

submission should be addressed to Donald S. Clark, Office of the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Submissions should be captioned "Comments regarding consumer information flows." Electronic submissions may be sent by electronic mail to [infoflows@ftc.gov](mailto:infoflows@ftc.gov). Alternatively, electronic submissions may be filed on a 3½ inch computer disk with a label on the disk stating the name of the submitter and the name and version of the word processing program used to create the document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maureen Ohlhausen, (202) 326-2632, [mko/infoflows@ftc.gov](mailto:mko/infoflows@ftc.gov), Office of Policy Planning, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. A detailed agenda for the workshop will be available on the FTC Home Page (<http://www.ftc.gov>) and through Mildred Taylor, Staff Secretary, at (202) 326-2553.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Overview**

Since 1995, the FTC has examined the consumer issues raised by the collection and use of consumer information. To gain a better understanding of these issues, the FTC has held workshops, conducted surveys, prepared reports, and met with numerous industry and consumer groups. Where the Commission determined that certain information practices were unlawful, it has also brought enforcement actions and issued educational materials to assist businesses and consumers in avoiding these practices. In approaching this issue, the FTC recognizes that the sharing and use of information can benefit consumers, but seeks to put a stop to unfair or deceptive information practices that harm consumers.

As part of this ongoing effort to examine how information practices affect consumers, the FTC is announcing a workshop to examine the various costs and benefits of collecting and using certain consumer information to facilitate commercial transactions. To permit a closer examination of the issues, the workshop will focus on the collection and use of consumer information for particular commercial purposes in the context of two or three case studies. Candidates for such case studies include consumer credit, fraud prevention, financial services, customer relations management, and direct and targeted marketing. The workshop will not focus on transactions or entities outside the FTC's jurisdiction. The FTC is particularly interested in learning

about specific data or studies showing how the use of consumer information for these commercial purposes affects consumers. Although observers frequently cite the costs and benefits of these uses of consumer information, a more thorough examination of the empirical evidence should promote greater understanding of the issues.

##### **Issues**

Below is non-exhaustive list of issues to be addressed by the workshop. Written comments need not address all of these issues.

How do businesses measure the value of consumer trust?

What part do information practices play in this valuation?

How do businesses collect and aggregate information about consumers?

How do businesses use information about consumers in their operations?

How do businesses incorporate information practices to benefit consumers?

What types of information about consumers do businesses use?

What factors should be considered in evaluating the costs and benefits to consumers and businesses of the collection and usage of this information?

What are the benefits to consumers of the use of this information by businesses?

What are the costs to consumers of the use of this information by businesses?

The Commission welcomes suggestions for other questions that also should be addressed. Proposed questions, identified as such, may be sent by electronic mail to [infoflows@ftc.gov](mailto:infoflows@ftc.gov).

By direction of the Commission, with Commissioner Anthony voting in the negative.

**Donald S. Clark,**  
Secretary.

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#### **GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE**

**[Document No. JFMIP-SR-03-02]**

##### **Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP)—Federal Financial Management System Requirements (FFMSR)**

**AGENCY:** Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP).

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The JFMIP is seeking public comment on an exposure draft entitled

"Inventory, Supplies, and Materials System Requirements," dated April 2003. The draft is a re-write of the Federal Financial Management System Requirements (FFMSR) document that addresses standard financial requirements for Federal inventory systems. The document is intended to assist agencies when developing, improving or evaluating systems for inventory held for sale, operating supplies and materials, and stockpile materials. It provides the baseline functionality that agency systems must have to support agency missions and comply with laws and regulations. When issued in final, the document will augment the existing body of FFMSR that define financial system functional requirements which are used in evaluating compliance with the Federal Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996.

**DATES:** Comments are due by June 23, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the exposure draft have been transmitted to senior financial officials chief information officers, together with a transmittal memo listing items of interest for which JFMIP is soliciting feedback. The Exposure Draft and transmittal memo are available on the JFMIP Web site: <http://WWW.JFMIP.GOV>. Responses should be addressed to JFMIP, 1990 K Street, NW., Suite 430, Washington, DC 20006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elvon C. Lloyd, (202) 219-0532 or [elvon.lloyd@gsa.gov](mailto:elvon.lloyd@gsa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FFMIA of 1996 mandated that agencies implement and maintain systems that comply substantially with FFMSR, applicable Federal accounting standards, and the U.S. Government Standard General Ledger at the transaction level. The FFMIA statute codified the JFMIP financial system requirements documents as a key benchmark that agency systems must meet to substantially comply with systems requirements provisions under FFMIA. To support the provisions outlined in the FFMIA, the JFMIP is updating obsolete requirements documents and publishing additional requirements documents. Comments received will be reviewed and the exposure draft will be revised as necessary. Publication of the final document will be mailed to agency financial officials, chief information