

## The Federal Rulemaking Process

Government agencies are granted the authority to issue regulations by Congress. Agencies must follow an open public process when they issue regulations according to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Every year they published a "Unified Agenda" on regulations.gov and the Federal Register to announce future rulemaking activities and update the public on pending and completed regulatory actions. Petitions for rulemaking can also be submitted to an agency by a member of the public. Agencies will often issue an "Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" (ANPRM) in the Federal Register to invite the public an opportunity to shape the rule through the public comment process. Anyone interested may respond and submit comments aimed at developing and improving the proposed rule or recommend against it. Through this process, citizens, companies, industry associations, and other stakeholders have an opportunity to shape the outcome of the regulation.

- **Identify agencies that regulate areas the impact your business and review their Unified Agendas annually**
- **Monitor the Federal Register for ANPRM's that have an impact on your business**
- **Connect with internal stakeholders to understand the impact of the change and develop a point-of-view**

### Collaborate with Government Affairs

Larger organizations may have an individual or an entire team that works on policy matters. If you do, reach out to them to start a dialogue about the policy areas they are concerned with, and ask how you can help contribute to trade policy development to influence the outcome of regulatory changes.

- **Find out which industry associations they are using and how they are utilizing them**
- **Provide them your impact analysis & point-of-view**
- **Ask for updates to monitor the developments and strategize**

### Leverage Your Industry Associations

Industry Associations are designed to lobby on behalf of their membership. Understanding who at your company owns your Industry Association relationships, what their scope is, and how they are contributing to different areas of policy can help you decide how to best leverage their expertise.

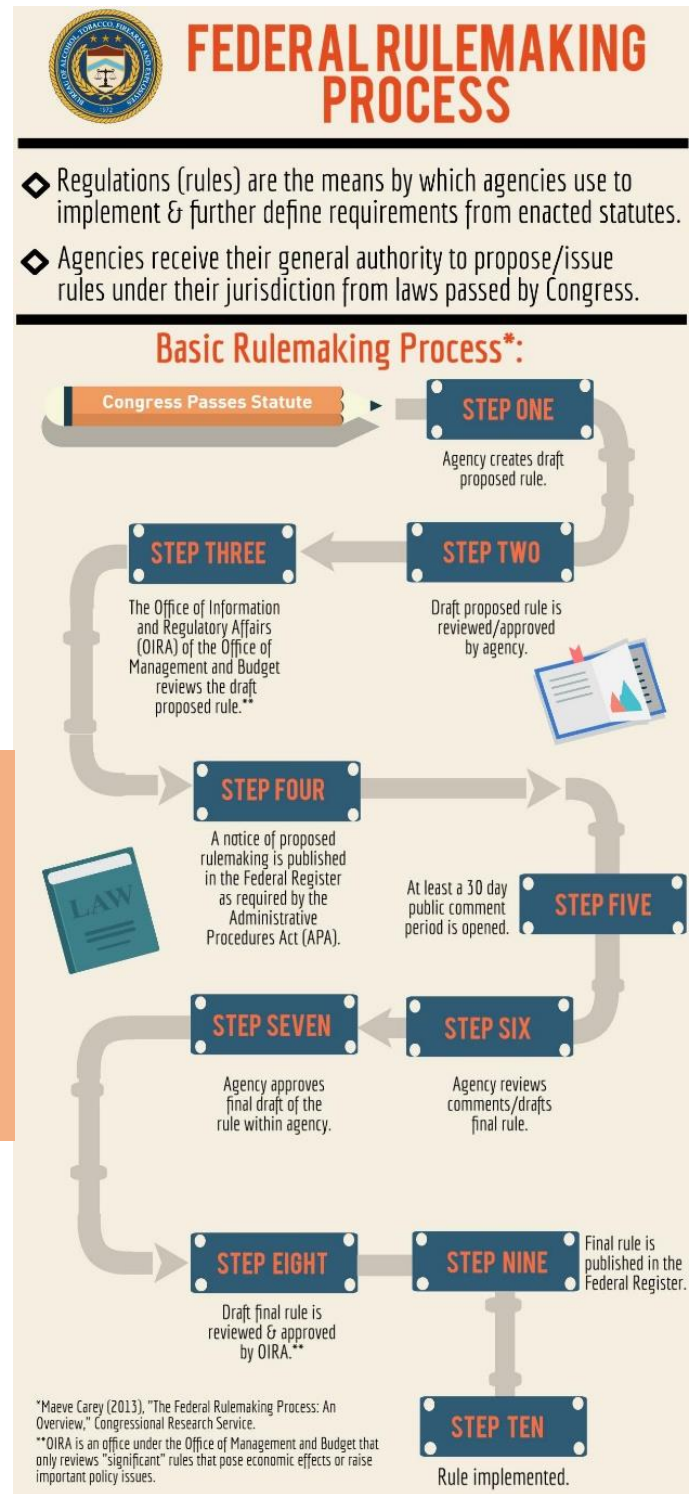
- **Ask your associations if they are responding, and get details on what their position is**
- **Review their statements and provide input, feedback and edits, where applicable**
- **Get their perspective on the industry opinion, tone, and impact**

### Speak for Yourself

If you are at a company that doesn't have any trade association memberships or have a public policy and government affairs resource on staff, you can still influence trade policy by commenting yourself on behalf of your company, or by leveraging a consultant.

- **Connect with stakeholders to get feedback and gain alignment on the impact and the content of your comment**
- **Review other published comments to help formulate your statement and support comments that have similar positions**
- **Communicate to leadership the potential impact and get approval to submit the drafted comment**

**Your Voice Matters. Contribute to the Conversation.**



<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>