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Public Comments  
Invited on Proposed  
U.S. Department of  
State Information  
Quality Guidelines

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Countries & Regions | International Topics & Issues | History, Education & Culture  
Business Center | Other Services | Employment

### Public Comments Invited on Proposed U.S. Department of State Information Quality Guidelines

**PURPOSE:** Recent Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines require federal agencies to make available on their websites, no later than October 1, 2002, guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by Federal agencies, including "administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information maintained and disseminated by the agency that does not comply with the OMB guidelines."

The Department of State (the "Department") seeks public comments on the following proposed guidelines covering pre-dissemination information quality control and an administrative mechanism for requests for correction of information publicly disseminated by the Department of State, including a proposed new form for all such requests. Submit comments by May 31, 2002:

Email to [dnewman@pd.state.gov](mailto:dnewman@pd.state.gov)  
Fax to David S. Newman, U.S. State Department: (202) 619-4573.

The comments received by the Department may be reported in whole or in part to OMB in the context of the Department's submission of proposed guidelines for OMB review. The comments will become a matter of public record. Revised Department guidelines, following OMB review, will be available on the Department's website. Notice of the availability of these guidelines will be published in the Federal Register on or before October 1, 2002. The Department's guidelines may be revised periodically to address the needs of the Department and concerns expressed by the public.

**BACKGROUND:** These guidelines are proposed in accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Guidelines issued on January 3, 2002 (67 FR 369-378), as corrected and reprinted on February 22, 2002 (67 FR 8451-8460). The OMB guidelines were issued pursuant to Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for FY 2001 (Public Law 106-554; HR 5658), which directed OMB to issue government-wide guidelines providing guidance to Federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information, including statistical information, disseminated by Federal agencies. In accordance with these provisions, each Federal agency is obligated to:

1. Issue by October 1, 2002, its own information quality guidelines ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information, including statistical information, disseminated by the agency;
2. Establish administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information maintained and disseminated by the agency that does not comply with these OMB guidelines; and
3. Report annually to the Director of OMB, beginning January 1, 2004, the number and nature of complaints received by the agency regarding agency compliance with these OMB guidelines concerning the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information and how such complaints were resolved.

Consistent with OMB guidance, the Department's guidelines rely on existing Department practice, to the extent it is consistent with the OMB guidelines, while adopting a new administrative mechanism to satisfy the new procedural requirements. The Department's guidelines reflect its internal procedures for reviewing and substantiating information to maximize quality, including the objectivity, utility, and integrity of information, before it is

disseminated. The administrative mechanism allows affected persons to seek and obtain, where appropriate, correction of information disseminated by the Department that does not comply with these guidelines and those published by OMB.

- [Proposed U.S. Department of State Information Quality Guidelines](#)
- [Proposed FORM DS-\\_\\_\\_"Request for Correction of Public Information"](#)

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