

Access Security Requirements

We must work together to protect the privacy of consumers. The following measures are designed to reduce unauthorized access of consumer credit reports. In accessing consumer credit services, you agree to follow these measures.

1. You must protect your account number and password so that only key personnel employed by your company know this sensitive information. Unauthorized persons should never have knowledge of your password. Do not post this information in any manner within your facility. If a person who knows the password leaves your company or no longer needs to have it due to a change in duties, the password should be changed immediately.
2. System access software, whether developed by your company or purchased from a third party vendor, must have your account number and password "hidden" or embedded and be known only by supervisory personnel. Assign each user of your system access software a unique logon password. If such system access software is replaced by different access software and therefore no longer in use or, alternatively, the hardware upon which such system access software resides is no longer being used or is being disposed of, your password should be changed immediately.
3. Do not discuss your account number and password by telephone with any unknown caller, even if the caller claims to be an employee of your credit provider.
4. Restrict the ability to obtain credit information to a few key personnel.
5. Place all terminal devices used to obtain credit information in a secure location within your facility. You should secure these devices so that unauthorized persons cannot easily access them.
6. After normal business hours, be sure to turn off and lock all devices or systems used to obtain credit information.
7. Secure hard copies and electronic files of consumer reports within your facility so that unauthorized persons cannot easily access them.
8. Shred or destroy all hard copy consumer reports when no longer needed.
9. Erase and overwrite or scramble electronic files containing consumer information when no longer needed and when applicable regulation(s) permit destruction.

10. Make all employees aware that your company can access credit information only for the permissible purposes listed in the Permissible Purpose Information section of your membership application. You or your employees may not access their own reports. Nor should you or your employees access the report of a family member or friend unless it is in connection with a credit transaction or for some other permissible purpose.

Record Retention: The Federal Equal Opportunities Act states that a creditor must preserve all written or recorded information connected with an application for 25 months. In keeping with the ECOA, Experian requires that you retain the credit application and, if applicable, a purchase agreement for a period of not less than 25 months. When conducting an investigation, particularly following a consumer complaint that your company impermissibly accessed their credit report, Experian will contact you and will request a copy of the original application signed by the consumer or, if applicable, a copy of the sales contract.

"Under Section 621 (a) (2) (A) of the FCRA, any person that violates any of the provisions of the FCRA may be liable for a civil penalty of not more than ,500 per violation."