



## European Economic Area (EEA) and the USA

There are no restrictions on the transfer of personal information to other countries within the European Economic Area (EEA).

The EEA currently consists of the following countries:

Austria Belgium Bulgaria Czech Republic Cyprus Denmark Estonia  
Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Italy  
Latvia Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Netherlands Norway  
Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden

The European Commission also considers that the following countries / dependencies provide an adequate level of protection for personal information, so can be considered in the same way as the EEA countries:

Andorra Argentina Canada Faroe Islands Guernsey  
Isle of Man Israel Jersey Switzerland Uruguay

The USA

The USA has no general data protection law as we have in the UK. The Privacy Act 1974 controls and allows access to personal information held by federal government but there is not a law extending to other commercial organisations.

The European Commission considers the 'Safe Harbor' scheme to provide an adequate level of protection for personal information. Companies that sign up to Safe Harbor are bound by seven principles in relation to information handling and are held responsible for keeping to those principles by the Federal Trade Commission.