

Requester Categories and Fees

The FOIA allows the FMCS to charge fees to process your FOIA request. If we estimate that the fees for processing your request will exceed \$25, we will not begin to process it without your permission. Fees are determined based on the type of requester you are (commercial use, news media/education/non-commercial scientific institution, and all others, including members of the general public) as set out in 29 C.F.R. 1401.36.

- Commercial use requesters such as law firms and businesses must pay for search and review time and reproduction costs.
- Requesters that qualify as news media/education/scientific/non-commercial scientific institution are not charged for search and review costs and only pay reproduction costs after the first 100 pages. If you are one of these organizations, you may request a fee waiver. You may request documents and a waiver of fees in the same request.
- Members of the general public pay search costs after the first two hours but do not pay review costs and only pay reproduction costs after the first 100 pages.

You may indicate in your request your willingness to pay fees and the amount. We will not process your request until we have an agreement with you about fees. If the fees total more than \$250, the FMCS may request payment in advance.

Fee Schedule

In accordance with 29 C.F.R. 1401.36, fees for processing FOIA requests depend on the status of the requester and the FMCS employee performing the search or review. See the charts below:

Requester Fee Categories

REQUESTER CATEGORY	SEARCHING	REVIEWING	DUPLICATION CHARGES
Commercial (including law firms)	Fee	Fee	Fee for all Duplication
Educational, Non-commercial Scientific Institution, or News Media	No Fee	No Fee	No Fee for first 100 pages

All other requesters (including members of the general public)	Fee after 2 hours	No Fee	No Fee for first 100 pages
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Search Fee Schedule

The current search and review fees are determined by the General Schedule (GS) salary level which is representative of the FMCS employee performing the initial search and review services. Please note, FMCS is authorized to recover search and review costs even if no responsive records are found or, after review, there is no disclosure of records.

FEE SCHEDULE	FEES
Reproduction Fees	\$0.20 per page
GS 9-14	\$37 per hour
GS 15>	\$61 per hour