

GAO Comptroller General Decisions Helpful Hints

GAO Comptroller General Decisions

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Content and File Format

The [GAO Comptroller General Decisions](#) database contains decisions made by the Comptroller General in areas of Federal law such as appropriations, bid protests, civilian and military personnel pay and allowances, household goods and freight loss damage, and transportation rates. It is sponsored by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO). *GPO Access* contains decisions from October 1995 to the present. The database is updated within two business days after decisions have been released. Documents are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) files. [1]

Fielded Searches

A fielded-search page is provided for the *GAO Comptroller General Decisions* database. Fielded searches allow you to make your search more specific by limiting your results by preselected elements, such as title, decision number, and issue date. The fields for the *GAO Comptroller General Decisions* database are as follows:

- **Title:** Search for words or phrases from the title of the decision.
- **B-Number:** Search for a decision by its number. Be sure to enclose the entire report number in quotation marks and to include all hyphens. This type of search is not case-sensitive.
- **Issue Date:** Search by decision date.

You may also search the full text of the GAO Comptroller General decisions. This type of search returns all documents that contain the word(s) you enter as your query term(s). (See "Search by Subject" below for more information about full-text searches.)

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 *GAO Comptroller General Decisions* document is preceded by an identification code. The identification code is equivalent to the decision number. For example, in the listing "[B-260748] Tri-State Motor Transit Company," "B-260748" is the decision number, and "Tri-State Motor Transit Company" is the title. Identification codes in the *GAO Comptroller General Decisions* database are searchable; see "Search by Decision Number" below for more information.

Sample Searches

The following sample searches are provided as guides to popular types of searches in the *GAO Comptroller General Decisions* database. [2]

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. Be sure to enter a subject query in the full-text search box.

Query: **"environmental compliance" AND westinghouse**
Alternative: **environmental ADJ compliance AND westinghouse**

Results: [B-280928; B-280928.2; B-28092] Westinghouse Government and Environmental Services
[B-277700] Chemical Demilitarization Associates, B-277700, November 13, 1997

Search by Title

This type of search returns documents based on words or phrases from their titles. Be sure to enter a title query in the appropriate search box; if title words are entered in the full-text search box, the documents that are returned may contain the query terms in their titles or elsewhere in the text.

Query: **"washington utility"**
Result: [B-266333] Washington Utility Group

Search by Decision Number

This type of search returns documents based on decision number. The decision number should be enclosed in quotation marks and entered in the B-Number search box.

Query: **"B-279723"**
Result: [B-279723] Riveer Company, B-279723, July 14, 1998

Search by Issue Date

This type of search returns documents based on decision date. The proper format for dates is mm/dd/yy, although single-digit months and days do not need to be preceded by zeros. Be sure to enter an issue date in the appropriate search box and, if applicable, to choose the relevant radio button (e.g., on, before, after).

Query: **12/9/98**

Result: [B-280872.2; B-280872.3] Venture Productions, B-280872.2; B-280872.3, December 9, 1998

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**.