



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. SAFE WEB ACT INFORMATION SHEET

The U.S. SAFE WEB Act is a law that gives the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), a U.S. government agency, the authority to provide evidence to foreign law enforcement agencies to support appropriate foreign investigations or enforcement actions. This information sheet explains when and how the FTC can provide such assistance. A key requirement is that such proceedings address conduct substantially similar to something that would violate a law the FTC enforces. Foreign law enforcement agencies interested in assistance from the FTC should send an e-mail to OIA@ftc.gov to ask questions and/or obtain a request form.

Who can submit a request for assistance?

Foreign law enforcement agencies are the only entities that may submit a request for information sharing or investigative assistance under the Act. A foreign law enforcement agency is defined by statute as any agency or judicial authority of a foreign government (including a foreign state, its political subdivision, or a multinational organization comprised of foreign states) that has civil, criminal, or administrative law enforcement or investigative authority. It also includes any multinational organization acting on behalf of such an entity. The FTC cannot use its authority to assist agencies from countries that the Secretary of State has determined support international terrorism.

Does the foreign agency have to keep the information confidential?

Yes. The foreign agency must provide a written certification that the materials provided will be maintained in confidence.

The FTC may share compelled or confidential information with foreign law enforcement agencies if the materials will be used to investigate or pursue enforcement proceedings related to possible violations of:

- foreign laws prohibiting fraudulent or deceptive commercial practices, or other practices substantially similar to practices prohibited by laws the Commission administers;

- a law the Commission administers, if disclosure of the material would further a Commission investigation or enforcement proceeding; or
- with approval of the U.S. Attorney General, other foreign crim

