



The Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program, part of the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) National Protection and Programs Directorate, is a congressionally authorized program that protects qualifying information that the private sector voluntarily submits to the government and that is validated as PCII. The Critical Infrastructure Information Act of 2002 and 6 Code of Federal Regulations Part 29 protect PCII from public disclosure and unauthorized use.



Source: DHS

What Is a Violation of PCII Procedures?

A violation is any unauthorized disclosure or unauthorized use (i.e., not for homeland security purposes). Any officer or employee of the United States or of any department or agency thereof is subject to penalties if they

- Publish;
- Divulge;
- Disclose; or
- Make protected critical infrastructure information known in any manner or to any extent not authorized by law.

PCII is specially marked and must be safeguarded, both physically and electronically, under specific procedures to avoid any improper disclosures. All of these protections ensure that submitted information is protected and is used only by authorized homeland security professionals and used only for homeland security purposes. Individuals granted access to PCII should:

- Understand access and disclosure requirements.
- Guide their actions to adhere to the highest ethical standards to safeguard PCII.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure that they follow PCII safeguarding policies and procedures.

The Penalties: Criminal and Administrative

Specifically, PCII authorized users at all levels of government, to include contract support personnel, are subject to the criminal code and to the applicable laws within their jurisdictions.

Title 18 United States Code	Homeland Security Act of 2002 and 6 Code of Federal Regulations Part 29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fined up to \$250,000 • Imprisoned up to one year • Fined and imprisoned • Removed from office or employment 	<p>Disqualification or removal from the PCII Program by the PCII Program Manager for any entity or person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violates PCII procedures; • Uses PCII for an inappropriate purpose; or • Breaches PCII agreements. <p>Terminated entities or persons may appeal to the Under Secretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate.</p>

Contact Information

For additional information on penalties for violating PCII Program procedures, please contact the PCII Program Office at PCII-Assist@hq.dhs.gov.