

VOA and the Firewall — Protection in Practice and Law

Voice of America is an independent broadcaster of the U.S. executive branch tasked with providing consistently reliable and authoritative news in accordance with the highest professional standards of journalism. Its editorial independence is protected by law, policy and long-standing practice. The VOA Charter was codified in 1976. The firewall and other journalistic protections are codified in **Title 22** of the U.S. Code.

The VOA Charter

[22 U.S.C. 6202\(c\)](#)

VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively and will present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.

The Firewall

[22 U.S.C. 6202\(a\)\(5\)](#)

U.S. international broadcasting shall be conducted in accordance with the highest professional standards of broadcast journalism.

[22 U.S.C. 6202\(b\)\(1\)](#)

U.S. international broadcasting shall include news that is consistently reliable and authoritative, accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

[22 U.S.C. 6204\(b\)](#)

The Secretary of State and the Chief Executive Officer, in carrying out their functions, shall respect the professional independence and integrity of the [Agency](#), its broadcasting services, and the [grantees](#) of the [Agency](#).

[22 U.S.C. 6205\(d\)\(6\)\(a\)](#)

The members of the Advisory Board shall advise the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the Chief Executive Officer fully respects the professional integrity and editorial independence of United States [Agency](#) for Global Media broadcasters, networks, and [grantees](#); and

[22 U.S.C. 6209a\(b\)](#)

The Inspector General of the Department of State and the Foreign Service shall respect the journalistic integrity of all the broadcasters covered by this chapter and may not evaluate the philosophical or political perspectives reflected in the content of broadcasts.