

SUBCHAPTER F—RECORDS

PART 81—PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE RECORDS

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- 81.1 Purpose and scope of part.
- 81.2 Administration.
- 81.3 Definitions.
- 81.4 Requests for identifiable records.
- 81.5 Records originating outside GAO, or records involving work in progress.
- 81.6 Records which may be exempt from disclosure.
- 81.7 Fees and charges.
- 81.8 Public reading facility.

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 711.

SOURCE: 49 FR 38527, Oct. 1, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 81.1 Purpose and scope of part.

This part implements the policy of the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) with respect to the public availability of GAO records. While GAO is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), GAO's disclosure policy follows the spirit of the act consistent with its duties and functions and responsibility to the Congress. Application of this act to GAO is not to be inferred from the provisions of these regulations.

§ 81.2 Administration.

The administration of this part is the duty and responsibility of the Director, Office of Policy (OP), U.S. General Accounting Office, 441 G Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20548, and to that end the Director shall promulgate such supplemental rules or regulations as may be necessary.

§ 81.3 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Identifiable* means a reasonably specific description of a particular record sought, such as the date of the record, subject matter, agency or person involved, etc., which will permit location or retrieval of the record.

(b) *Records* includes all books, papers, manuals, maps, photographs, reports, and other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics under the control of GAO in pur-

suance of law or in connection with the transaction of public business. In the context of a request for a record or records, the term "records" refers only to a record in being and under the control of GAO. It does not include the compiling or procuring of a record. Nor does it include library or museum material made or acquired and preserved solely for reference or exhibition purposes, or extra copies of documents preserved only for convenience of reference. It is intended that GAO publications are not within the purview of this order. GAO published reports and decisions or listing of reports should be obtained from the U.S. General Accounting Office, Information Handling and Support Facility (IHSF), P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, Md. 20877, phone (202) 275-6241.

(c) *Records available to the public* means records which may be examined or copied or of which copies may be obtained, in accordance with this part, by the public or representatives of the press regardless of interest and without specific justification.

(d) *Disclose or disclosure* means making available for examination or copying, or furnishing a copy.

(e) *Person* includes an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or public or private organization other than a Federal agency.

§ 81.4 Requests for identifiable records.

(a) A request to inspect or obtain a copy of an identifiable record of GAO must be submitted in writing to the Director, OP (see §81.2), who will promptly acknowledge and record the request.

(b) The Director, OP, or other GAO organizational unit will promptly honor the request if no valid objection exists to the propriety of such action and the requester is willing and able to pay the prescribed fees for making the record available for inspection or copying or being provided with a copy.

(c) In the event of an objection or doubt as to the propriety of providing the requester with a copy of the record