

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

COMMISSIONERS: **Jon Leibowitz, Chairman**
 Pamela Jones Harbour
 William E. Kovacic
 J. Thomas Rosch

In the Matter of)

U.S.-EU SAFE HARBOR FRAMEWORK

5. The U.S.-EU Safe Harbor Framework provides a method for U.S. companies to transfer personal data outside of Europe that is consistent with the requirements of the European Union Directive on Data Protection ("Directive"). Enacted in 1995, the Directive sets forth European Union ("EU") requirements for privacy and the protection of personal data. Among other things, it requires EU Member States to implement legislation that prohibits the transfer of personal data outside the EU, with exceptions, unless the European Commission ("EC") has made a determination that the recipient jurisdiction's laws ensure the protection of such personal data. See Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and the Council (Oct. 24, 1995), available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31995L0046:EN:HTML>. This determination is commonly referred to as meeting the EU's "adequacy" standard.
6. To satisfy the EU adequacy standard for certain commercial transfers, the U.S. Department of Commerce ("Commerce") and the EC negotiated the U.S.-EU Safe Harbor Framework, which went into effect in 2000. The Safe Harbor allows U.S. companies to transfer personal data lawfully from the EU. To join the Safe Harbor, a company must self-certify to Commerce that it complies with seven principles and related requirements that have been deemed to meet the EU's adequacy standard.
7. Companies under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), as well as the U.S. Department of Transportation, are eligible to join the Safe Harbor. A company under the FTC's jurisdiction that self-certifies to the Safe Harbor principles but fails to implement them may be subject to an enforcement action based on the FTC's deception authority under Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.
8. Commerce maintains a public website www.export.gov/safeharbor, where it posts the names of companies that have self-certified to the Safe Harbor. The listing of companies indicates whether their self-certification is "current" or "not current." Companies are required to re-certify every year in order to retain their status as "current" members of the Safe Harbor framework. According to the Safe Harbor website, "Organizations should notify the Department of Commerce if their representation to the Department is no longer valid. Failure to do so could constitute a misrepresentation." See Safe Harbor List, available at <http://web.ita.doc.gov/safeharbor/shlist.nsf/webPages/safeharbor+list>.

VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 5 OF THE FTC ACT

9. In August 2006, respondent submitted to Commerce a self-certification to the Safe Harbor.
10. In August 2007, respondent did not renew its self-certification to the Safe Harbor, and Commerce updated respondent's status to "not current" on its public website. Until July

2009, responde