

Press Releases

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OTS 04-52 - Agencies Announce Final Rules on Disposal of Consumer Information

Office of Thrift Supervision

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For further information

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Joint Release

**Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
Office of Thrift Supervision**

Agencies Announce Final Rules on Disposal of Consumer Information

The federal bank and thrift regulatory agencies today announced interagency final rules to require financial institutions to adopt measures for properly disposing of consumer information derived from credit reports.

Current law requires financial institutions to protect customer information by implementing information security programs. The final rules require institutions to make modest adjustments to their information security programs to include measures for the proper disposal of consumer information. They also add a new definition of "consumer information."

The agencies' final rules implement section 216 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (FACT Act) and include this new statutory requirement in the Interagency Guidelines Establishing Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information (retitled the Interagency Guidelines Establishing Standards for Information Security), which were adopted in 2001.

The final rules will take effect on July 1, 2005.

The Federal Register notice is attached.

Attachment - <http://www.occ.gov/static/news-issuances/ots/press-releases/ots-pr-2004-52a.pdf>

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The Office of Thrift Supervision, an office of the Department of the Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS's mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of, and compliance with consumer protection laws by, thrift institutions, and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. OTS also oversees the activities and operations of thrift holding companies that own or control thrift institutions. Copies of OTS news releases and other documents are available at the OTS web page at www.ots.treas.gov.