



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF DALLAS

DALLAS, TEXAS
75265-5906

February 21, 2003

Notice 03-11

TO: The Chief Executive Officer of each
financial institution and others concerned
in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District

SUBJECT

FFIEC Releases Information Security Booklet

DETAILS

The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council has issued revised guidance for examiners and financial institutions to use in identifying information security risks and evaluating the adequacy of controls and applicable risk management practices of financial institutions.

The safety and soundness of the federal financial industry and the privacy of customer information depend on the security practices of banks, thrifts and credit unions. The Information Security Booklet describes how an institution should protect and secure the systems and facilities that process and maintain information. The booklet calls for financial institutions and technology service providers (TSPs) to maintain effective security programs tailored to the complexity of their operations.

The guidance is the first in a series of updates to the 1996 FFIEC Information Systems (IS) Examination Handbook. These updates will address significant changes in technology since 1996 and incorporate a risk-based examination approach.

The FFIEC plans to issue the updates in separate booklets that will ultimately replace all chapters of the 1996 Handbook and comprise the new FFIEC Information Technology (IT) Examination Handbook. In addition to the booklet on information security issued today, future booklets will address business continuity planning, supervision of technology service providers, electronic banking, IT audit, payment systems, outsourcing, IT management, computer operations, and systems development and acquisition.

The FFIEC agencies plan to distribute these booklets electronically to financial institutions and TSPs. The documents will be available on the Internet through the FFIEC's InfoBase application. InfoBase will include each booklet in Adobe Acrobat® PDF file format, as well as an online version with links to various resource materials and an orientation to the handbook update process.

The electronic version of the Information Security Booklet is available at <http://www.ffiec.gov/guides.htm>.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Gary Krumm, Banking Supervision Department, (214) 922-6218. Paper copies of this notice or previous Federal Reserve Bank notices can be printed from our web site at <http://www.dallasfed.org/banking/notices/index.html>.