

Review: *Superfund Manual: Legal and Management Strategies*

By Crowell & Moring

Reviewed by [Kathy Shimpock-Vieweg](#)
Muchmore & Wallwork, P.C.

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Crowell & Moring. *Superfund Manual: Legal and Management Strategies*.
5th ed. Rockville, MD: Government Institutes, Inc., 1995. 468 pp. US
\$95.00 paper ISBN: 0-86587-344-5.

Superfund, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), is a hastily enacted, complex piece of legislation that attempts to address the release of hazardous substances into the environment. Since its enactment in 1980, it has been the subject of massive litigation, regulation, and amendments in an attempt to clarify its meaning. Superfund Manual is a resource designed to aid researchers in understanding CERCLA. Written by a number of attorneys at the Washington D.C. law firm of Crowell & Moring, it covers a wide range of issues, from hazardous substance release reporting and governmental response authority, to various strategies for potentially responsible parties (PRPs).

Written in clear prose and making use of extensive annotations, Superfund Manual offers an excellent overview for business people, environmentalists and lawyers. The actual text of the CERCLA/Superfund law as amended through 1992 is included. The manual is flawed however, by the lack of an index and the omission of a table of acronyms. Because the law in this area is cluttered with acronyms, the inclusion of some type of guide would have been helpful.

A more critical problem is the book's physical format. Rapidly changing laws are not easily reflected in a paperback book. Most legal publications are issued in loose-leaf format, or provide for pocket-part updates to accommodate revisions. As a one volume publication, Superfund Manual offers no such mechanism for revision.

In spite of these flaws and because of its comprehensive scope and readable text, I nevertheless recommend Superfund Manual to anyone needing an overview of Superfund law.

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