

	United States Laws / Statutes / Acts	EU Acts	United States Regulations	EU Regulations	EU Directives
<b>How do they come about?</b>	Bills are passed by Congress through a legislative process and become laws. The terms <a href="#">statute and act</a> are synonyms to law.	Adopted by the EU institutions following the ordinary or special legislative procedure.	Executive branch agencies make these through a rulemaking process.	Regulations follow the procedures of an EU act.	Directives follow the procedures of an EU act.
<b>How do they apply to states or Member States?</b>	Establish requirements or prohibitions that apply throughout the US.		Federal regulations clarify how an agency understands, implements and enforces existing laws. States can adopt federal regulations or state agencies can promulgate their own regulations.	Automatically and simultaneously apply in all Member States. Binding in their entirety.	Must be transposed into national law. More flexible than regulations since only binding as to the results to be achieved.
<b>How stringent must the regulations be?</b>			State regulations must be as stringent as, or more stringent, than federal regulations.	Member states cannot set more stringent requirements. Regulations enter into force as is.	Member States may be encouraged to adopt higher national environmental standards than those set by EU directives, but stricter rules cannot jeopardize the functioning of the Single Market. Some flexibility in how a Member State chooses to reach EU goals.