
This document, Model Code for the Protection of Personal Information, is taken from the website of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (www.privcom.gc.ca).

Model Code for the Protection of Personal Information

The code's 10 principles are:

1. **Accountability**

An organization is responsible for personal information under its control and shall designate an individual or individuals who are accountable for the organization's compliance with the following principles.

2. **Identifying Purposes**

The purposes for which personal information is collected shall be identified by the organization at or before the time the information is collected.

3. **Consent**

The knowledge and consent of the individual are required for the collection, use or disclosure of personal information, except when inappropriate.

4. **Limiting Collection**

The collection of personal information shall be limited to that which is necessary for the purposes identified by the organization. Information shall be collected by fair and lawful means.

5. **Limiting Use, Disclosure, and Retention**

Personal information shall not be used or disclosed for purposes other than those for which it was collected, except with the consent of the individual or as required by the law. Personal information shall be retained only as long as necessary for fulfillment of those purposes.

6. **Accuracy**

Personal information shall be as accurate, complete, and up-to-date as is necessary for the purposes for which it is to be used.

7. **Safeguards**

Personal information shall be protected by security safeguards appropriate to the sensitivity of the information.

8. Openness

An organization shall make readily available to individuals specific information about its policies and practices relating to the management of personal information.

9. Individual Access

Upon request, an individual shall be informed of the existence, use and disclosure of his or her personal information and shall be given access to that information. An individual shall be able to challenge the accuracy and completeness of the information and have it amended as appropriate.

10. Challenging Compliance

An individual shall be able to address a challenge concerning compliance with the above principles to the designated individual or individuals for the organization's compliance.

Exceptions

Some groups, such as law enforcement agencies and journalists, have a lawful or investigative need to collect, use and disclose personal information without having to obtain the consent of the concerned individuals. For these reasons, certain exemptions are included:

- Personal information collected, used or disclosed solely for journalistic, artistic or literary purposes;
- if the action clearly benefits the individual or if obtaining permission could infringe on the information's accuracy;
- where such data can contribute to a legal investigation or aid in an emergency where people's lives and safety could be at stake; and
- if disclosure aids, in times of emergency, matters of legal investigation, or facilitates the conservation of historically important records

(Available at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/news/nr/1998/attback2.html> Accessed March 15, 2007.)