

## **WHAT IS A REGULATION? HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM A LAW?**

A regulation is promulgated by a Federal agency, as authorized or required by law. A regulation is a requirement, or set of requirements, that have general applicability and future effect, and which the agency intends to have the force and effect of law.

Regulations are published in the daily issues of the Federal Register. They are codified, annually, in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Regulations are authorized or required by legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. This is why we refer to certain statutes, or laws, as “authorizing legislation,” or “our authorities.”

The laws under which an agency operates are first published as a “slip law.” Slip laws are compiled annually into the U.S. Statutes at Large. These statutes are codified in the U.S. Code (U.S.C.).

### The CFR

The complete Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is divided into 50 titles. Some titles have more than one volume. The 50 titles together contain the regulations of all the various Federal agencies.

Each title of the CFR is divided into chapters, subchapters, parts, subparts (in some parts), sections, and paragraphs. Each part begins with a table of contents that lists each section of the regulation. The legal authority for the part follows the table of contents. The first section of each part is usually a list of definitions for that part.

The CFR is revised annually, at different times of the year for different titles.

### The Federal Register

Although the CFR is revised only once a year, new regulations and changes to existing regulations may be issued and take effect at any time. Changes, and proposed changes, to Federal regulations are published daily in the Federal Register.

The Federal Register publishes a monthly list of CFR sections affected by new regulations (called the LSA). Also, every Federal Register contains a list of all CFR sections affected so far that month.