



Secondary Use Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a Secondary Use?

A: Secondary Use refers to the process whereby a credit report is ordered by one lending entity and then forwarded to another or multiple entities as part of the lending process. *Examples include:*

- Mortgage brokers who order a credit report and then deliver a copy of that report to a wholesale lender.
- Lenders who order a credit report and then request a copy of that report be sent to Desktop Underwriter or LP.com.

Secondary Use occurs when a lender or broker provides all or any portion of the consumer credit information contained in a merged or single credit report to an entity other than the end-user for which the credit report was originally prepared. This includes, but is not limited to sharing consumer credit information provided in view-only format, electronic transmission of the report (e.g., electronic reissue) or a paper copy.

Q: Why was the Secondary Use policy created by the Credit Bureaus?

A: These policies were created to address FCRA compliance, data security, data accuracy and to provide consumers with a means of knowing which entities are reviewing their personal credit information.

Q: What is Re-use (and/or Reprint) of a credit report? Is it the same as Secondary Use?

A: No, Re-use (and/or reprint) is different from Secondary Use. Re-use occurs when the credit report information is re-used for the same permissible purpose by the same end-user that requested the original report. *Examples include:*

- Lenders who order a credit report and then request a copy of that report be sent to their in-house LOS or in-house processing/underwriting center. (same end-user)
- Lenders who order a credit report and then re-use it for internal auditing purposes on the consumer approved loan. (same end-user)

Q: How will inquiries associated with Secondary Use affect a consumer's credit profile?

A: The repositories will post each Secondary Use inquiry as a "soft inquiry." Soft inquiries are only visible to the consumer when they request a copy of their report directly from the repositories. **It is important to note that soft inquiries have no impact on a consumer's credit score.**

Q: What are the new Secondary Use fees and when will they become effective?

A: CCI will begin charging for the secondary use of credit reports beginning March 1st, 2007. The fee for the secondary use of a credit report is:

- \$4.95 for an individual report (single applicant).
- \$9.90 for a joint report (husband and wife applicants).

Note: The Secondary Use fee is in addition to your standard electronic reissue fee.

Q: Is there a way to avoid multiple Secondary Use charges? I sometimes send a credit report to many different lenders:

A: If you are submitting a consumer's file to multiple lenders you cannot avoid multiple Secondary Use charges. The process requires that each lender be recognized as a Secondary User via the soft inquiry process, meaning that you will be charged for each instance of secondary use.

For additional questions please contact us at info@ccireports.com, or call your local CCI sales representative.