



# ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

ACUS is an independent federal agency that develops recommendations to improve administrative process and procedure. ACUS also arranges for the interchange of useful information to carry out its mission. ACUS Information Interchange Bulletins are intended to help agencies and the public understand the administrative process. They should not be relied upon as legal documents.

## Information Interchange Bulletin No. 001

# Federal Register Publication Requirements

### What is the *Federal Register*?

The *Federal Register* is the federal government's daily journal. The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) of the National Archives and Records Administration publishes it every business day. The *Federal Register* is available in print and online at [govinfo.gov](http://govinfo.gov) and [federalregister.gov](http://federalregister.gov).

### What is the *Code of Federal Regulations*?

The CFR is a special edition of the *Federal Register* that codifies all agency documents that have "general applicability and legal effect" and which agencies rely on, invoke, or use as authority for their functions (44 U.S.C. § 1510(a)). Agencies work with OFR to ensure all documents having general applicability and legal effect are codified in the CFR (1 C.F.R. § 8.7). The CFR is available in print and online at [ecfr.gov](http://ecfr.gov) and [govinfo.gov](http://govinfo.gov).

### What is the *Privacy Act Compilation*?

OFR publishes a biennial compilation of all agency descriptions of systems of records maintained on individuals, agency recordkeeping policies and practices, and agency rules on how individuals may request information about themselves (5 U.S.C. § 552a). The *Privacy Act Compilation* is available online at [govinfo.gov](http://govinfo.gov).

### What must agencies publish in the *Federal Register*?

Federal statutes require agencies to publish the following materials in the *Federal Register*. This is not an exhaustive list. Agencies must comply with all publication requirements specified by law or policy.

Presidential delegations of authority	3 U.S.C. § 301
Notices of proposed rulemaking	5 U.S.C. § 553
Substantive rules of general applicability	5 U.S.C. § 552
Statements of general policy	5 U.S.C. § 552
Interpretations of general applicability	5 U.S.C. § 552
Descriptions of agency organization	5 U.S.C. § 552
Descriptions of how to obtain, submit, and request information	5 U.S.C. § 552
Statements of functions	5 U.S.C. § 552
Rules of procedure	5 U.S.C. § 552
Descriptions of forms and how to obtain them	5 U.S.C. § 552
Instructions as to scope and contents of papers, reports, and examinations	5 U.S.C. § 552
Privacy Act systems of records notices	5 U.S.C. § 552a
Open meeting notices	5 U.S.C. § 552b
Negotiated rulemaking notices	5 U.S.C. § 564-65
Regulatory flexibility agendas	5 U.S.C. § 602
Periodic review of rules notices	5 U.S.C. § 610
Lists of career-reserved positions	5 U.S.C. §§ 3132, 3393
Advisory committee charters and meeting notices	5 U.S.C. App. 2
Executive orders, presidential proclamations, and other presidential documents	44 U.S.C. § 1505
Information collection notices	44 U.S.C. § 3507

### Additional Resources

Admin. Comm. of the Fed. Reg., Regulations, [1 C.F.R. ch. 1](#).  
Amy Bunk, *Federal Register 101* (Spring 2010).  
Office of the Federal Register, [archives.gov/federal-register](http://archives.gov/federal-register).  
ACUS Rec. [2019-3](#), *Public Availability of Agency Guidance Documents*.  
ACUS Rec. [2019-1](#), *Agency Guidance Through Interpretive Rules*.  
ACUS Rec. [2018-7](#), *Public Engagement in Rulemaking*.  
ACUS Rec. [2018-5](#), *Public Availability of Adjudication Rules*.  
ACUS Rec. [2017-5](#), *Agency Guidance Through Policy Statements*.  
ACUS Rec. [2014-3](#), *Guidance in the Rulemaking Process*.  
ACUS Rec. [2014-2](#), *Government in the Sunshine Act*.  
ACUS Rec. [2012-4](#), *Paperwork Reduction Act*.  
ACUS Rec. [2011-7](#), *Federal Advisory Committee Act*.