

INTERNET USAGE

ABC Company may provide employees with Internet access to help them do their jobs. This Policy explains our guidelines for using the Internet responsibly and productively. We limit Internet usage to job-related activities only and do not permit personal use.

All Internet data that is composed, transmitted, or received via our computer systems is considered to be part of our official records. This means that it is subject to disclosure to law enforcement or other third parties. Therefore, you should always make sure that the business information contained in Internet email messages and other transmissions is accurate, appropriate, ethical, and lawful.

The equipment, services and technology that you use to access the Internet are always the property of ABC Company. Therefore, ABC Company reserves the right to monitor Internet traffic. We also reserve the right to retrieve and read any data that is composed, sent, or received through our online connections or is stored in our computer systems.

We do not allow data that is composed, transmitted, accessed, or received via the Internet to contain content that could be considered discriminatory, offensive, obscene, threatening, harassing, intimidating, or disruptive to any employee or other person.

Examples of unacceptable content include (but are not limited to) sexual comments or images, racial slurs, gender-specific comments, or other comments or images that could reasonably offend someone on the basis of race, age, sex, religious or political beliefs, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law.

ABC Company does not allow the unauthorized use, installation, copying, or distribution of copyrighted, trademarked, or patented material on the Internet. As a general rule, if you did not create the material, do not own the rights to it, or have not received authorization for its use, you may not put the material on the Internet. You are also responsible for ensuring that a person sending material over the Internet has the appropriate distribution rights.

Before you download or copy a file from the Internet, you should take the necessary anti-virus precautions. ABC Company requires that all downloaded files be checked for viruses. All compressed files must be checked for viruses both before and after decompression.

Employees whose Internet usage violates laws or ABC Company policies are subject to corrective action, up to and including termination of employment. Employees may also be held personally liable for any violations of this Policy.

The following are examples of some actions and activities that are prohibited and which could result in corrective action up to and including dismissal:

- Sending or posting discriminatory, harassing, or threatening messages or images
- Using the organization's time and resources for personal gain
- Stealing, using, or disclosing someone else's code or password without authorization
- Copying, pirating, or downloading software and electronic files without permission
- Sending or posting confidential material, trade secrets, or proprietary information outside of the organization

- Violating copyright law
- Failing to observe licensing agreements
- Engaging in unauthorized transactions that may incur a cost to the organization or initiate unwanted Internet services and transmissions
- Sending or posting messages or material that could damage the organization's image or reputation
- Participating in the viewing or exchange of pornography or obscene materials
- Sending or posting messages that defame or slander other individuals
- Refusing to cooperate with a security investigation
- Jeopardizing the security of the organization's electronic communications systems
- Sending anonymous email messages
- Engaging in any other illegal activities