

## § 1263.100

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301, 42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(1).

SOURCE: 55 FR 28370, July 11, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

### § 1263.100 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part sets forth procedures to be followed with respect to the production or disclosure of official information or records and/or the testimony of present or former employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration relating to any official information acquired by any employee of NASA as part of the performance of that employee's official duties or by virtue of that employee's official status, where a demand for such production, disclosure, or testimony is issued in a federal, state, or other legal proceeding.

(b) This part does not apply to any legal proceeding in which an employee is to testify, while in leave status, as to facts or events that are in no way related to the official duties of that employee or to the functions of the NASA.

### § 1263.101 Definitions.

(a) *Agency*—As referred to in this regulation, Agency means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(b) *Demand*—A subpoena, order, or authorized request for official information, or for the appearance and testimony of NASA personnel, issued as the result of a legal proceeding.

(c) *Employee*—Includes all present and former officers and employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration who are or have been appointed by, or subject to the supervision, jurisdiction, or control of the Administrator of the agency.

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(d) *Legal proceeding*—Includes any proceeding before a court of law or equity, administrative board or commission, hearing officer, or other body conducting a legal or administrative proceeding.

(e) *Legal proceeding involving the United States*—Any proceeding before a court of law or equity brought on behalf of, or against the United States, NASA or NASA employees, and resulting from alleged NASA operations.

(f) *Official information*—All information of any kind, however stored, that is in the custody and control of NASA or was acquired by NASA personnel as part of official duties or because of official status while such personnel were employed by or on behalf of the NASA.

### § 1263.102 Procedure when a demand is issued in a legal proceeding involving the United States.

Whenever an employee or former employee of NASA receives a demand for production of materials or the disclosure of information, or for appearance and testimony as a witness in a legal proceeding in which NASA or the United States is a party, the employee shall immediately notify in writing the Installation Chief Counsel for Installation employees, the General Counsel for Headquarters employees, or the Attorney-Adviser to the Inspector General (IG) for IG employees. This notice must include copies of all pertinent legal documents and a summary of the employee's knowledge concerning the legal proceeding in question. When necessary, this information may be reported orally, followed by a written confirmation.

### § 1263.103 Procedure when a demand is issued in a legal proceeding not involving the United States.

Whenever an employee or former employee of the Agency receives a demand for production or disclosure of official information in a legal proceeding not involving the United States, the employee shall immediately notify the General Counsel or designate. In addition, the party causing the demand to be issued shall furnish the Office of General Counsel a written, detailed statement of the information sought and its relevance to the proceeding in

connection with which it is requested. The General Counsel or designate may waive the requirement that a written summary be furnished where he/she deems it unnecessary. The election to waive the requirement of a written summary in no way constitutes a waiver of any other requirements set forth in this section.

**§ 1263.104 Production, disclosure, or testimony prohibited unless approved.**

If an employee or former employee receives a demand to produce or disclose official information, that employee may not disclose such materials or information or testify regarding same without the prior approval of the General Counsel or designate.

**§ 1263.105 Considerations in determining whether production or disclosure should be made.**

The General Counsel or designate shall direct employees to honor all valid demands. In deciding whether a particular demand is valid, the General Counsel or designate may consider:

(a) Whether such disclosure or appearance is appropriate under the rules of procedure governing the legal proceeding in which the demand arose.

(b) Whether disclosure is appropriate under the relevant substantive law concerning privilege.

(c) Whether disclosure might improperly reveal trade secrets, or commercial or financial information that is confidential or privileged.

(d) Whether disclosure might reveal classified information.

(e) Whether disclosure would violate a specific applicable constitutional provision, federal statute or regulation, or executive order.

(f) Whether appearance of the requested employee would seriously implicate an interest of the Agency such as conservation of employee time for conducting official business, avoidance of expending appropriated monies for non-federal purposes, or avoidance of involving the agency in controversial issues not related to its mission.

**§ 1263.106 Final decision of the General Counsel as to production, disclosure, or appearance.**

After consideration of the factors enumerated in § 1263.105 (a) through (f), the General Counsel or designate may authorize the testimony, disclosure, or production as demanded; limit the subject matter or extent of any testimony, disclosure, or production through written instruction to the employee; or deny permission for any testimony, disclosure, or production. Where appropriate, the General Counsel or designate may seek withdrawal of the demand by the authorizing party. Any decision of the General Counsel or designate shall be final and shall be communicated to the employee and the party causing the demand to be issued.

**§ 1263.107 Procedure to be followed when response to a demand is required before the General Counsel or designate has reached a final decision.**

If a response to a demand is required before the General Counsel or designate can render a decision, the employee subpoenaed, or an agency attorney or other government attorney designated for that purpose, shall appear on behalf of the employee and shall furnish the authority which issued the demand a copy of these regulations, and inform the authority that the demand has been referred for the prompt consideration of the General Counsel, and shall respectfully request the authority to stay the demand until the General Counsel or designate has rendered a final decision.

**§ 1263.108 Procedure in the event of an adverse ruling.**

If the court or other authority which caused the demand to be issued declines to stay the effect of the demand pending a final decision by the General Counsel or designate; or if the General Counsel or designate directs that the employee may not comply with the demand, and a court or other authority rules that the demand must be complied with irrespective of that decision, the employee upon whom the demand has been made, or an agency or other