

Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program

Office of Infrastructure Protection ♦ Infrastructure Information Collection Division

Overview

Information shared with the Federal Government typically becomes a public record and may be accessed through public disclosure laws, unless additional protections are applied. To encourage public-private partnerships, the Department of Homeland Security created the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program in accordance with the Critical Infrastructure Information (CII) Act of 2002.

DHS and other Federal, State and local government agencies use PCII safeguards in their infrastructure protection programs, enabling them to analyze and secure critical infrastructure and protected systems, identify vulnerabilities and develop risk assessments, and enhance recovery and preparedness measures.

Partnerships

The integration of PCII protections within a government entity's data-collection process ensures infrastructure owners and operators that their sensitive information is protected from public disclosure. Some of the DHS programs using PCII are:

- The Automated Critical Asset Management System, which State and local emergency responders use to catalog critical assets and develop incident response plans
- The Buffer Zone Protection Plan, which helps local law enforcement identify vulnerabilities and recommend corrective measures within a buffer zone around high-risk sites
- Site Assistance Visits, which are conducted to develop awareness of a facility's physical vulnerabilities, system connectivity, and interdependency
- The Office of Cyber Security and Communications' National Cyber Security Division along with the Department of Defense, which use PCII to protect and share cyber threat and vulnerability information between the financial sector and the government

Benefits

The private sector can more freely share sensitive and proprietary CII with government partners with the confidence that it will be protected from public release. Government entities partnering with the PCII Program are able to access information that might otherwise have been unavailable for homeland security purposes, while demonstrating their ability to safeguard the information from public disclosure.

Contact Us

Learn more about PCII and how it can support your organization's homeland security efforts. Contact us by e-mail at PCIIoperationshelp@dhs.gov. Information is also available at www.dhs.gov/PCII.

PCII is protected from:

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) disclosure
- State and local disclosure laws
- Use in civil litigation

Additionally, PCII cannot be used as the basis for regulatory action.



**Homeland
Security**

PCII is provided by the Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP), which is a component within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Programs and Protection Directorate. IP leads the national effort to mitigate terrorism risk to, strengthen the protection of, and enhance the all-hazard resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure. Learn more about IP's programs at www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure.