

Steps In Using the *Code of Federal Regulations*

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| DESCRIPTION OF STEP | Print | GPO Access / e-CFR | Westlaw / LexisNexis |
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| STEP 1: Identify Pertinent Regulations | | | |
| Use “ index ” approach to identify CFR sections by subject; the name of appropriate agency is often a useful search term | Use “CFR Index” in CFR Index and Finding Aids volume at end of set Use West’s Code of Federal Regulations General Index [KF70.A34 W4] | GPO Use “Quick Search” box on CFR “Main Page” to search entire CFR e-CFR Use “simple” or “advanced” search pages | W Subj. search in U.S. Fed. Materials → Admin. Rules & Regs → CFR-Current Version L Subj. search in Fed. Legal-U.S. → CFR |
| Use “ outline ” approach to identify CFR sections by subject | Use “List of CFR Titles, Chapters, Subchapters and Parts” in CFR Index and Finding Aids volume at end of set | GPO Click on “Browse and/or Search” link on CFR “Main Page” → select title (s) → select chapter or part → continue to relevant §§ e-CFR Use “Browse” page | W Go to CFR database → click “Table of Contents” tab → select title (s) → select chapter or part → continue to relevant §§ L Go to Federal Legal-U.S. → CFR; click + to expand levels until you find relevant §§ |
| Use “ enabling statute ” as access point to identify CFR sections promulgated under its authority | Use “Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules” in CFR Index and Finding Aids volume at end of set | Use electronic version of “Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules,” <i>available at</i> http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/parallel/parallel_table.html | W In CFR database, use “Credit” (CR) field to search for USC § L In CFR database, use “Authority” segment to search for USC § |
| STEP 2: Retrieve Text of Pertinent Regulations | | | |
| Locate and read CFR section(s) identified in Step 1 • review other §§ in regulatory scheme for relevance • may review “source” (FR) where reg. originally published | Using most current edition of CFR available, go to title and section number(s) • review surrounding sections • go to FR listed as source, review comments made by issuing agency at time reg. was promulgated | • have to review section by section • the FR source(s) are listed at end of §; for FR from 1995–present, can use “Retrieve an FR Page” function; for earlier FR cites, must use print or other source for FR | W •Use Table of Contents link to get regulatory scheme OR use “next/previous section” functionality •Use “Source” link to get to FR L •Use TOC view or “Book Browse” •Use “History” to get to FR link |
| STEP 3: Update Pertinent Regulations | | | |
| Determine whether regulation(s) has been amended since last published in CFR | • Consult most current LSA: List of CFR Sections Affected (pub. monthly) under title & section of regulation(s) • Consult “ Cumulative List of CFR Parts Affected ” in last <i>Federal Register</i> issue of each month <i>not</i> covered by latest LSA | • Use link to LSA (on left-frame) → Click on “Browsing” link → Select most recent month of LSA available after date of CFR → Select title → browse for § you are updating • click on “Current List of CFR Parts Affected” (on left-frame) → browse list | W Use “History” KeyCite link (red flag) on left frame to display any changes after “current through” date L Search FR source for the CFR citation, restricting to period after “current through” date |