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Federal Register

Content and File Format

The [Federal Register](#) is published by the Office of the *Federal Register*, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It is the official publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices from Federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents.

The *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. *GPO Access* contains *Federal Register* volumes from 59 (1994) to the present. The current year's *Federal Register* database is updated daily by 6 a.m. Documents are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) files. [1] The *Unified Agenda*, which appears twice a year in the printed version of the *Federal Register*, is maintained as a separate database on *GPO Access*. Information about the *Unified Agenda* and its online database is included below.

Browse the Table of Contents

The browse feature allows you to view the entire table of contents from a single issue of the *Federal Register* from 1998 to the present. Separate links are provided for the current day's issue and back issues. Simply click on a link to open it.

The current issue's table of contents is available in two formats: [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) and [HTML](#). The tables of contents from back issues are available through the browse feature only as HTML files. The HTML files for *Federal Register* tables of contents include links to both [ASCII text](#) and PDF versions of the individual documents.

Fielded Searches

A fielded-search page is provided for *Federal Register* databases from 1995 to the present. Fielded searches allow you to make your search more specific by limiting your results by preselected elements, such as volume, section, and date.

The fields for the *Federal Register* databases are as follows:

Volume: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999

Note: Although they are listed in the volume field, these numbers are actually the years in which each volume is produced. Volume 60 covers 1995, volume 61 covers 1996, and so on.

Section: Contents and Preliminary Pages, Final Rules and Regulations, Proposed Rules, Notices, Presidential Documents, Sunshine Act Meetings, Reader Aids, and Corrections

Note: You may click on a section name (the underlined text, not the checkbox) to view a description of that section.

Issue Date: Date Range, On, Before, and After

To select or deselect a field, click on the appropriate box or circle. You may search one or multiple volumes and/or sections with a single query. However, you may choose only one option in regard to the issue date. Queries that do not specify a field will perform a search of the entire database.

Note: The fielded-search page automatically defaults to the current year. If you do not wish to search this year, you must deselect the corresponding volume checkbox.

Fielded searches are not available for the 1994 *Federal Register* database. In order to find a document in this database, you must perform a simple search from the general [GPO Access simple-search page](#). Scroll down the list of databases, click on "Federal Register, Volume 59 (1994)," and then enter your search terms in the appropriate box.

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 *Federal Register* document is preceded by an identification code. The identification code contains three elements: a database abbreviation, the issue date, and a section identifier. For example, in the identification code "fr17ja98R," "fr" stands for *Federal Register*, "17ja98" is the issue date (January 17, 1998), and "R" indicates that the document is from the Rules and Regulations section. The chart below contains all of the *Federal Register* section identifiers.

A	Reader Aids
C	Contents
E	Presidential Documents
N	Notices
P	Proposed Rules
R	Rules and Regulations
S	Sunshine Act Meetings [2]
X	Corrections

While identification codes are helpful for identifying certain attributes of a document in your results list, they cannot be used for searching within a query.

Sample Searches

The following sample searches are provided as guides to popular types of searches in the *Federal Register* databases. Unless otherwise indicated, the searches are performed in the 1998 *Federal Register* database. [3]

Note: Whenever you enter a query, make sure that you deselect any default settings that may interfere with your search. The *Federal Register* online database automatically defaults to the current year's volume.

Search for Table of Contents by Issue Date

This type of search returns the *Federal Register* table of contents for a specific date. The browse feature (described above) allows you to view the entire table of contents from a single issue of the *Federal Register* from 1998 to the present. For databases between 1995 and 1998, follow steps similar to those shown below.

Query: Click in the "1997 Federal Register" box
 Click in the "Contents and Preliminary Pages" box
 Click in the "On" circle and type **8/21/97** in the date box

Results: fr21au97C CFR PARTS AFFECTED IN THIS ISSUE
 fr21au97C FEDERAL REGISTER
 fr21au97C CONTENTS

The above query returns documents from the Contents section that were published in the *Federal Register* for August 21, 1997. To view the table of contents, click on the text or PDF link for "fr21au97C CONTENTS," which will retrieve the document.

Note: If a query contains a date and section field (e.g., Proposed Rules) but no search terms, the database will list all documents from that section on that date.

Note: If a query contains a date without a field, the database will list all documents with that date, regardless of the subject matter or section.

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 date, field, or subject.

Query: **"department of commerce" AND encryption**
Alternative: **department ADJ commerce AND encryption**

Results: fr31de98R Encryption Items
fr22se98R Encryption Items
fr12au98P Security and Electronic Signature Standards
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

Search by Subject (and Use of Relevance Ranking)

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: **"foreign import"**
Alternative: **department ADJ commerce AND encryption**

Results: fr10no98N Brake Rotors From the People's Republic of China: Postponement of
fr17fe98N Announcement of the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program

In addition to providing an example of a search by subject, this search demonstrates the function of the ADJ operator (or the use of a phrase in quotation marks) and the value of the relevance-ranking feature. The ADJ operator (or quotation marks) retrieves documents in which the query words are separated by up to 20 characters; this condition allows the words to be immediately adjacent to one another or separated by another word or phrase. Thus, although the above query specifies the phrase **"foreign import"** (or **foreign ADJ import**), the results include documents containing the phrases "foreign import" and "Foreign Trade Import." (See [Additional Instructions for Searching Databases](#) for more information about boolean operators.)

Relevance (the score listed under a document title in the results list) is based on several factors, including conformance with the exact query phrasing, the occurrence of the query terms in the document title, and the frequency of term occurrence as a percentage of the total document size. In the above search, the first document (fr10no98N), which references "Foreign Trade Import," receives a higher relevance ranking than the second (fr17fe98N), which references "foreign import," because its frequency of term occurrence as a percentage of the total document size is considerably greater. (See [Additional Instructions for Searching Databases](#) for more information about relevance ranking.)

Search by Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part Number

This type of search returns documents from the *Federal Register* based on the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* part that they affect. You must include the word "part" in your query in order to limit your search to the introductory material in each document that references the affected part.

Query: **"7 cfr part 33"**

Results: fr04jn98N Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Note: You may want to view the [summary file](#) before viewing or saving the full document in order to determine its relevance. This measure is particularly helpful when you are dealing with large documents.

Search for List of CFR Parts Affected

This type of search returns the *List of CFR Parts Affected* that appears in each issue of the *Federal Register*.

Query: Click in the "On" circle and type **12/4/98** in the date box
Type "**parts affected**" in the search-terms box

Results: fr04de98C CFR PARTS AFFECTED IN THIS ISSUE
fr04de98A Reader Aids

The above query returns two documents for the date of December 4, 1998. The first document (fr04de98C) is a list of *CFR* parts that are affected only by the December 4 issue. The second document (fr04de98A) includes a cumulative *List of CFR Parts Affected* during the entire month of December. Both of these lists are available for all dates.

Note: The *List of CFR Parts Affected Today*, *Current List of CFR Parts Affected*, and *Last Month's List of CFR Parts Affected* are also available from the online database of the [List of CFR Sections Affected \(LSA\)](#).

Search by Page Number

This type of search returns documents that appear wholly or partially on a specified page. You must include the word "page" in your query in order to eliminate the return of documents that include the page number as a numeric reference within the text.

Query: "**page 7426**"

Result: fr13fe98N Refugee Resettlement Program: Proposed Allocations to States of

For documents that span more than one page, it is possible to find the full page range by consulting the heading in an ASCII text file or the "Go To Page" tool in the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Page breaks are indicated by separators (e.g., [[Page 7423]]) in an ASCII text file or by a new page view in the Adobe Acrobat Reader; they may, as in a printed document, fall in the middle of a sentence.

Search by Page Number in the 1994 Database

Page numbers do not appear in the 1994 *Federal Register* database, except in the table of contents and the *List of CFR Parts Affected*. Therefore, in order to retrieve a specific document with a page number, you will have to perform a two-step search, utilizing one of those sections.

First, perform a simple search, using the page number as your search term (type only the number itself, not "page" and then the number, as you would in a later *Federal Register* database). This search will return the Contents and *List of CFR Parts Affected* for the appropriate date, as well as various other documents. Within either the table of contents or the *List of CFR Parts Affected*, find the document that corresponds to your page number. Select significant words from the title of that document and then, using those words, perform a second simple search of the database to retrieve your document.

Example: Type **37953** in the search-terms box and submit your query. Of the seven hits that appear in your results list, the first two ("fr26jy94 CFR PARTS AFFECTED IN THIS ISSUE" and "fr26jy94 CONTENTS") are relevant to your search. From this point, you have two options.

1. Viewing the *List of CFR Parts Affected* indicates that the document on page 37953 modifies 32 CFR Part 865. Return to the simple-search page and enter "**32 cfr part 865**" as your search terms. The results list returns the document on page 37953, which is entitled "fr26jy94 Personnel Review Boards."

2. Viewing the table of contents indicates that the document on page 37953 is a proposed rule from the Air Force Department that concerns personnel review boards. Return to the simple-search page and enter "**personnel review boards**" as your search terms. The results list returns the document entitled "fr26jy94 Personnel Review Boards."

Search by Citation (Volume and Page Number)

This type of search returns documents based on *Federal Register* citation. A unique citation exists for every page of every volume of the online *Federal Register* database. Each citation includes a volume number, an abbreviation for *Federal Register*, and a page number. For example, in the citation "64FR618," "64" is the volume number, "FR" stands for *Federal Register*, and "618" is the page number.

Searching by citation essentially amounts to searching by volume and page number. From the volume number, you must determine which year of the *Federal Register* is being referenced (Volume 59 is 1994, volume 60 is 1995, and so on). Once you know the year and page number, you can perform a fielded or simple search to retrieve your document. (See above instructions for searching by page number.) Expanding on the example from the previous paragraph, 64FR618 refers to page 618 in the 1999 *Federal Register*. A search of the 1999 database for "**page 618**" returns the document entitled "fr05ja99R Minimum Internal Control Standards."

Unified Agenda

Content and File Format

The [Unified Agenda](#), also known as the *Semiannual Regulatory Agenda*, is published in the *Federal Register* twice a year, usually in April and October. It summarizes the rules and proposed rules that each agency expects to issue during the following 12 months. Because of its unique schedule and content, it is maintained as a separate online database. Documents are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) Files. [1]

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 *Unified Agenda* document is preceded by an identification code. The identification code contains two elements: a database abbreviation and the issue date. For example, in the identification code "ua09no98," "ua" stands for *Unified Agenda*, and "09no98" is the issue date (November 9, 1998). While identification codes are helpful for identifying certain attributes of a document in your results list, they are not useful for searching within a query.

Sample Searches

The following sample searches are provided as guides to popular types of searches in the *Unified Agenda* databases. Unless otherwise indicated, the searches are performed in the 1998 *Unified Agenda* database from the simple-search page. [3]

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 date or subject.

Query: **"environmental protection agency" AND "endangered species"**
Alternative: **environmental ADJ protection ADJ agency AND endangered ADJ species**

Results: ua09no98 REGULATORY INFORMATION SERVICE CENTER
ua27ap98 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
ua27ap98 3425. ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION PROGRAM
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

The above query returns documents from the Environmental Protection Agency that relate to endangered species that were published in the *Unified Agenda* in 1998, as well as a *Unified Agenda* subject index. In order to retrieve all documents from an agency, include only the name of the agency as your search terms.

Search by Subject

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

Query: **"farm products"**
Alternative: **farm ADJ products**

Results: ua09no98 360. CLEAR TITLE FOR PURCHASERS OF FARM PRODUCTS
ua09no98 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The above query returns documents that reference regulatory actions planned for farm products. Although both of these documents pertain to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a subject search is not agency-specific; it returns documents related to a specific subject from all agencies.

Search by *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part Number*

This type of search returns documents from the *Unified Agenda* based on the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* part that they affect.

Query: **"21 cfr 107"**

Results: ua27ap98 1004. INFANT FORMULA: GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICE
ua09no98 1222. INFANT FORMULA: GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICE
ua27ap98 2201. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS
ua09no98 2404. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

The above query returns two documents that pertain to 21 CFR Part 107 (Infant Formula) and two that do not. As in any search that returns undesired documents, you may eliminate some documents from your

results list by making your original query more specific. In this example, the query "**21 cfr 107**" AND "**infant formula**" would narrow your results sufficiently.

Note: This type of search in the *Unified Agenda* differs from a *CFR* part number search in the *Federal Register*. In the latter, the word "part" must be included in the query.

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] Effective March 1, 1996, the Sunshine Act Meetings section of the *Federal Register* was eliminated. After that date, Sunshine Act notices appear in the Notices section of the *Federal Register* but continue to be referred to as Sunshine Act Meetings in the table of contents. Therefore, the Sunshine Act Meetings field on the fielded-search page should be used for documents published between January 1995 and February 1996; Sunshine Act Meeting documents from March 1996 to the present may be found by selecting the Notices field and using the search term **Sunshine**.

[3] 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**.