



FLRA NEWS

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THE FLRA ISSUES REVISED REGULATIONS

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) announced today that it recently issued revised Regulations making some important updates intended, among other things, to clarify and streamline the processes for requesting information from the FLRA as well as filing and serving documents in proceedings before the FLRA. The revised Regulations can be found at: www.flra.gov/regulations.

The first revision announced is to the FLRA's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Regulations, and results in regulations that are easier for FOIA requesters to follow. The revised Regulations – the first significant modifications to the regulations since 1980 -- took effect on October 1, 2009, and are intended to comply with a host of laws and Executive Orders, including the OPEN (Openness Promotes Effectiveness in Our National) Government Act of 2007, E-FOIA (Electronic FOIA Amendments of 1996), and Executive Order 13,392, which requires agencies to review and improve FOIA operations.

In addition, the FLRA made some key technical amendments to its Regulations that will take effect on November 9, 2009. These technical revisions are set forth in the following parts of 5 C.F.R.: 2415 (employee responsibilities and conduct); 2416 (enforcement of nondiscrimination based on disability in providing access to FLRA programs); 2424 (negotiability proceedings); and 2429 (general procedural requirements).

Of particular significance are the revisions made to 5 C.F.R. part 2429 that are amended to treat filing or service of documents by commercial delivery in the same way as filing or service by U.S. Mail. The FLRA eliminated the difference between the two types of filings because it had been confusing to parties and resulted in several untimely filings. The revision makes it easier for parties and the FLRA to determine timeliness. The FLRA also reduced the number of copies that must be filed in a proceeding before the Authority (in addition to the original) from five (5) to four (4). Finally, the Office of Administrative Law Judges and the Authority now require tables of contents in filings exceeding ten double-spaced pages. As a result of the latter change, which applies in all case types, the existing requirement that had applied only to negotiability filings, is deleted.

The FLRA administers the labor-management relations program for 1.9 million non-Postal Federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.1 million of whom are represented in 2,200 bargaining units. It is charged with providing leadership in establishing policies and guidance related to Federal sector labor-management relations and with resolving disputes under and ensuring compliance with the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute.

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