

“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation...” *Isaiah 28:16*

Research Cornerstones **Federal Regulations and Rules**

Rules and regulations of federal agencies are first published in the *Federal Register*, which comes out each business day. They are eventually published in the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)*, which is a subject compilation of the rules and regulations in effect at the time of its publication. The *CFR* is reissued annually.

The *CFR* is divided into 50 subject areas, called titles. The title numbers of the *CFR* roughly match those of the *United States Code*. For example, in both the *CFR* and the *United States Code*, title 26 covers taxation. The individual titles are arranged into chapters according to the issuing agency. The chapters are then divided into parts, which are further divided into sections. For example, the citation **14 CFR § 1240.100 (1999)** refers to title 14, part 1240, section 100 of the 1999 *CFR*.

The *CFR* is revised once a year, but not all at one time. It is revised according to the following schedule:

- Titles 1 through 16 - as of January 1
- Titles 17 through 27 - as of April 1
- Titles 28 through 41 - as of July 1
- Titles 42 through 50 - as of October 1

UPDATING THE CFR:

Do **not** forget to update your research. Your regulation may have been amended or repealed. To update a *CFR* section, complete the following steps:

Pull the *CFR* volume that contains the section you want to update. Look on the front cover and note the date of revision printed there. This date tells you how current that volume of the *CFR* is.

Go to the pamphlets called *LSA: List of CFR Sections Affected ("LSA")*. The *LSA* is kept next to the *CFR*. Find the most recent issue.

Look at the dates on the first page of the *LSA* to see how current the *LSA* is. Coverage should begin the day after the revision date of your *CFR* volume.

Find your regulation's title number and then check if your section is listed in this issue. It will be listed if it has been amended or repealed, and you will be referred to pages in the *Federal Register* for the text of any changes. Also look for any proposed regulations. In the *LSA*, proposed regulations are listed at the end of each title.

Now you need to switch your attention to the *Federal Register*. Check the last issue of each complete month of the *Federal Register* not included in the *LSA*. For example, if the coverage of the *LSA* ends December 31, 1999 and it is now March 2000, check the last issue of the *Federal Register* for January

and February. Look at the table in the back of each of these issues of the *Federal Register* called *CFR Parts Affected During [month]*. (Substitute the name of the current month.)

The last step in updating your *C.F.R.* research in print is to check the table of *CFR Parts Affected During [month]* in the most recent issue of the *Federal Register*.

SHEPARD'S:

Shepard's Code of Federal Regulations Citations lists citations to regulations in federal and state court opinions, law review articles, and *ALR* annotations.

THE *CFR* ONLINE:

- **Lexis:** The *CFR* is in the GENFED library, CFR file, and the *Federal Register* is in the GENFED library, FEDREG file.

- **Westlaw:** The *CFR* is in the CFR database, and the *Federal Register* is in the FR database.

- **Web:**

The URL for the *CFR* is:

- <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html> (National Archives and Records Administration)
- <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/> (Cornell Law School)

The URL for the *Federal Register* is:

- <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> (National Archives and Records Administration)

The URL for the *LSA: List of CFR Sections Affected* is:

- <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/lsa/about.html> (National Archives and Records Administration)