参考資料 「FCRA FACTA プレゼンテーション」

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FCRA / FACT Act Evolution...

And Concurrent Improvements in the Credit Reporting System

Evolution / Encouragement

This regulation has evolved to:

Improve reliability and accuracy of consumer credit data

And...

Protect the consumer

To...

Enhance availability of consumer credit

Background: National Credit Reporting System

- Three national consumer reporting agencies: Experian, Equifax and Trans Union.
- Information is voluntarily provided to these agencies by financial institutions, but must be accurate.
- Agencies maintain records on 1.5 billion accounts, held by approximately 190 million individuals.
- Current "State of the Art":

"This national credit reporting system provides creditors with an efficient, competitive, and cost effective method of obtaining data for credit decision-making and consumers with increased credit availability" (Federal Reserve Testimony, July 29, 2003)

Reporting and Regulation Grew Together...

■ The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) originated 1970:

 Basic Purpose: Regulates Consumer Reporting Agencies and protects the consumer.

FCRA and Data Accuracy...

It imposed significant responsibilities on consumer reporting agencies. This helps to improve data quality and encourage use of information by creditors.

 Establishes consumer protections, which encourage the participation of consumers.

While a good start... Refinements were necessary.

Thus, the FCRA Amendments in 1996.

- Improvements to the dispute resolution process...
- Enhancement of Privacy Protection...
- Federal "Pre-emption" of State laws...

Pre-Screening

■ What is it?

Is it permissible under the FCRA, and under what circumstances?

What does it mean to "opt-out"?

The New Challenge: Identity Theft

- Now the fastest growing crime in the U.S.
- During 2004: 9.3 million victims and \$52.6 billion in losses (Javelin Strategy and Research, January 2005)
- Clearly, there is a need for stronger protection.

New Challenge...New Response

- Thus, the amendments in the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act, mostly effective December 2004.
- Major Aspects of the Amendment:
 - Protect the Consumer: Provides numerous protections against identity theft, and require disclosure of credit scores.
 - <u>Improve accuracy of data</u>: Builds in processes to stem problems caused by identity theft. Prevention of "repollution" of consumer reports, notice of reporting negative credit information.
 - Maintain National Regulatory Standards: Pre-emption of State laws made permanent.

FACTA Identity Theft Protection

 Creating a national system of fraud detection.

Establishes a system of fraud alerts that consumers can place on their reports.

Requiring regulators to devise a list of "red flag" indicators of identity theft.

Identity Theft Protection, cont.

 Requiring lenders and credit agencies to take action before a victim even knows a crime has taken place.

- Requiring merchants to remove all but the last five digits from a credit card store receipt.
- Consumers are allowed one free credit report every year from each of the credit bureaus.

Pre-Emption...

- This area of dispute is a good example of the tug of war in public policy regarding credit ratings data:
 - On one hand, States could impose stronger requirements.
 - On the other, a national standard allows considerable efficiency...one standard.
- The final decision: Efficiency allowed by one system, sufficiently protecting the consumer.

Encouragement / Evolution

 Without proper regulation, this information market place would be stunted.

With continually evolving regulation, it has thrived...

Encouragement / Evolution

Benefits

Openly available credit information

 Heightened competition between borrowers, more readily available credit

Risk-based pricing and less discrimination

Information Resources

- "National Credit Reporting System" (FRB Testimony / Dolores S. Smith, July 29, 2003)
- "Credit Reporting Accuracy and Access to Credit" (Federal Reserve Bulletin, Summer 2004)
- The Impact of National Credit Reporting Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act: The Risk of New Restrictions and State Regulations" (Michael E. Staten and Fred H. Cate, 2003)

Questions? Comments?