

## **General Guidance on the Copyright Status and Use of U.S. Government Publications**

### Rights Assessment is Your Responsibility

The following information is general guidance about the copyright status and use of U.S. Government works.

Those who wish to use in any way a work of the U.S. Government or parts of a work are responsible for the assessment of copyright or other restrictions and for the determination of the need to obtain permissions from rights holders.

For more details about copyright issues, please visit the [U.S. Copyright Office](#).

### General Copyright Information

The copyright law of the U.S. provides that: “Copyright protection under this title is not available for any work of the United States Government, but the United States Government is not precluded from receiving and holding copyrights transferred to it by assignment, bequest, or otherwise” ([17 U.S.C. § 105](#)).

The intent is to place in the public domain all work of the U.S. Government, defined as work prepared by an officer or employee of the United States Government as part of the person's official duties ([17 U.S.C. § 101](#)).

The prohibition on copyright protection for U.S. Government works is not intended to have any effect on protection of these works abroad.

By virtue of the foregoing, public documents can generally be reprinted without legal restriction. However, U.S. Government publications may contain copyrighted material which was used with permission of the copyright owner. Publication in a U.S. Government document does not authorize any use or appropriation of such material without consent of the copyright owner.

The Government Publishing Office operates in a printing and distribution capacity only, and has no jurisdiction over content or subject matter. It is advisable to consult with the originating department or agency, or the successor of the originating department or agency, prior to reprinting any given publication. In those instances in which permission to reprint material from U.S. Government publications is granted, customary credit should be given to the U.S. Government department or agency which prepared the material. In addition, whenever a work is published consisting predominantly of work of the U.S. Government, the copyright notice (if any) must identify those parts of the work in which copyright is claimed ([17 U.S.C. § 403](#)).

### Publications Produced under U.S. Government Contract or Grant

Publications produced under U.S. Government contract or grant may be copyrighted. The U.S. Government has permission to publish the work, and the contractor or grantee holds the copyright ([17 U.S.C. § 105](#), Historical and Revision Notes).

## Example of a 542 Field in a Test CGP Record

<b>074</b>	a 1020-A
<b>0860</b>	a Y 4.J 89/1:114-4
<b>088</b>	a Serial no. 114-4 (United States. Congress. House. Committee on the Judiciary)
<b>1101</b>	a United States.  b Congress.  b House.  b Committee on the Judiciary,  e author.
<b>24510</b>	a U.S. Copyright Office :  b its functions and resources : hearing before the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, first session, February 26, 2015.
<b>2463</b>	a United States Copyright Office
<b>264 1</b>	a Washington :  b U.S. Government Publishing Office,  c 2015.
<b>264 2</b>	a Washington, DC :  b For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Publishing Office
<b>300</b>	a iii, 139 pages ;  c 24 cm
<b>336</b>	a text  b txt  2 rdacontent
<b>337</b>	a unmediated  b n  2 rdamedia
<b>338</b>	a volume  b nc  2 rdacarrier
<b>5421</b>	n Works of the U.S. Government are not subject to copyright protection pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §105. This work may contain copyrighted material used with permission of the copyright owner. Learn more at:  u <a href="http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS93652">http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS93652</a>
<b>500</b>	a Shipping list no.: 2015-0239-P.
<b>504</b>	a Includes bibliographical references.
<b>500</b>	a "Serial no. 114-4."