the paper editions. When revised *CFR* volumes are added, the prior editions remain on *GPO Access* as a historical set. Some *CFR* records on *GPO Access* date back to 1996; all titles are available from 1997 to the current year. Refer to the page "Search or browse your choice of *CFR* titles and/or volumes" to view an up-to-date listing of the titles that are available in current and historical editions. Documents are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) files. [1]

In order to find updated *CFR* regulations, search or browse the most current online version of the *List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA)*. The *LSA* lists new and amended Federal regulations that have been published in the *Federal Register* since the most recent revision date of a *CFR* title. It is maintained as a separate database on *GPO Access*. More information about the *LSA* is included below.

Browse *CFR* Titles

The browse feature allows you to search or browse single or multiple *CFR* titles for a given year. While you may not retrieve an entire title, you may retrieve documents at the part, subpart, and section levels by entering a query or by following various links.

The browse feature consists of several tiers. In the first tier, you must choose which title(s) you wish to browse and/or search from the table. The table is arranged by title and revision date. If you are interested in only one title, click on the link for that title under the desired revision date. For example, to browse the latest online *CFR* regulations concerning the U.S. postal service, click on the "Jul. 1, 1998" link next to "Title 39: Postal Service." If you wish to browse or search multiple titles and/or revision dates simultaneously, click in the boxes next to the desired revision date(s) for each title and then click on the "continue" button at the top or bottom of the page.

Note: You have the option of searching multiple titles across the same year, multiple titles across multiple years, and one title across multiple years. Unless you have a specific query to apply to related titles, it is advisable to perform a separate search for each title.

The second tier presents a more specific table, which displays the volumes, chapters, parts, regulatory entities, and online dates for each title you selected in the previous table. From this table, you have two options:

- You may click on a link for a list of parts from that title. Clicking on a part number from the list of parts will display a list of sections for the part that you selected. Click on either the "text" or "PDF" link to retrieve a section-level document. Documents at the section level are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) files.

Note: The above option is available only for the 1998 database.

- You may submit a query that will search one or multiple volumes of the title(s) you selected from the first table. Type your query in the search-terms box and then choose which volume(s) you wish to search by clicking in the appropriate checkbox(es). Make sure that you deselect the checkbox next to the title number and name before you submit your query; otherwise you will receive duplicate search results. From the results list, you may retrieve a document in [ASCII text](#) or [PDF](#).

Note: If you wish to retrieve a whole part, your query should include the word "part," as in "part 192." The results list from such a query will include the whole part, as well as documents for each section within that part.

Retrieve *CFR* Section by Citation

If you know the title, part, and section (or subpart) of the *CFR* document that you want to retrieve, you may bypass the traditional methods of searching by using the specialized "Retrieve *CFR* section by citation" command. This command is located at the top of all of the *CFR* search pages. Clicking on this link takes you to a form, which must be completed in its entirety.

First, select the revision year by using the pull-down menu. *CFR* records on *GPO Access* include 1996 to the present; the default is the most recent year available, which depends on the revision date for the title you wish to retrieve. Next, type the title, part, and section (or subpart) in the boxes provided. Finally, select the type of file you wish to retrieve by using the pull-down menu. Documents are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) files. [Summary files](#) are ASCII text files that include only the first 100 lines of a document.

Maximum Responses

The maximum responses you may receive from a query is set at a default of 120. To locate a larger number of documents (up to 200), you must change the setting. All of the *GPO Access* search pages provide a box in which you may change the maximum number of returned documents. Generally, 120 responses should be adequate to retrieve the document for which you are searching. If you cannot find a desired document with the default 120 responses, you may want to try making your query more specific before expanding the number of returned documents.

Identification Codes

In the list that displays your query results, the title of each *CFR* document is preceded by an identification code. The identification code contains three elements: a title number, a database abbreviation, and a part and/or section number. For example, in the identification code "7CFR246.11," "7" is the title number, "cfr" stands for *Code of Federal Regulations*, "246" is the part number, and "11" is the section number.

Note: Identification codes may be used to retrieve *CFR* sections by citation. This option is available from the *CFR* main page.

Sample Searches

The following sample searches are provided as guides to popular types of searches in the *CFR* databases. [2]

Note: When you search the *CFR* using the "Search the entire set of *CFR* databases by keyword" command, remember that you are searching only the current data. In order to access historical data, you must either retrieve a section by citation or use the browse feature; both of these features are described above.

Search by Subject

This type of search returns documents that are related to a specific subject. The word(s) that you enter as your search term(s) may appear anywhere within the document.

Query: "flectol h"

Results: 21CFR189.220-- Sec. 189.220 Flectol H.
21CFR189-- PART 189--SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED FROM USE IN HUMAN FOOD
21CFR189-- Subpart C--Substances Prohibited From Indirect Addition to Human Food
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

As described above, each document in the results list is accompanied by an identification code and other descriptors that allow you immediately to identify the title and part numbers. This query returns documents related to the food additive Flectol H at the part, subpart, and section levels.

Search by Agency Name

This type of search returns documents based on the name of the issuing agency. To make your search more specific, modify the query by also including a subject.

Query: "department of education" AND "rehabilitation short-term training"

Results: 34CFR390.1-- Sec. 390.1 What is the Rehabilitation Short-Term Training program?
34CFR390-- PART 390--REHABILITATION SHORT-TERM TRAINING--Table of Contents
34CFR390-- PART 390--REHABILITATION SHORT-TERM TRAINING
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

In the above query, two of the returned documents have nearly the same title, yet one is distinguished by the label "Table of Contents." The reason for this apparent duplication is that each *CFR* part is accompanied by its table of contents in the results list. The table of contents contains only a list of the subparts and sections of the corresponding part. Since it does not include any regulatory text, it has a considerably smaller file size. Essentially, the table of contents is the introductory "heading" from a part in the *CFR*.

LIST OF CFR SECTIONS AFFECTED (LSA)

Content and File Format

The [List of CFR Sections Affected \(LSA\)](#) contains new and amended Federal regulations that have been published in the *Federal Register* since the most recent revision date of a *CFR* title. To find updated *CFR* regulations, search or browse the most current online version of the *LSA*. Documents are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) files. [1]

Note: The online *LSA* also contains the *List of CFR Parts Affected Today*, *Current List of CFR Parts Affected*, and *Last Month's List of CFR Parts Affected*. Additional information about these lists is available from the *LSA* main page.

Browse the LSA

The browse feature allows you to find new and amended Federal regulations by the month that they were published in the print version of the *LSA*. After clicking on the "Browse *LSA*" command from the *LSA* main page, click on the link for the month you wish to search.

Note: Unless you are specifically tracking the history of a regulation, you should select the most recent month after the revision date of the *CFR* volume that you are using.

Next, click on either the "text" or "PDF" link next to the *CFR* title in which you are interested. The list that is retrieved contains the *CFR* part and section numbers, a description of its status (e.g., amended, confirmed, revised), and the page number on which the reference begins in the *Federal Register*. You can then use the "Retrieve a *Federal Register* Page (PDF)" command from the sidebar menu to view the text of the changes to the *CFR* regulations.

Note: The *Current List of CFR Parts Affected* lists only the *CFR* parts affected by change(s) since the last monthly issue of the *LSA*. It is updated daily from changes published in the *Federal Register*. The *List of Parts Affected Today*, though already incorporated in the *Current List of CFR Parts Affected*, contains information that is extracted from each issue of the *Federal Register*; it is provided to assist people who are monitoring regulatory changes on a daily basis.

Maximum Responses

The maximum responses you may receive from a query is set at a default of 40. To locate a larger number of documents (up to 200), you must change the setting. All of the *GPO Access* search pages provide a box in which you may change the maximum number of returned documents. Generally, 40 responses should be adequate to retrieve the document for which you are searching. If you cannot find a desired document with the default 40 responses, you may want to try making your query more specific before expanding the number of returned documents.

Identification Codes

In the list that displays your query results, the title of each *LSA* document is preceded by an identification code. The identification code contains two elements: an issue date (year and month) and a database abbreviation. For example, in the identification code "[1998_july_1sa]," "1998_july" is the issue date, and "1sa" stands for the *List of CFR Sections Affected*.

Sample Searches

The following sample searches are provided as guides to popular types of searches in the *LSA* databases. They are performed in the 1998 *LSA* database. [2]

Note: Due to the cumulative nature of the *LSA*, your results lists will return every monthly issue of the *LSA* subsequent to the one in which your query terms first appear, up to the next revision date of the appropriate title. Therefore, in order to find the most up-to-date listing, you should select the returned document that has the most recent date.

Search by *CFR* Citation

This type of search returns monthly issues from the *LSA* that contain references to a section of the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)*. Within your query, the title number should be in quotation marks, and the part and section numbers should be connected by the ADJ boolean operator. (The period that denotes the section in a *CFR* citation, such as 18 CFR 342.3, may not be used in your query.)

Query: "title 7" AND 210 ADJ 9

Results: [1998_february_1sa] TITLE 7--AGRICULTURE
[1998_march_1sa] TITLE 7--AGRICULTURE
[1998_april_1sa] TITLE 7--AGRICULTURE
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

Search by Subject

This type of search returns monthly issues from the *LSA* that contain terms from the subject headings used to group *LSA* listings.

Query: "executive orders" AND 13098

Results: [1998_august_1sa] TITLE 3--THE PRESIDENT
[1998_september_1sa] TITLE 3--THE PRESIDENT
[1998_october_1sa] TITLE 3--THE PRESIDENT
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

Note: Due to the fact that the *LSA* is an index, there are few keywords to use when searching the database. If you are not satisfied with your results from the search function, try using the browse function for the most current issue of the *LSA*.

Footnotes

[1] Users with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software can view documents as they appear in the printed version. This software is available from Adobe's Web site at the following URL: <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>.

[2] The results of these sample searches are described as they appear on the Web interface. The display of the results may vary for users of the WAIS client and SWAIS software.

[Questions or comments](#) regarding this service? Contact the **GPO Access User Support Team**
by Internet e-mail at gpoaccess@gpo.gov;
by telephone at **1-202-512-1530** or toll-free at **1-888-293-6498**;
or by fax at **1-202-512-1262**.