

## *Finding Federal Regulations at the Flint Public Library* *Print and Online Resources*

### **ABOUT FEDERAL REGULATIONS:**

Whenever Congress passes a federal law, it must be implemented and enforced. Thus, various regulatory agencies (such as the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others) that deal with that law create Federal Regulations. Federal Regulations are the rules that detail the implementation, administration, and enforcement of federal laws.

### **SOURCES OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS:**

#### **PRINT SOURCES:**

- **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)** (Ref 350 Co, in the Law Aisle) is the official annual compilation of general and permanent federal rules. Regulations are grouped by the regulatory agencies into 50 titles and subdivided into chapters, parts, and sections. Regulations in the *CFR* are ordered by title number.
- **The Federal Register (FR)** (Ref 353 Fe, in the Law Aisle) is published every federal working day, and arrives at the Library about two weeks later. It includes proposed and final regulations, Presidential proclamations and executive orders, legal notices, and information from federal agencies. It includes a list of “CFR Parts Affected During (Current Month)”, which is cumulative each month.
- **List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA)** (in the Law Aisle) is a monthly publication that lists which sections of the *CFR* have been changed recently, what types of changes have been made, and the page in the *FR* that details those changes. Together, these *LSAs* make up the annual revision of the *CFR*.

#### **ONLINE SOURCES:**

- **GPO Access: Code of Federal Regulations (GPO: CFR)** is an online database at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>. It contains all *CFR* titles since 1996, including a separate search box for “Most Current Data.”
- **GPO Access: The Federal Register (GPO: FR)** is at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. It includes the text of the *FR* from 1994 through today.

### **HOW TO FIND FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON A TOPIC:**

- Use the **CFR Index and Finding Aids** (kept with the **CFR**). The main index is by subject, and the “Alphabetical List of Agencies Appearing in the *CFR*” is by agency or department. Both will tell you the title and chapter of the *CFR* that relates to that subject or is governed by that agency.
- You may also search **GPO: CFR** (online source) by keyword to find relevant chapters.

### **HOW TO FIND FEDERAL REGULATIONS BY NUMBER:**

17                      CFR                      41.23



**Title**

**Code of Federal Regulations**

**Chapter and part**

- Look in the volume of the **CFR** that contains that title. Chapters are in numeric order within each title, and parts are in numeric order within each part.
- Use **GPO:CFR** (online source). In the Quick Search box, enter the number as

“17CFR41.23”. Put the citation in quotes, and do not use any spaces.

#### **HOW TO FIND THE AUTHORITY FOR A FEDERAL REGULATION:**

- In the **CFR**, the authority note is listed at the beginning of the chapter, after the table of contents. In the **FR**, the authority note is at the beginning of a proposed or final regulation (after the summary and background information). Authority notes reference the sections of the United States Code and the specific Public Law that authorize the regulations.

#### **HOW TO FIND FEDERAL REGULATIONS UNDER A SPECIFIC AUTHORITY:**

- The **CFR Index and Finding Aids** (kept with the **CFR**) contains a “Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules.” The left column lists the authority (U.S. Code, Public Law, or other source), and the right column lists the parts of the **CFR** containing regulations under that authority.
- Use **GPO: FR** (online source) to search various volumes using the federal citation (usually a section of the U.S. Code).

#### **HOW TO TRACE THE HISTORY OF A CFR SECTION:**

- A source note at the beginning of the chapter (after the contents) or the end of the part of the **CFR** lists when that chapter or part first appeared in the **FR**. The back of each volume of the **CFR** has a “List of CFR Sections Affected” back to 2001. This list reports amendments by year.

#### **HOW TO FIND AMENDMENTS TO A FEDERAL REGULATION:**

- Check the cover of the **CFR** volume you are using to find the date it was revised. Consult the **LSA** issues since that date, looking for the title and chapter number of the regulation. If it appears, look for the page number listed in the right column. The page number refers to the page of the **FR** where the amendment was published. Look in the back of the **LSA** for a table that tells you which **FR** pages fall in which issues.
- Then check **FR** issues published since the most recent **LSA**. Check the list, “CFR Parts Affected During (Current Month)” for the end of each month (and at the last available date) since the most recent **LSA**. Again, the **FR** page number will be listed.
- Search by key word in **GPO: FR** (online source) of the most recent volume.

#### **HOW TO FIND PROPOSED REGULATIONS:**

- If you know the issuing agency, use the **FR** index for the time period, under that agency. Or you can look in the **FR** table of contents in each individual issue, which lists proposed rules by agencies and lists the **CFR** parts affected. If you know the corresponding **CFR** parts or sections, consult recent **LSAs**. Then look at the “List of CFR Sections Affected During (Current Month) in the last **FR** issue of each month since the most recent **LSA**. Parts to be affected by proposed rules are listed at the end of each title. Or, search the most recent volume of **GPO: FR** (online source) by agency or keywords.