alleges that the named prospective defendant has engaged in or is about to engage in actions in violation of the Act; complaint shall mean information received from any source, that is not a charge, which alleges that a named prospective defendant has engaged in or is about to engage in actions in violation of the Act; charging party means the person filing a charge; complainant means the person filing a complaint; and respondent means the person named as a prospective defendant in a charge or complaint, or as a result of a Commission-initiated investigation.

§ 1626.4 Information concerning alleged violations of the Act.

The Commission may, on its own initiative, conduct investigations of employers, employment agencies and labor organizations, in accordance with the powers vested in it pursuant to sections 6 and 7 of the Act. The Commission shall also receive information concerning alleged violations of the Act, including charges and complaints, from any source. Where the information discloses a possible violation, the appropriate Commission office may render assistance in the filing of a charge. The identity of a complainant, confidential witness, or aggrieved person on whose behalf a charge was filed will ordinarily not be disclosed without prior written consent, unless necessary in a court proceeding.

\$ 1626.5 Where to submit complaints and charges.

Complaints and charges may be submitted in person, by telephone, or by mail to any office of the Commission or to any designated representative of the Commission. The addresses of the Commission's offices appear at §1610.4.

[71 FR 26831, May 9, 2006]

§ 1626.6 Form of charge.

A charge shall be in writing and shall name the prospective respondent and shall generally allege the discriminatory act(s). Charges received in person or by telephone shall be reduced to writing.

§ 1626.7 Timeliness of charge.

(a) Potential charging parties will be advised that, pursuant to section 7(d)

- (1) and (2) of the Act, no civil suit may be commenced by an individual until 60 days after a charge has been filed on the subject matter of the suit, and such charge shall be filed with the Commission or its designated agent within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action, or, in a case where the alleged discriminatory action occurs in a State which has its own age discrimination law and authority administering that law, within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory action, or 30 days after receipt of notice of termination of State proceedings, whichever is earlier.
- (b) For purposes of determining the date of filing with the Commission, the following applies:
 - (1) Charges filed by mail:
 - (i) Date of postmark, if legible,
- (ii) Date of letter, if postmark is illegible,
- (iii) Date of receipt by Commission, or its designated agent, if postmark and letter date are illegible and/or cannot be accurately affixed;
- (2) Written charges filed in person: Date of receipt:
- (3) Oral charges filed in person or by telephone, as reduced to writing: Date of oral communication received by Commission.

 $[48\ FR\ 140,\ Jan.\ 3,\ 1983,\ as\ amended\ at\ 68\ FR\ 70152,\ Dec.\ 17,\ 2003]$

§ 1626.8 Contents of charge; amendment of charge.

- (a) In addition to the requirements of §1626.6, each charge should contain the following:
- (1) The full name, address and telephone number of the person making the charge;
- (2) The full name and address of the person against whom the charge is made;
- (3) A clear and concise statement of the facts, including pertinent dates, constituting the alleged unlawful employment practices;
- (4) If known, the approximate number of employees of the prospective defendant employer or members of the prospective defendant labor organization.
- (5) A statement disclosing whether proceedings involving the alleged unlawful employment practice have been commenced before a State agency