



FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS

## - NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **How the Federal Rule-making Process Works**

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, December 17, 2010 - Vicki Rolens, Managing Director of the Federation of American Consumers (FACT), is publishing information about how the federal regulations we all must live by come into existence.

“To the outsider, at least, the whole process seems very convoluted,” Rolens says. “There are innumerable government agencies, often under the auspices or oversight of other government agencies, charged with turning an Act of Congress into a cogent set of regulations.”

The regulation-writers, she says, have broad freedoms. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), for example, can pick up the Controlled Substances Act -- or one of countless other Acts -- and write legislation which the FDA feels is necessary to the implementation and enforcement of that Act.

“Theoretically,” Rolens says, “regulations made in the wake of an Act of Congress reflect that Act’s intent, are able to be practicably implemented, and can be legally enforced. In actuality, it seems to be quite a stretch for a regulatory body which may be twice (or thrice!) removed from an Act’s creators -- particularly when that Act is rather hastily put together -- to know precisely where the boundaries are drawn, or even if there are any boundaries.”

Rolens points out that there are, however, certain rule-making rules:

“There’s a law,” she says, “called the Administration Procedure Act (APA). Under the APA, an agency must publish all proposed new regulations in the Federal Register at least 30 days before they take effect. Also, there must be provisions whereby an interested party can make comments, objections and/or suggestions.”

Anyone who wants to attempt to keep on top of rules, amended rules and proposed rules may visit the [Federal Register](#) Web site. Visitors also can find executive orders and presidential documents there.

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This news release has been issued by the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT), a consumer organization formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984. FACT serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the Encyclopedia of Associations, and by visiting the association's Web site ([www.usafact.org](http://www.usafact.org)). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. The association does not offer support to -- and does not receive support from -- any political party or movement. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from medical insurance and dental discounts to prescription drug savings and scholarships. FACT’s administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025

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