

MBG Joins Department of Commerce Safe Harbor

[New York, September 17, 2002]—MBG is certified as a member of the Safe Harbor framework developed by the US Department Of Commerce (DOC) in conjunction with the European Union (EU). As a member, MBG has certified that it meets the European “adequacy” standard for privacy protection, and will be allowed to continue processing data from the EU. Because the United States and the EU have different standards for privacy, the EU’s Directive on Data Protection, effective 1998, prohibits the transfer of personal data to non-European Union nations that do not meet the European “adequacy” standard for privacy protection. The Department of Commerce developed the safe harbor to assure the EU that US companies within the framework meet those standards.

MBG currently polls telecommunications switches for CDR (call detail record) data around the world, including several sites within the EU. The polled data is then sent to MBG’s data processing headquarters in New York. As part of the safe harbor, it is guaranteed that these data flows will be able to continue uninterrupted. MBG collects this data on behalf of its clients, who utilize MBG’s products to monitor telecom costs, as well as charge back those costs to their business units.

To become a member of the safe harbor, MBG self-certified to the DOC that it agrees to adhere to the safe harbor’s requirements, which include elements such as notice, choice, access, and enforcement. It must also state in its published privacy policy statement that it adheres to the safe harbor. MBG also agreed that it will obey EU regulations, and will work with EU authorities to resolve problems.

MBG has many international clients and the ability to continue to collect data from the EU is crucial to its ability to provide the best possible service. The safe harbor is an important tool for MBG to ensure its clients and the EU that it treats sensitive data with all the proper precautions.

For more information on the safe harbor, please visit <http://www.export.gov/safeharbor/> .

MBG is an application service provider (ASP) of web-based bill presentation, asset management and telecom carrier billing solutions. MBG’s product suite includes the most advanced solutions for:

*corporate chargeback
invoice presentation/validation
asset management (circuits, stations, other assets)
call accounting*

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