§ 162.7 Reasonable and simple methods of opting out.

(a) In general. A covered affiliate shall be prohibited from using eligibility information about a consumer received from an affiliate to make a solicitation to the consumer about the covered affiliate's financial products or services, unless the consumer is provided a reasonable and simple method to opt out, as required by this subpart.

(b) Examples. Reasonable and simple methods of opting out include:

(1) Designating a check-off box in a prominent position on an opt-out election form;
(2) Including a reply form and a self-addressed envelope (in a mailing);
(3) Providing an electronic means, if the consumer agrees, that can be electronically mailed or processed through an Internet Web site;
(4) Providing a toll-free telephone number; or
(5) Exercising an opt-out election through whatever means are acceptable under a consolidated privacy notice required under other laws.

(c) Specific opt-out method. Each consumer may be required to opt out through a specific method, as long as that method is acceptable under this subpart.

§ 162.8 Acceptable delivery methods of opt-out notices.

(a) In general. The opt-out notice must be provided so that each consumer can reasonably be expected to receive actual notice.

(b) Electronic notices. For opt-out notices provided electronically, the notice may be provided in compliance with either the electronic disclosure provisions in § 1.4 of this title or the provisions in section 101 of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq.

§ 162.9 Renewal of opt out.

(a) Renewal notice and opt-out requirement—(1) In general. Since the FCRA provides that opt-out elections can expire in a period of no less than five years, an affiliate that has or previously had a pre-existing business relationship with a consumer must provide a renewal notice to the consumer after such time in order to allow its affiliates to make solicitations. After the opt-out election period expires, its affiliates may make solicitations unless:

(i) The consumer has been given a renewal notice that complies with the requirements of this section and §§ 162.6 through 162.8 of this subpart, and a reasonable opportunity and a reasonable and simple method to renew the opt-out election, and the consumer does not renew the opt out; or

(ii) An exception in Sec. 162.3(c) of this subpart applies.

(2) Renewal period. Each opt-out renewal must be effective for a period of at least five years as provided in § 162.4(b) of this subpart.

(b) Renewals who may provide the renewal notice. The contents of the renewal notice must include all of the contents of the initial notices, but also must include:

(1) A statement that the consumer previously elected to limit the use of certain information to make solicitations to the consumer;
(2) A statement that the consumer may elect to renew the consumer's previous election; and
(3) If applicable, a statement that the consumer's election to renew will apply for a specified period of time stated in the notice and that the consumer will be allowed to renew the election once that period expires.

(c) Timing of renewal notice. Renewal notices must be provided in a reasonable period of time before the expiration of the opt-out election period or any time after the expiration of the opt-out period, but before solicitations that would have been prohibited by the expired opt-out election are made to the consumer.

(d) No effect on opt-out period. An opt-out period may not be shortened by