## **Direct Marketing Association**

## **Commercial Solicitations Online Guidelines**

Marketers may send commercial solicitations online under the following circumstances:

- 1. The solicitations are sent to the marketers' own customers, or
- 2. Individuals have given their affirmative consent to the marketer to receive solicitations online, or
- 3. Individuals did not opt out after the marketer has given notice of the opportunity to opt out from solicitations online, or
- 4. The marketer has received assurance from the third party list provider that the individuals whose e-mail addresses appear on that list
- a. have already provided affirmative consent to receive solicitations online, or
- b. have already received notice of the opportunity to have their e-mail addresses removed and have not opted out.

In each solicitation sent online, marketers should furnish individuals with a link or notice they can use to:

- request that the marketer not send them future solicitations online, and
- request that the marketer not rent, sell, or exchange their e-mail addresses for online solicitation purposes.

The above requests should be honored in a timely manner.

Only those marketers that rent, sell, or exchange information need to provide notice of a mechanism to opt out of information transfer to third-party marketers.

Marketers should process commercial e-mail lists obtained from third parties using The DMA's e-Mail Preference Service suppression file. E-MPS need not be used on one's own *customer* lists, or when individuals have given affirmative consent to the marketer directly.

Solicitations sent online should disclose the marketer's identity, and the subject line should be clear, honest, and not misleading. A marketer should also provide specific contact information at which the individual can obtain service or information. The marketer's street address should be made available in the e-mail solicitation or by a link to the marketer's Web site. For additional information please visit <a href="http://www.the-dma.org">http://www.the-dma.org</a>

ALL MARKETERS MUST ABIDE BY THE CAN SPAM ACT (S.877) OF 2003 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2004