Code of Federal Regulations: Tracking Updated Regulations

Christopher C. Brown
Government Documents Librarian
University of Denver, Main Library
cbrown@du.edu
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Abstract

Are you perplexed by regulations? The Code of Federal Regulations, the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register, is getting easier to use all the time with recent technology advances. We will review the function of the Code of Federal Regulations and the relationship with the Federal Register in the context of the federal rulemaking process. We will look at the traditional way of tracking changes to regulations, and then compare that with the new Electronic CFR (eCFR).
Relationship of .gov web sites

- **Reginfo.gov**
  - Regulatory Overview and Unified Agenda
- **Federal Register**
  - Federalregister.gov
  - Web version of FR, 1994+
- **govinfo**
  - Official PDF version of FR, 1936+
- **regulations.gov**
  - Public Commenting on Regs
Rulemaking 101: reginfo.gov
Published Annually in Quarterly Installments

• A full set of the CFR consists of approximately 200 volumes. The approximately 200 CFR volumes are revised at least once a year on a quarterly basis as follows:
  • Titles 1 -- 16 as of January 1
  • Titles 17 -- 27 as of April 1
  • Titles 28 -- 41 as of July 1
  • Titles 42 -- 50 as of October 1
CFR History

• A Research Guide to the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations. From Law Librarian’s Society of Washington, DC.  
  https://www.llsdc.org/fr-cfr-research-guide

“The Federal Register, faithfully prepared and published every workday since 1936, and the annual Code of Federal Regulations which it supplements, are considered to be the core documents of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government, and as such have become indispensable to the Government’s operations and to its communication to the public which it serves.”

Code of Federal Regulations
Traditional Way of Cross-walking from FR to CFR

Tedious
Time-consuming
Troublesome
Traditional Way of CFR to FR Lookup

• Check current CFR
• Check any cumulations of LSA
• Check monthly LSA
• Check FR cumulated indexed
• Check daily FR indexes
Traditional Way: Check Current CFR

- Check most recent CFR volume and see when it was published.
Traditional Way: Check Any LSA Compilations

• Check LSA Compilations (but there haven’t been any published since April 2002)
Traditional Way: Check Monthly LSA

- Check LSA Monthly since last CFR, in this case, every month since January, 2020. But you can look for the Annual Edition, if it exists:
Traditional Way: Check Federal Register (Indexes first, then each day)

- Look for the section of CFR you are interested in, then go to the relevant page in the Federal Register
That’s Time-Consuming and Painful

And now it is unnecessary!
Current eCFR Version

https://www.ecfr.gov/
Beta eCFR Version – Even Better
Beta eCFR

• View daily changes, title by title, “on or before” a date, or “on or after” a date
• Browse by title
• Browse by agency
• Point-in-Time system
• Subscribe to changes to sections you want to track
  • Changes in CFR titles
  • Changes to keyword searches
Subscriptions Notify You of Changes
See example of changes for 40 CFR 1601

https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/compare/2017-09-29/to/2017-09-28/title-40/chapter-VI/part-1601
Three Views for Beta eCFR

• Table of Contents View
• Agency View
• Changes View
# Table of Contents

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<th>Titles</th>
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<td>Title 1 :: General Provisions</td>
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<td>Title 9 :: Animals and Animal Products</td>
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<td>Title 21 :: Food and Drugs</td>
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Agency View – some agencies show up in various parts of CFR
Changes View – From TOC
Changes View – Recent Changes
Changes View – Between any two points in time
Subscribe to Changes
Subscribe to Changes in your Keyword Searches

Sign up first, then receive emails for updated CFR content
Live Demo of
https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/
Questions

Chris Brown, University of Denver, Main Library
cbrown@du.edu