



FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL

VOLUME 5 – Information Management

Transmittal Letter: IM-28

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SUBCHAPTER 1220

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

MAJOR CHANGES

1. This FAM subchapter is a new subchapter to be added to 5 FAM Chapter 1200, Communications To The United Nations and Other International Organizations.

2. This subchapter includes additional policy for establishing the proper channel for conducting business between the U.S. Government and the United States Organization of American States (USOAS) in Washington, and permanent and observer missions.

3. This policy authorizes the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) as the proper channel for coordinating all communications from the Department to the OAS through the USOAS.

4. Under the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, Public Law 105-277, the functions of the U.S. Information Agency related to international broadcasting are transferred to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). Accordingly, all provisions of the FAM previously applicable to USIA continue in effect with respect to the BBG until further notice.

5. Officers are reminded that Department-issued materials not codified in the *Foreign Affairs Manual* or its supplemental *Foreign Affairs Handbook* series generally have no regulatory validity (see 2 FAM 1115.2).

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Remove and destroy the text of the old 5 FAM subchapter 1220 through 1290 Unassigned (issued under TL:IM-20, dated 11-01-95; 1 page total) and replace it with the attached revised subchapter 1220 and 1230 through 1290 Unassigned (3 pages total).

2. After inserting the material in the binder, insert this transmittal letter immediately following the TL Checklist, then fill in the entry line for TL:IM-28, and initial.

DISTRIBUTION NOTICE

1. The *Foreign Affairs Handbooks* (unclassified) official version can be found on State Department's Intranet site at <http://99.1.1.27>.

2. All posts and offices keeping paper versions of the *Foreign Affairs Manual* are responsible for maintaining the FAM on a current basis (see 2 FAM 1116.5), and for ensuring that all copies (including binders) are either retained or returned to A/RPS/DIR if no longer needed. **When returning excess or unused materials include your office/post symbols and inform MMS/PB and your message center if you need to have your distribution reduced** (this generally applies only to time-sensitive paper issuances). A/RPS/MMS/PRD, Room 1853, (202) 736-7470, FAX (202) 647-4535, handles all requests for paper copies, including non-Government users (include either fiscal information or payment with request, as appropriate).

3. Use KFAM and AINF TAGS on **all** communications on FAM/FAH issues; direct questions concerning issuance, validity, and updating to A/RPS/DIR. Direct questions concerning substance and interpretations to the 5 FAM Volume Coordinator, who may be reached at (202) 261-8230

(IRM/APR/RG)