

24.203 Policy.

(a) The Act specifies, among other things, how agencies *shall* make their records available upon public request, imposes strict time standards for agency responses, and exempts certain records from public disclosure. Each agency's implementation of these requirements is located in its respective title of the *Code of Federal Regulations* and referenced in subpart 24.2 of its implementing *acquisition* regulations.

(b) *Contracting officers* may receive requests for records that *may* be exempted from mandatory public disclosure. The exemptions most often applicable are those relating to *classified information*, to trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information, to interagency or intra-agency memoranda, or to personal and medical information pertaining to an individual. Other exemptions include agency personnel practices, and law enforcement. Since these requests often involve complex issues requiring an in-depth knowledge of a large and increasing body of court rulings and policy guidance, *contracting officers* are cautioned to comply with the implementing regulations of their agency and to obtain necessary guidance from the agency officials having Freedom of Information Act responsibility. If additional assistance is needed, authorized agency officials *may* contact the Department of Justice, Office of Information and Privacy. A Freedom of Information Act guide and other resources are available at the Department of Justice website under FOIA reference materials: <http://www.usdoj.gov/oip>.

Parent topic: Subpart 24.2 - Freedom of Information Act