§ 1234.14 What are the requirements for environmental controls for records storage facilities?

(a) Paper-based temporary records. Paper-based temporary records must be stored under environmental conditions that prevent the active growth of mold. Exposure to moisture through leaks or condensation, relative humidities in excess of 70%, extremes of heat combined with relative humidity in excess of 55%, and poor air circulation during periods of elevated heat and relative humidity are all factors that contribute to mold growth.

(b) Nontextual temporary records. Nontextual temporary records, including microforms and audiosvisual and electronic records, must be stored in records storage space that is designed to preserve them for their full retention period. New records storage facilities that store nontextual temporary records must meet the requirements in this paragraph (b) beginning on September 28, 2005. Existing records storage facilities that store nontextual temporary records must meet the requirements in this paragraph (b) no later than October 1, 2006. At a minimum, nontextual temporary records must be stored in records storage space that meets the requirements for medium term storage set by the appropriate standard in this paragraph (b). In general, medium term conditions as defined by these standards are those that will ensure the preservation of the materials for at least 10 years with little information degradation or loss. Records may continue to be usable for longer than 10 years when stored under these conditions, but with an increasing risk of information loss or degradation with longer times. If temporary records require retention longer than 10 years, better storage conditions (cooler and drier) than those specified for medium term storage will be needed to maintain the usability of these records. The applicable standards are:

1. ANSI/PIMA IT9.11 (incorporated by reference, see §1234.3);
2. ANSI/NAPM IT9.23 (incorporated by reference, see §1234.3);
3. (3) ANSI/PIMA IT9.25 (incorporated by reference, see §1234.3);
4. (4) ANSI/NAPM IT9.20 (incorporated by reference, see §1234.3); and/or
5. (5) ANSI/NAPM IT9.18 (incorporated by reference, see §1234.3).

(c) Paper-based permanent, unscheduled and sample/select records. Paper-based permanent, unscheduled, and sample/select records must be stored in records storage space that provides 24 hour/365 days per year air conditioning (temperature, humidity, and air exchange) equivalent to that required for office space. See ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55 (incorporated by reference, see §1234.3), and ASHRAE Standard 62 (incorporated by reference, see §1234.3), for specific requirements. New records storage facilities that store paper-based permanent, unscheduled, and/or sample/select records must meet the requirement in this paragraph (c) beginning on September 28, 2005. Existing storage facilities that store paper-based permanent, unscheduled, and/or sample/select records must meet the
requirement in this paragraph (c) no later than October 1, 2009.

(d) Nontextual permanent, unscheduled, and/or sample/select records. All records storage facilities that store microfilm, audiovisual, and/or electronic permanent, unscheduled, and/or sample/select records must comply with the storage standards for permanent and unscheduled records in parts 1238, 1237, and/or 1236 of this subchapter, respectively.

Subpart C—Handling Deviations From NARA’s Facility Standards

§ 1234.20 What rules apply if there is a conflict between NARA standards and other regulatory standards that a facility must follow?

(a) If any provisions of this part conflict with local or regional building codes, the following rules of precedence apply:

(1) Between differing levels of fire protection and life safety, the more stringent provision applies; and

(2) Between mandatory provisions that cannot be reconciled with a requirement of this part, the local or regional code applies.

(b) If any of the provisions of this part conflict with mandatory life safety or ventilation requirements imposed on underground storage facilities by 30 CFR chapter I, 30 CFR chapter I applies.

(c) NARA reserves the right to require documentation of the mandatory nature of the conflicting code and the inability to reconcile that provision with NARA requirements.

§ 1234.22 How does an agency request a waiver from a requirement in this part?

(a) Types of waivers that may be approved. NARA may approve exceptions to one or more of the standards in this part for:

(1) Systems, methods, or devices that are demonstrated to have equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety to those prescribed by this subpart;

(2) Existing agency records centers that met the NARA standards in effect prior to January 3, 2000, but do not meet a new standard required to be in place on September 28, 2005; and

(3) The application of roof requirements in §§1234.10 and 1234.12 to underground storage facilities.

(b) Where to submit a waiver request. The agency submits a waiver request, containing the information specified in paragraphs (c), (d), and/or (e) of this section to the Director, Space and Security Management Division (NAS), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Rd., College Park, MD 20740–6001, phone number (301) 837–1867.

(c) Content of request for waivers for equivalent or superior alternatives. The agency’s waiver request must contain:

(1) A statement of the specific provision(s) of this part for which a waiver is requested, a description of the proposed alternative, and an explanation how it is equivalent to or superior to the NARA requirement; and

(2) Supporting documentation that the alternative does not provide less protection for Federal records than that which would be provided by compliance with the corresponding provisions contained in this subpart. Documentation may take the form of certifications from a licensed fire protection engineer or a structural or civil engineer, as appropriate; reports of independent testing; reports of computer modeling; and/or other supporting information.

(d) Content of request for waiver for previously compliant agency records center. The agency’s waiver request must identify which requirement(s) the agency records center cannot meet and provide a plan with milestones for bringing the center into compliance.

(e) Content of request for waiver of roof requirements for underground facility. The agency’s waiver request must identify the location of the facility and whether the facility is a drift entrance facility or a vertical access facility.

§ 1234.24 How does NARA process a waiver request?

(a) Waiver for equivalent or superior alternative. NARA will review the waiver request and supporting documentation.

(1) If in NARA’s judgment the supporting documentation clearly supports the claim that the alternative is