

How Do You Update the Code of Federal Regulations Using GPO Access?

Teachable Moments ... is a regular feature of Perspectives designed to give teachers an opportunity to describe techniques or strategies for presenting a particular research or writing topic to their students. Readers are invited to submit their own “teachable moments” to the editors of the column: Elizabeth Edinger, The Catholic University of America, e-mail: edinger@law.edu, or Craig A. Smith, Vanderbilt University, e-mail: craig.smith@law.vanderbilt.edu.

By Patrick J. Charles

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One of the most challenging tasks that researchers face is updating federal regulations. Official government publications traditionally provide minimal indexing and limited readers' aids. In 1996, Lydia Potthoff offered advice on how to update the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) in print, on Westlaw®, and on Lexis.¹ Over the past decade, although Web-based access to the *Federal Register* and the CFR has simplified the process, updating federal regulations still requires several steps.

After demonstrating how to update the CFR on GPO Access to scores of students, I decided to create an illustrated research guide with sequential screen shots and step-by-step how-to instructions. I felt the use of illustrations would help visual learners and make the updating process vivid.

Basing a research guide on screen shots has its risks and rewards. One risk is that the changing nature of the Web means the screen shots will become outdated. On the other hand, users are rewarded with a visually attractive guide that illustrates a

fairly dry procedure. The key to the longevity of the guide is pairing clear narrative with the screen shots. My hope is that the illustrated research guide reproduced below provides useful assistance to law students, summer associates, and attorneys who need to update the CFR.

A Guide to Updating the CFR Using GPO Access

The CFR contains the final rules and regulations promulgated by federal administrative agencies. The CFR is published annually in four quarterly installments. Titles 1 through 16 are updated on January 1 of each year, titles 17 through 27 on April 1, titles 28 through 41 on July 1, and titles 42 through 50 on October 1. The CFR is not updated by pocket parts; new or amended regulations are published in the *Federal Register*. These changes are not incorporated into the CFR until a new set is published. Therefore, one needs to look at the *List of CFR Sections Affected* (LSA) and the *Federal Register* to see if a regulation has been changed. Although there are several ways to update a CFR citation online, including on Westlaw and LexisNexis®, the advantage of using GPO Access is that GPO Access is current to the day, unlike Westlaw and LexisNexis, which are current within a week. Also, GPO Access is free!

¹ Lydia Potthoff, *Teachable Moments ... “How Do You Update the Code of Federal Regulations?”* 5 *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Res. & Writing* 28 (1996).

1. Retrieve your section in the most recent version of the CFR using Retrieve by Citation. For purposes of this guide, we are focusing on 5 C.F.R. § 950.101. Note the date this section was last revised. The revision date is included at the top of each page of the CFR in parentheses after the citation information. You can view PDFs of the most recent version of the CFR on the GPO Access site at <www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>.

Retrieve
5 C.F.R. §
950.101.

The screenshot shows the GPO Access website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'LEGISLATIVE', 'EXECUTIVE', and 'JUDICIAL', along with 'HELP' and 'ABOUT'. A search bar is located at the top right. The main heading is 'Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): Main Page'. Below this, there is a brief description of the CFR and a search box containing the text '5 CFR 950.101'. A sidebar on the left lists 'DATABASE FEATURES' such as 'CFR Main Page', 'Browse and/or Search', and 'Retrieve by CFR Citation'. Another sidebar on the left lists 'RELATED RESOURCES' including 'e-CFR', 'Federal Register', and 'Regulations.gov'. The main content area also includes sections for 'Most Current 50 Titles (2006-2007)', '1996 through current year', and 'Other Services'.

5 C.F.R. § 950.101,
revised as of
January 1, 2008

The screenshot shows a page from the Code of Federal Regulations. The title is '§ 950.101' and it is part of '5 CFR Ch. I (1-1-08 Edition)'. The page is organized into subparts: Subpart E—Undesignated Funds, Subpart F—Miscellaneous Provisions, Subpart G—DoD Overseas Campaign, Subpart H—CFC Timetable, Subpart I—Payroll Withholding, and Subpart A—General Provisions. The 'General Provisions' section includes a definition for '§ 950.101 Definitions' and a list of expenses: 'Administrative Expenses, PCFO Expenses, Campaign Expenses, or CFC Expenses means all documented expenses'. The page also includes a 'AUTHORITY' section and a 'SOURCE' section.

2. At the main page, click **List of CFR Sections Affected** on the left side under *Related Resources* to display the main page for *List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA)*. This page explains the updating process and includes a *Quick Search* text box.

The screenshot shows the GPO Access website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, and JUDICIAL. Below these are links for A-Z RESOURCE LIST, FIND A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT LIBRARY, and BUY PUBLICATIONS. The main heading is 'Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): Main Page'. On the left sidebar, under 'RELATED RESOURCES', the link 'List of CFR Sections Affected' is highlighted with a blue box. The main content area includes a search box with a 'Submit' button, a section for 'Most Current 50 Titles (2006-2007)', and a section for '1996 through current year'.

3. At this page, click **Browse the LSA** on the left side under *Database Features*. This page is located at www.gpoaccess.gov/lsa/browse.html. Click the most recent month listed, e.g., **January**.

January 2008 is the latest LSA available.

The screenshot shows the GPO Access website interface for the 'List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA): Browse (1997 forward)' page. The left sidebar contains a 'DATABASE FEATURES' section with a link to 'Browse the LSA' highlighted in a blue box. The main content area includes a table of LSA issues published in 2008 and 2007. The table for 2008 shows issues for January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December. The table for 2007 shows issues for January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December.

LSA issues published in 2008		
January	February	March (Annual Titles 17-27)
April	May	June (Annual Titles 28-41)
July	August	September (Annual Titles 42-50)
October	November	December (Annual Titles 1-16)

LSA issues published in 2007		
January	February	March (Annual Titles 17-27)
April	May	June (Annual Titles 28-41)
July	August	September (Annual Titles 42-50)
October	November	December (Annual Titles 1-16)

4. Consult the most recent monthly *List of CFR Sections Affected* to see if your CFR part or section is listed. Click either the TEXT or PDF version. Although it may be slower to load, the PDF version is easier to read.

Resources by Topic Site Search: advanced

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE JUDICIAL HELP

A-Z RESOURCE LIST FIND A FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY BUY PUBLICATIONS

Home Page > Executive Branch > List of CFR Sections Affected > Browse > January 2008 LSA

January 2008 LSA (List of CFR Sections Affected)

January 2008 LSA
(File sizes: TEXT less than 170K, PDF less than 160K)

Title	Subject Category	File Format
Introduction	Instructions for use of this Finding Aid	TEXT PDF
Checklist	Checklist of CFR Volumes for this Month And Other Related Publications	TEXT PDF
Title 1	General Provisions	TEXT PDF
Title 2	Grants and Agreements	TEXT PDF
Title 3	The President	TEXT PDF
Title 4	Accounts	TEXT PDF
Title 5	Administrative Personnel	TEXT PDF
Title 6	Domestic Security	TEXT PDF
Title 7	Agriculture	TEXT PDF
Title 8	Aliens and Nationality	TEXT PDF
Title 9	Animals and Animal Products	TEXT PDF
Title 10	Energy	TEXT PDF
Title 11	Federal Elections	TEXT PDF

DATABASE FEATURES

- List of CFR Sections Affected Main Page
- Browse the LSA
- Search
- Search Tips
- Retrieve a Federal Register Page
- LSA Compilation, 1986-2009
- About the List of CFR Sections Affected

RELATED RESOURCES

- Federal Register
- Regulations.gov
- Unified Agenda
- Code of Federal Regulations
- Search all Regulatory Applications
- All NARA Publications

ABOUT GOVERNMENT

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government

Acrobat Reader

5. Check to see if your CFR part or section has been affected by looking for final rules or proposed rules. Entries for rules are arranged numerically by CFR title, chapter, part, and section. If there has been a change, the LSA will refer you to the pages in the *Federal Register* on which the change is published. Check the referred pages to determine the changes made to your regulation. Make certain the coverage of the LSA begins the day after the date of revision for your CFR section in the main volume.

Recall that 5 C.F.R. § 950.101 was current to January 1, 2008. This January 2008 LSA covers changes to title 5 of the CFR from January 2, 2008, through January 31, 2008.

JANUARY 2008		11
CHANGES JANUARY 2, 2008 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2008		
TITLE 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS		
No amendments to 1 CFR have been published in the FEDERAL REGISTER since April 9, 2004.		
TITLE 2—GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS		
No amendments to 2 CFR have been published in the FEDERAL REGISTER since December 27, 2007.		
TITLE 3—THE PRESIDENT		
Presidential Documents		
Proclamations		
7785 See Proc. 8214		1488
7747 See Proc. 8214		1489
8987 See Proc. 8214		1489
8214		1489
8215		3875
8216		3856
8217		4073
8218		5705
8219		5707
Executive Orders		
11890 Amended by EO 13486		4077
17010 Replaced in part by TR		
TITLE 4—ACCOUNTS		
No amendments to 4 CFR have been published in the FEDERAL REGISTER since September 4, 2007.		
TITLE 5—ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL		
Chapter I—Office of Personnel Management (Parts 1—1199)		
581.608 Regulation at 72 FR 34362 confirmed.....		1490
581.609 Regulation at 72 FR 34362 confirmed.....		1490
Chapter II—Merit Systems Protection Board (Parts 1200—1299)		
1201 Appendix II amended.....		3143
<i>Proposed Rules:</i>		
290		3410
582		3230
591		772
TITLE 6—DOMESTIC SECURITY		
Chapter I—Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Secretary (Parts 0—99)		
6 Appendix C amended.....		5421
93 Added		5371

There are no changes to 5 C.F.R. § 950.101 in the January 2008 LSA.

6. After you have consulted the most recent monthly LSA, use your browser's Back button to return to the Browse the LSA page. At the Browse the LSA page, click **List of CFR Sections Affected Main Page**. This page is located at <www.gpoaccess.gov/lsa/index.html>. Then click **Last Month's List of CFR Parts Affected** in the middle of the page. This step may be unnecessary, depending upon the availability of the most recent LSA.

GPO Access

Resourced by Topic Site Search

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE JUDICIAL HELP ABOUT

A-Z Resource List Find a Federal Depository Library Buy Publications

Home Page > Executive Branch > List of CFR Sections Affected

List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA): Main Page

The List of CFR Sections Affected lists proposed, new, and amended Federal regulations that have been published in the Federal Register since the most recent revision date of a CFR title. Each LSA issue is cumulative and contains the CFR part and section numbers, a description of its status (e.g., amended, confirmed, revised), and the Federal Register page number where the change(s) may be found. It is published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

NOTE: The LSA is issued monthly; however, on GPO Access, the LSA also contains three supplemental services: the List of CFR Parts Affected Today, Current List of CFR Parts Affected, and Last Month's List of CFR Parts Affected. [More](#)

2007 (Volume 72) Only

- Quick Search (ex: "executive order" AND "12947")
- [List of CFR Parts Affected Today](#)
- [Current List of CFR Parts Affected](#)
- [Last Month's List of CFR Parts Affected](#)

1985 through 2007

- [Search \(1997 forward\)](#)
- [Browse \(1997 forward\)](#)
- [Retrieve a Federal Register page \(1995 forward\)](#)
- [LSA Compilation \(1995-2000\)](#)
- [Search Tips](#)

Other Services

- [Sign up](#) to freely receive the daily Federal Register Table of Contents via e-mail.
- Find, review, and submit comments on Federal rules that are open for comment and published in the Federal Register using [Regulations.gov](#)
- Purchase a subscription to the printed edition of the Federal Register.
- Find issues of the Federal Register (including issues prior to 1994) at a local [Federal depository library](#).

DATABASE FEATURES

- List of CFR Sections Affected Main Page
- Browse the LSA
- Search
- Search Tips
- Retrieve a Federal Register Page
- LSA Compilation, 1995-2000
- About the List of CFR Sections Affected

RELATED RESOURCES

- Federal Register
- Regulations.gov
- Unified Agenda
- Code of Federal Regulations
- Search all Regulatory Applications
- All NARA Publications

ABOUT GOVERNMENT

Open Guide to U.S. Government

Acadef Reader

Last Month's
List of CFR
Parts Affected

7. Check to see if your CFR part or section has been affected by looking for final rules or proposed rules. If there has been a change, the LSA will refer you to the pages in the *Federal Register* on which the change is published.

The CFR Parts Affected During February table covers changes to 5 C.F.R. § 950.101 from February 1, 2008, through February 29, 2008.

Last Month's List of CFR Parts Affected

This page lists only the CFR parts affected by change(s) during the last month. It will be maintained online until publication of the LSA List of CFR Sections Affected for that month.

Updated March 3, 2008

CFR PARTS AFFECTED DURING FEBRUARY

3 CFR

Proclamations:	
6067 (See Notice of February 6, 2008).....	7408
1751 (See Notice of February 6, 2008).....	7458
8020.....	8020
Executive Orders:	
13250 (Revoked by 13483).....	8437
13338 (Revoked by 13483).....	8881
13298 (See Notice of February 8, 2008).....	7189
13399 (See 13483).....	8991
13457.....	8413
13458.....	7181
13459.....	8003
13460.....	8381
13461.....	9437
Administrative Orders:	
Memorandums:	
Memorandum of February 14, 2008.....	9109
Memorandum of March 19, 2002 (Revoked by EO 13461).....	9429
Notices:	
Notice of February 6, 2008.....	7459
Presidential Determinations:	
No. 2008-9 of January 22, 2008.....	6049
No. 2008-9 of January 28, 2008.....	6571
No. 2008-10 of January 28, 2008.....	6509
No. 2008-11 of February 11, 2008.....	10123
No. 2008-12 of February 19, 2008.....	10125

5 CFR

315.....	7187
540.....	7188
532.....	6367
753.....	7187
883.....	7188
884.....	8487
1203.....	8991, 10127
1205.....	10127
1207.....	6939

Note that there is a change to 5 C.F.R. § 950 listed as appearing on page 8587. You should examine this page of the 2008 *Federal Register* (volume 73) to confirm the changes.

8. After you have done this, use your browser's Back button to return to the List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA): Main Page. Click **Current List of CFR Parts Affected** in the middle of the page. This page lists only the CFR parts and sections affected by changes during the current month. It is a cumulative list that is updated daily. This page is located at <www.gpoaccess.gov/lsa/curlist.html>.

The screenshot shows the GPO Access website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation tabs for LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, JUDICIAL, HELP, and ABOUT. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Home Page > Executive Branch > List of CFR Sections Affected. The main heading is "List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA): Main Page". A paragraph explains that the LSA lists proposed, new, and amended Federal regulations. A search box is provided with a "Submit" button and a "(Search Tips)" link. Below the search box, there are two main sections: "2007 (Volume 72) Only" and "1985 through 2007". The "2007" section includes a "Quick Search" box and a "Submit" button. The "1985 through 2007" section lists various search options. A blue callout box on the right side of the page points to the "Current List of CFR Parts Affected" link in the "2007" section, with the text: "The Current List of CFR Parts Affected table for the current month (March 2008) covers changes to 5 C.F.R. § 950.101 from March 1, 2008, forward."

This page covers changes in the current month (March 2008). This cumulative list is updated daily (Monday through Friday), allowing you to update your CFR citation to the current day.

Current List of CFR Parts Affected

This page lists only the CFR parts affected by change(s) since the last monthly issue of the LSA (List of CFR Sections Affected). It is updated daily from changes published in the Federal Register. (Last Month's Cumulative List of CFR Parts Affected will continue to be made available until publication of the LSA.) Though already incorporated in the Current List of CFR Parts Affected, the List of CFR Parts Affected Table is extracted from each issue of the daily Federal Register to assist those monitoring changes on a daily basis.

The information is being made available electronically prior to incorporation in the next monthly issue of the LSA (List of CFR Sections Affected). Other than the Federal Register, no federally-printed counterpart exists for this information and no PDF (Portable Document Format) version is being made available.

Updated March 5, 2008

CFR Title	Page
1 CFR	
Proclamations:	
3221	11913
3229	11515
3223	11930
3224	12001
Executive Orders:	
13233 (See 13462)	11805
12863 (Repealed by 13462)	11505
12956 (See 13462)	11805
12966 (See 13462)	11805
13210 (See Notice of March 4, 2008)	12000
13371 (See Notice of March 4, 2008)	12000
13482	11805
Administrative Orders:	
Notice of March 4, 2008	12000
2 CFR	
56	11517
70	11517
246	11505
457	11514, 11516
786	11519
930	11525
954	11526
1212	11470
3565	11811
Proposed Rules:	
951	11340
1212	11470
1240	11470
15 CFR	
197	11340
24 CFR	
39	11344, 11347, 11527, 11529, 11531, 11534, 11536, 11538, 11542, 11544, 11545, 11812
87	11531

9. If there has been a change to the regulation, the LSA will reference the pages in the *Federal Register* that include these changes.

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