§ 162.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this part is to implement various provisions in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681, et seq. ("FCRA"), which provide certain protections to consumer information.

(b) Scope. This part applies to certain consumer information held by the entities listed below. This part shall apply to futures commission merchants, retail foreign exchange dealers, commodity trading advisors, commodity pool operators, introducing brokers, major swap participants and swap dealers, regardless of whether they are required to register with the Commission. This part does not apply to foreign futures commission merchants, foreign retail foreign exchange dealers, commodity trading advisors, commodity pool operators, introducing brokers, major swap participants and swap dealers unless such entity registers with the Commission. Nothing in this part modifies limits or supersedes the requirements set forth in part 160 of this title.

(c) Examples. The examples in this part are not exclusive. Compliance with an example, to the extent applicable, constitutes compliance with this part. Examples in a section illustrate only the issue described in the section and do not illustrate any other issue that may arise in this part.

§ 162.2 Definitions.

(a) Affiliate. The term "affiliate" for the purposes of this part means any person that is related by common ownership or common corporate control with a covered affiliate.

(b) Clear and conspicuous. The term "clear and conspicuous" means reasonably understandable and designed to call attention to the nature and significance of the information presented in the notice.

(c) Common ownership or common corporate control. The term "common ownership or common corporate control" for the purposes of this part means the power to exercise a controlling influence over the management or policies of a company whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. Any person who owns beneficially, either directly or through one or more controlled companies, more than 25 percent of the voting securities of any company is presumed to control the company. Any person who does not own more than 25 percent of the voting securities of a company will be presumed not to control the company.

(d) Company. The term "company" means any corporation, limited liability company, business trust, general or limited partnership, association, or similar organization.

(e) Concise.—

(1) In general. The term "concise" means a reasonably brief expression or statement.

(2) Combination with other required disclosures. A notice required by this part may be concise even if it is combined with other disclosures required or authorized by Federal or state law.

(f) Consumer. Except as otherwise provided, the term "consumer" means an individual person. The term consumer does not include market makers, floor brokers, locals, or individual persons whose information is not collected to determine eligibility for personal, family, or household purposes.

(g) Consumer information. The term "consumer information" means any record about an individual, whether in paper, electronic, or other form, that is a consumer report or is derived from a consumer report (as defined in section 603(d)(2) of the FCRA). Consumer information also means a compilation of such records. Consumer information does not include information that does not identify individuals, such as aggregate information or blind data.

(h) Covered affiliate. The term "covered affiliate" means a futures commission merchant, retail foreign exchange dealer, commodity trading advisor, commodity pool operator, introducing broker, major swap participant or swap dealer, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

(i) Dispose or Disposal.—

(1) In general. The terms "dispose" or "disposal" means:

(i) The discarding or abandonment of consumer information; or

(ii) The sale, donation, or transfer of any medium, including computer equipment, upon which consumer information is stored.
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(2) Sale, donation, or transfer of consumer information. The sale, donation, or transfer of consumer information is not considered disposal for the purposes of subpart B.


(k) Eligibility information. The term “eligibility information” means any information that would be a consumer report if the exclusions from the definition of “consumer report” in section 603(d)(2)(A) of the FCRA did not apply. Examples of the type of information that would fall within the definition of eligibility information include an affiliate’s own transaction or experience information, such as information about a consumer’s account history with that affiliate, and other information, such as information from credit bureau reports or applications. Eligibility information does not include aggregate or blind data that does not contain personal identifiers such as account numbers, names, or addresses.

(l) FCRA. The term “FCRA” means the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

(m) Financial product or service. The term “financial product or service” means any product or service that a futures commission merchant, retail foreign exchange dealer, commodity trading advisor, commodity pool operator, introducing broker, major swap participant or swap dealer could offer that is subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction.


(o) Major swap participant. The term “major swap participant” has the same meaning as in section 1a(33) of the Commodity Exchange Act, 7 U.S.C. 1 et seq., as may be further defined by this title, and includes any person registered as such thereunder.

(p) Person. The term “person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, trust, estate, cooperative, association, or other entity.

(q) Pre-existing business relationship. The term “pre-existing business relationship” means a relationship between a person, or a person’s licensed agent, and a consumer based on—

(1) A financial contract between the person and the consumer which is in force on the date on which the consumer is sent a solicitation by this part;

(2) The purchase, rental, or lease by the consumer of a persons’ services or a financial transaction (including holding an active account or policy in force or having another continuing relationship) between the consumer and the person, during the 18-month period immediately preceding the date on which the consumer is sent a solicitation covered by this part; or

(3) An inquiry or application by the consumer regarding a financial product or service offered by that person during the three-month period immediately preceding the date on which the consumer is sent a solicitation covered by this part.

(r) Solicitation—(1) In general. The term “solicitation” means the marketing of a financial product or service initiated by an affiliate to a particular consumer that is—

(i) Based on eligibility information communicated to that covered affiliate by an affiliate that has or previously had the pre-existing business relationship with a consumer as described in this part; and

(ii) Intended to encourage the consumer to purchase or obtain such financial product or service. A solicitation does not include marketing communications that are directed at the general public.

(2) Examples. Examples of what communications constitute solicitations include communications such as a telemarketing solicitation, direct mail, or e-mail, when those communications are directed to a specific consumer based on eligibility information. A solicitation does not include communications that are directed at the general public without regard to eligibility information, even if those communications are intended to encourage consumers to purchase financial products and services from the affiliate initiating the communications.

(s) Swap dealer. The term “swap dealer” has the same meaning as in section 1a(49) of the Commodity Exchange Act,
Subpart A—Business Affiliate Marketing Rules

§ 162.3 Affiliate marketing opt out and exceptions.

(a) Initial notice and opt out. A covered affiliate may not use eligibility information about a consumer that the covered affiliate receives from an affiliate with the consumer to make a solicitation for marketing purposes to such consumer unless—

(1) It is clearly and conspicuously disclosed to the consumer in writing or if the consumer agrees, electronically, in a concise notice that the person may use shared eligibility information about that consumer received from an affiliate to make solicitations for marketing purposes to such consumer;

(2) The consumer is provided a reasonable opportunity and a reasonable and simple method to opt out, or prohibit the covered affiliate from using eligibility information to make solicitations for marketing purposes to the consumer; and

(3) The consumer has not opted out.

(b) Persons responsible for satisfying the notice requirement. The notice required by this section must be provided:

(1) By an affiliate that has or previously had a pre-existing business relationship with a consumer; or

(2) As part of a joint notice from two or more members of an affiliated group of companies, provided that at least one of the affiliates on the joint notice has or previously had a pre-existing business relationship with the consumer.

(c) Exceptions. These proposed regulations would not apply to the following covered affiliate:

(1) A covered affiliate that has a pre-existing business relationship with a consumer;

(2) Communications between an employer and employee-consumer (or his or her beneficiary) in connection with an employee benefit plan;

(3) A covered affiliate that is currently providing services to the consumer;

(4) If the consumer initiated the communication with the covered affiliate by oral, electronic, or written means;

(5) If the consumer authorized or requested the covered affiliate’s solicitation; or

(6) If compliance by a person with these regulations would prevent that person’s compliance with state insurance laws pertaining to unfair discrimination.

(d) Making solicitations.—(1) When a solicitation occurs. A covered affiliate makes a solicitation for marketing purposes if the person—

(i) Receives eligibility information from an affiliate;

(ii) Uses that eligibility information to do one or more of the following:

(A) Identify the consumer or type of consumer to receive a solicitation;

(B) Establish criteria used to select the consumer to receive a solicitation about the covered affiliate’s financial products or services; or

(C) Decide which of the services or contracts to market to the consumer or tailor the solicitation to that consumer; and

(iii) As a result of the covered affiliate’s use of the eligibility information, the consumer is provided a solicitation.

(2) Receipt of eligibility information. A covered affiliate may receive eligibility information from an affiliate in various ways, including when the affiliate places that information into a common database that the covered affiliate may access.

(3) Service providers. Except as provided in paragraph (d)(5) of this section, a covered affiliate receives or uses an affiliate’s eligibility information if a service provider acting on the covered affiliate’s behalf (regardless of whether such service provider is a third party or an affiliate of the covered affiliate) receives or uses that information in the manner described in paragraph (d)(1)(i) or (d)(1)(ii) of this section. All relevant facts and circumstances will determine whether a service provider is acting on behalf of a covered affiliate when it receives or uses an affiliate’s eligibility information in connection with marketing the covered affiliate’s financial products or services.