

## Massachusetts Privacy Law (201 CMR 17)

In September 2008, Massachusetts enacted a new privacy law to protect the personal information of Massachusetts residents. **If you do business with residents of Massachusetts or have employees that reside in Massachusetts, you must comply no later than January 1, 2010.**

### What organizations are impacted?

This new legislation affects all organizations who own, license, store, or maintain personal information of Massachusetts residents — **regardless of the size or location of the business.** And, organizations must verify that third-party service providers with access to personal information also comply with the new law. Organizations affected include:

- Businesses that track customers by account numbers (such as healthcare institutions and related vendors)
- Retailers that accept credit cards for purchases by Massachusetts customers
- Financial institutions (such as banks, insurers, or brokerages) with customers residing in Massachusetts
- Companies with branch offices located in Massachusetts

### What are the key requirements?

The Massachusetts law is the first in the nation to require specific technology when protecting personal information. Both stored information and information moving over a public network, such as the Internet, that contain personal information must be encrypted.

Personal information is defined as a Massachusetts resident's name in combination with one of the following:

- Social Security number
- Driver's license number or state-issued identification card number
- Financial account number or credit/debit card number (with or without a security code, access code, PIN, or password that would permit access to a resident's financial account)

### What should you do next?

Read the [press release from the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation \(OCABR\) which delays the effective date of the new law until January 1, 2010.](#)

[Download a complete copy of the Massachusetts Privacy Law](#) and the [201 CMR 17.00 FAQ from the Massachusetts OCABR](#) to assess the impact on your organization.

If you are a small business, review the [small business checklist](#) published by the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCBAR) and the [Small Business Guide for Formulating a Comprehensive Written Information Security Program.](#)

Join a [discussion group](#) on LinkedIn between vendors and organizations that need to comply with the new standard.

### How can RED Systems help?

We can assist your company in identifying and securing data that is stored and transmitted to meet the requirements of this new law.

#### RED Systems, Inc.

4 Brenrae Drive, Middleboro, MA 02346  
Phone: 508 819-3000 FAX: 508 819-3000  
<http://www.REDSystems.com/privacy>

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