



The ComLaw Home Page

Navigation Pane (for a description of each page, click on the **About this site** link)

Quick Search facility

Information about ComLaw (or the FRLI, if FRLI is selected from the Navigation pane)

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WHAT'S ON COMLAW?

ComLaw, incorporating the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI), is the legal information retrieval system owned by the Australian Attorney-General's Department. ComLaw is an integral part of the [Australian Law Online](#) initiative to bring low or no-cost access to the law for the community. ComLaw contains:

- Commonwealth primary legislation, as well as other ancillary documents and information, in electronic form, and
- the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) that was established on 1 January 2005 under the Legislative Instruments Act 2003 as the authoritative source for legislative instruments and compilations of legislative instruments.

ComLaw provides links to sites that provide access to State Legislation and Commonwealth and State Case Law.

BROWSING COMLAW/FRLI INFORMATION

1. Ensure the home page is displayed.

The facility to browse ComLaw information is available from the Navigation pane or on the home page.

Tip: To browse FRLI information only, in the Navigation pane, under the Look at heading, click on FRLI.

2. Scroll to the **Browse for** section or
In the Navigation pane, under the **Tools** heading, click on **Browse**.
3. From the **Browse for** drop-down list, select the category of legislation that you want to browse.
4. If required, from the **Classified as** drop-down list, select the classification of legislation you want to browse.
5. If required, from the **By** drop-down list, select how the returned instruments are to be grouped/sorted.

The Browse page will appear and depending on the options selected, either an alphabetical listing of groups or a list of hyperlink legislation will appear.

SEARCHING WITHIN BROWSE RESULTS

1. Ensure the Browse page is displayed and you are currently browsing the area to be searched.
2. In the **Search for** text box, type all or part of a keyword.
3. To restrict query responses to exact matches on the keyword, click in the **Exact matches** check box to select it.
4. Click on .

A list of matching legislation will appear.

DISPLAYING THE DETAILS OF THE LEGISLATION

1. If alphabetical groupings are displayed, click on the required alphabetical heading.

A list of legislation will appear.

2. Click on the hyperlink of the required legislation. Details of the legislation will appear. For an explanation of the items displayed on the page, and for instructions on how to work with the legislation attachments, refer to page 3.

ABOUT THE VIEW TABS

After selecting the category and sort options from the drop-down lists, the results will be grouped using view tabs. The appropriate view tabs will be displayed for the category chosen. Below is an example of the category Act Compilations being selected, Current and Superseded are the relevant view tabs.

The Search for facility enables you to search within the selected browse categories.

SEARCHING BY COMLAW/FRLI NUMBER

1. Ensure the ComLaw homepage is displayed or
In the Navigation pane, under the **Tools** heading, click on **Standard search**.
2. In the **ComLaw/FRLI Number** text box, type the Comlaw/FRLI number of the legislation.
3. Click on .

The ComLaw/FRLI legislation will appear. This search will only return one item.

SEARCHING BY SERIES YEAR AND NUMBER

1. Ensure the ComLaw homepage is displayed or
In the Navigation pane, under the **Tools** heading, click on **Standard search**.
2. Scroll to the **Find law by number and year** or **Do you know the Series year and number?** section.
3. In the **Year** text box, enter the year of the instrument.
4. In the **Number** text box, enter the number of the instrument.
5. To search for Acts, click on the **Acts (1973+)** radio button to select it.
or
To search for Select Legislative Instruments, click on the **Select Legislative Instruments (2005+)** radio button to select it.
or
To search for Statutory Rules, click in the **Statutory Rules (pre-2005)** radio button to select it.
6. Click on .

A list of matching legislation will appear.

Searching in ComLaw

SEARCHING BY TITLE/PHRASE

1. Ensure the ComLaw homepage is displayed
2. Scroll to the **Find Current Law** section.
3. To search by Title:
 - i. In the **Title** text box, enter all or part of the legislation's title.
 - ii. To limit searches to exact matches, click in the **Find exact matches only** check box to select it.

or

To search by Phrase:

- i. In the **Phrase** text box, enter a phrase to be found within either the title or text of the legislation.

Tip: If you type part of a keyword, type an asterisk at either end of the word to indicate a wild card search. For example: *ation or leg*.

Tip: You can refine the search by using Boolean operators such as AND, OR and NOT, followed by a second keyword.

4. Click on .

A list of matching legislation will appear.

SEARCHING FOR LAW AND RELATED MATERIALS

1. Ensure the ComLaw homepage is displayed
2. In the Navigation pane, under the **Tools** heading, click on **Standard Search**.
3. Scroll to the **Do you want to find any law or related materials?** section.
4. To find law and related materials that are current law, in the **Status** section click in the **Current Law** check box to select it.
5. To find law and related materials that are historical law, in the **Status** section click in the **Historical Law** check box to select it.

Tip: If neither box is chosen in the Status section all legislation and related materials will be searched.

6. To search for specific types of law and related materials, in the **And that is** section click in the any or all of the check boxes.

7. To search by Title:

- i. In the **Title** text box, enter all or part of the legislation's title.
- ii. To limit searches to exact matches, click in the **Find exact matches only** check box to select it.

or

To search by Phrase:

- i. In the **Phrase** text box, enter a phrase to be found within either the title or text of the legislation.

Tip: If you type part of a keyword, type an asterisk at either end of the word to indicate a wild card search. For example: *ation or leg*.

Tip: You can refine the search by using Boolean operators such as AND, OR and NOT, followed by a second keyword.

8. Click on .

A list of matching legislation will appear.

SEARCH OPTIONS

1. To restrict a search to a certain number of results:
 - i. Ensure the **Standard Search** screen is displayed.
 - ii. Enter the required search criteria.
 - iii. In the **Search Options** section, from the **Max Docs** drop-down list, select the maximum number of documents to be listed.
2. To restrict a search to either items only, full text of legislation or all items including related materials:
 - i. Ensure the **Standard Search** screen is displayed.
 - ii. Enter the required search criteria.
 - iii. In the **Search Options** section, from the **Restrict to Type** drop-down list, select the required restriction for the search.

3. Click on .

A list of matching legislation will appear.

REFINING A STANDARD SEARCH

1. Ensure the results of the previous standard search are displayed.
2. Scroll to the **Refine search** section.
3. To search within the previous search results, from the **Refine Search** drop-down list, select **Search within the current # results for** or
To search outside the previous search results, from the **Refine Search** drop-down list, select **Search outside the current # results for** or
To start a new search, from the **Refine Search** drop-down list, select **Start a New Search**.
4. In the adjacent text box, type all or part of a keyword.

5. Click on .

A refined list of legislation will appear.

SUBSCRIBING TO NOTIFY ME WHEN

1. In the Navigation pane, under the **Keep up to date** heading, click on **Notify me when**.

The Notify Me When subscription page will appear.

2. In the **Contact details** section, complete the three text boxes.
3. To be notified of NEW documents in the selected databases, click in the **I wish to know about NEW documents from the selected site(s) below** check box to select it
and/or
To be notified of MODIFIED documents in the selected databases, click in the **I wish to know about MODIFIED documents from the selected site(s) below** to select it.
4. Select or deselect the databases that you would like to search, by clicking in the corresponding database check boxes.
5. To be notified of ALL new/modified legislation, leave the asterisk (*) in the **Search Terms** text box
or
To restrict the notification to legislation containing particular words, in the **Search Terms** text box, type all or part of the required keyword(s).

Tip: You can refine the search by using Boolean operators such as AND, OR and NOT, between keywords.

SUBSCRIBING TO NOTIFY ME WHEN CONT...

6. In the **Security** section, in the **Enter Code** text box, type the **Security Code** that is displayed above the text box.

Tip: You must match the case and include the dash.

7. Click on .

8. A Subscription submitted page will appear and an activation e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address provided in step 2.

8. To activate the notification:

- i. Open your e-mail program (for example, Outlook or Lotus Notes).
- ii. Open the activation e-mail.
- iii. At the bottom of the activation e-mail, click on the activation link.

Your web browsing program will open and a ComLaw activation page will appear.

- iv. Close the open page.
- v. Close the confirmation e-mail.

Now, when your specified subscription options are met, an e-mail will be sent to you.

UNSUBSCRIBING FROM NOTIFY ME WHEN

1. Ensure your e-mail program is open.
2. Open any **Notify Me When** e-mail.
3. Click on the **Unsubscribe** link.

Your web browsing program will open and a ComLaw confirmation page advising that you have unsubscribed will appear.

4. Close the open browser window and then close the open e-mail message.

WANT TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

1. In the Navigation pane, under the **Keep up to date** heading, click on **Feedback**.

The Feedback page will appear.

2. From the **Feedback type** drop-down list, select the required option.
3. Complete the required text boxes.

4. Click on .

Working with Legislation in ComLaw

A Series Home page

Customs Act 1901 ← Series name
Series Home Page

Number: No. 6, 1901
Brief Description: An Act relating to the Customs
Lodgment Type: Act

Series details

View tabs

ABOUT THE SERIES HOME PAGE

All principal items on ComLaw/FRLI have a series home page from which:

- compilations of the title
- amendments to the title
- legislation enabled by the title, and
- Information about the item can be accessed.

Compilations | Principal + Amts 1973+ | Enables

Compilations

Name	ID	Start Date	End Date	Amendments up to
Customs Act 1901 (Current)	C2005C00491	02/09/2005		Act No. 100 of 2005
Customs Act 1901 (Superseded)	C2005C00469	19/07/2005	01/09/2005	Act No. 91 of 2005

Link to legislation

ComLaw registration number

ABOUT THE VIEW TABS

The following table describes the view tabs that will appear when a Browse page is shown. The view tabs will vary depending on the legislation type (e.g. Act, Leg Instrument).

View Tab	Description
Compilations	Displays links to the current compilation and any superseded compilations.
Principal + Amts	Displays links to the principal legislation and any legislation that amends the series principal.
Enables	Displays links to legislation that is enabled by the item.
Modified By	Displays links to legislation that modifies the item.
Repealed/Ceased By	Displays links to legislation that repeals/ceases the item.

VIEWING LEGISLATION INFORMATION

1. Ensure the required series home page is displayed.
2. Select the required view tab.
3. Click on the hyperlink of the legislation to be viewed.

The selected Legislative item page will appear. (See information on Legislative Item Page below).

OPENING LEGISLATION

1. Ensure the required legislation is displayed.
2. Click once on the attachment to be opened.

The attachment will open in the corresponding application. For example, the PDF document will open in Adobe Reader and the HTML document will display in a new browser window.

Tip: To save or print the document, from within the application in which the legislation is currently being displayed, select the required save/print commands.

A Legislative Item Page

Social Security (International Agreements) Act 1999 Amendment Regulations 2002 (No 2)
Legislative Instrument - F2002B00031

Legislation name

Legislation type and unique number.
(F= FRLI item, C= ComLaw item)

Number: SR 2002 No 32
Brief Description: Amends the Social Security (International Agreements) Act 1999
Classification: Regulations
Gazettal Date: 07/03/2002
Tabled HR: 11/03/2002
Tabled Senate: 11/03/2002
Administering Department: FACS
General Comments: This instrument was backcaptured in accordance with Section 36 of the Legislative Instruments Act 2003

Legislation details

View tabs


ABOUT THE VIEW TABS

The following table describes the view tabs that appear when a browse results page is shown. The view tabs vary depending on the legislation type displayed (eg Bill, Act, Leg Instrument).

View Tab	Description
Item type e.g. Bill, Act, Leg Instrument, etc.	Displays the latest e-version of the legislation and a link to the series home page.
Supporting Material	Displays the associated documents, such as explanatory statements for Legislative Instruments, or explanatory memoranda for Bills.
Enabled by	Displays links to the legislation that enables the displayed legislation.
Amends	Displays links to the legislation that is amended by the displayed legislation.
Modifies	Displays links to the legislation that is modified by the displayed legislation.
Repeals	Displays links to the legislation that is being repealed by the displayed legislation.

Leg Instrument | ES/Supp Material | Enabled By | Amends

[Click here to go to the Home Page for this Legislative Instrument](#) ← Link to Series Home Page

 ← Authoritative e-version

89pp

The PDF version of a legislative instrument or legislative instrument compilation that is registered on the FRLI is the authoritative version. All authoritative versions on ComLaw/FRLI are denoted by the PDF icon with a green tick.