

**Clear Seas Research**  
**RESEARCH PANEL PRIVACY POLICY**

OVERVIEW

At **Clear Seas Research**, respecting privacy is an important part of our commitment to clients, panel participants and the general public.

When you participate in a panel research survey conducted by our organization, you can be confident that any personal information that you share with us will stay with us.

Any time you participate as a respondent in one of our panel surveys, you can be assured that your individual responses will be kept confidential and never linked to your personal identifying information without your express permission. You are free to choose whether or not to participate in a panel survey, free to choose not to answer any specific questions and free to discontinue participation at any time.

The **Clear Seas Research** Panel Privacy Policy is a statement of principles and guidelines describing the level of protection of personal information provided by **Clear Seas Research** to respondents and the general public. The objective of the **Clear Seas Research** Panel Privacy Policy is to promote responsible and transparent personal information management practices.

**Clear Seas Research** will continue to review its Privacy Policy to make sure that it is relevant and remains current with changing industry standards, technologies and laws.

If you have any concerns about how your privacy is protected at **Clear Seas Research**, please contact us by e-mail at [info@clearseasresearch.com](mailto:info@clearseasresearch.com) by mail at:

**Clear Seas Research**  
2401 W. Big Beaver Rd. Suite 700  
Troy, MI 48084  
Attention: Research Department

This Privacy Policy applies only to **Clear Seas Research** online research panel websites.

THE DETAILED **Clear Seas Research** CORPORATE PRIVACY POLICY

SCOPE AND APPLICATION

The ten principles that form the basis of The **Clear Seas Research** Panel Privacy Policy are interrelated and **Clear Seas Research** shall adhere to the ten principles as a whole. Each principle must be read in conjunction with the accompanying commentary.

The scope and application of The Clear Seas Research Panel Privacy Policy are as follows:

- The **Clear Seas Research** Panel Privacy Policy applies to personal information collected, used, or disclosed by **Clear Seas Research** in the course of commercial activities.
- The **Clear Seas Research** Panel Privacy Policy applies to the management of personal information in any form whether oral, electronic or written.
- The **Clear Seas Research** Panel Privacy Policy does not impose any limits on the collection, use or disclosure of non-personally identifiable information by **Clear Seas Research**:

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This Privacy Policy will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles. Except for actions for equitable relief, the Parties to this Privacy Policy hereby submit and consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the state and federal courts located in the U.S.A and Michigan in any action to enforce (or otherwise relating to) this Privacy Policy.

**DEFINITIONS**

**collection:** The act of gathering, acquiring, recording, or obtaining personal information from any source, including third parties, by any means.

**consent:** Voluntary agreement for the collection, use and disclosure of personal information for defined purposes. Consent can be either express or implied and can be provided directly by the individual or by an authorized representative. Express consent can be given orally, electronically or in writing, but is always unequivocal and does not require any inference on the part of **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**. Implied consent is consent that can reasonably be inferred from an individual's action or inaction.

**disclosure:** Making personal information available to a third party.

**employee:** An employee of or independent contractor to **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**.

**personal information:** Information about an identifiable individual, but does not include the name, title, business address or telephone number of an employee of an organization, and does not include descriptive, factual information about an organization.

**respondent:** A member of the public who provides personal information to **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** in the course of participating in a panel survey conducted by **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**. For example, a respondent is an individual who discloses personal information to **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** in the course of quantitative or qualitative marketing or social research.

**third party:** An individual or organization outside of **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**.

**use:** The treatment, handling, and management of personal information by and within **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** or by a third party with the knowledge and approval of **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**.

**THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF PRIVACY**

**PRINCIPLE 1 - ACCOUNTABILITY**

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** is responsible for personal information under its control and shall designate one or more persons who are accountable for **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**'s compliance with the following principles. **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** is responsible for personal information in its possession or control and shall use contractual or other means to provide a comparable level of protection while information is being processed or used by a third party.

**PRINCIPLE 2 - IDENTIFYING PURPOSES FOR COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall identify the purposes for which personal information is collected at or before the time the information is collected.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** collects personal information from the public only for the following purposes:

(a) to conduct quantitative or qualitative marketing and social research;

(b) to understand respondent opinions to establish suitability for further quantitative and qualitative marketing and social research;

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(c) to distribute incentives; and

(d) to meet legal and regulatory requirements.

Further reference to "identified purposes" mean the purposes identified in this Principle.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall specify orally, electronically or in writing the identified purposes to the respondent at or before the time personal information is collected in a survey. Upon request, persons collecting personal information shall explain these identified purposes or refer the individual to a designated person within **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** who can explain the purposes. When personal information that has been collected is to be used or disclosed for a purpose not previously identified, the new purpose shall be identified prior to use. Unless the new purpose is permitted or required by law, the consent of the respondent will be acquired before the information will be used or disclosed for the new purpose.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** may present in magazines and provide clients or other third parties with information from any survey, in aggregate form. In aggregate form it is impossible to identify an individual respondent's personal information.

**PRINCIPLE 3 - OBTAINING CONSENT FOR COLLECTION, USE OR DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

The knowledge and consent of an individual are required for the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information, except where inappropriate.

Participation by respondents in panel research is always voluntary. When a respondent agrees to participate in a panel survey, he/she gives consent to the panel survey by participating.

Generally, any personal information collected in the course of a panel survey is not disclosed to third parties other than the client sponsoring the research project. In circumstances where **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** does disclose information to a third party other than the client sponsoring the research project, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** always explains the reason for the disclosure to the respondent and obtains express permission from the respondent before making any such disclosure.

A respondent is always free to choose whether or not to participate in a panel survey, free to choose not to answer any specific questions and free to discontinue participation at any time.

In obtaining consent, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall use reasonable efforts to ensure that a respondent is advised of the identified purposes for which personal information will be used or disclosed. The identified purposes shall be stated in a manner that can be reasonably understood by the respondent.

Generally, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall seek consent to use and disclose personal information at the same time it collects the information. However, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** may seek consent to use and/or disclose personal information after it has been collected, but before it is used and/or disclosed for a new purpose.

In determining the appropriate form of consent, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall take into account the sensitivity of the personal information and the reasonable expectations of its respondents.

The participation of a respondent in a quantitative or qualitative marketing or social research study may constitute implied consent for **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** to collect, use and disclose personal information for the identified purposes.

**PRINCIPLE 4 - LIMITING COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall limit the collection of personal information to that which is necessary for the purposes identified by **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**. **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall collect personal information by fair and lawful means.

In conducting surveys, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** limits the amount and type of personal information it collects. We collect only the amount and type of information needed for the purposes identified to individuals. **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** collects personal information about an individual primarily from that individual or a member of that individual's household. Except as permitted by law, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** will only collect personal information from external sources, such as client organizations, if individuals have consented to such collection.

**PRINCIPLE 5 - LIMITING USE, DISCLOSURE, AND RETENTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall not use or disclose personal information for purposes other than those for which it was collected, except with the consent of the individual or as required or permitted by law. Personal information shall be retained only as long as necessary for the fulfillment of those purposes.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** may disclose a respondent's personal information to:

- (a) a client of **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** where the respondent has consented to such disclosure;
- (b) a third party engaged by **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** to perform functions on its behalf;
- (c) a public authority or agent of a public authority if, in the reasonable judgment of **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**, it appears that there is imminent danger to life or property which could be avoided or minimized by disclosure of the information; or
- (d) a third party or parties, where the respondent consents to such disclosure or disclosure is required or permitted by law.

Only **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**'s employees with a business need-to-know, or whose duties reasonably so require, are granted access to personal information about respondents.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall keep personal information only as long as it remains necessary or relevant for the identified purposes or as required by law. Depending on the circumstances, where a respondent may have to be re-contacted for purposes of clarifying responses to a survey, or to seek additional responses, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall retain the personal information for a period of time that is reasonably sufficient to allow this re-contact.

**PRINCIPLE 6 - ACCURACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Personal information shall be as accurate, complete, and up-to-date as is necessary for the purposes for which it is to be used.

Personal information used by **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall be sufficiently accurate, complete, and up-to-date to minimize the possibility that inappropriate information may be used to make a decision about a respondent.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall update personal information about respondents and employees as necessary to fulfill the identified purposes or upon notification by the individual.

**PRINCIPLE 7 - SECURITY SAFEGUARDS**

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**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall protect personal information by security safeguards appropriate to the sensitivity of the information.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall protect personal information against such risks as loss or theft, unauthorized access, disclosure, copying, use, modification or destruction, through appropriate security measures, regardless of the format in which it is held.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall protect personal information disclosed to third parties by contractual agreements stipulating the confidentiality of the information and the purposes for which it is to be used.

All of **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**'s employees with access to personal information shall be required to respect the confidentiality of that information.

**PRINCIPLE 8 - OPENNESS CONCERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall make readily available to individuals specific information about its policies and procedures relating to the management of personal information.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall make information about its policies and procedures easy to understand, including:

- (a) the title and address of the person or persons accountable for **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**'s compliance with its Research Panel Privacy Policy and to whom inquiries and/or complaints can be forwarded;
- (b) the means of gaining access to personal information held by **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**;
- (c) a description of the type of personal information held by **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**, including a general account of its use; and
- (d) a description of what personal information is made available to related organizations (e.g. subsidiaries).

**PRINCIPLE 9 - INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Upon request, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall inform an individual of the existence, use, and disclosure of his or her personal information and shall give the individual access to that information. An individual shall be able to challenge the accuracy and completeness of the information and have it amended as appropriate. Upon written request to the research department, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** will inform an individual of the existence, use and disclosure of his/her personal information and shall be given access to that information.

In certain situations, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** may not be able to provide access to all the personal information that it holds about a respondent. For example, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** may not provide access to information if doing so would likely reveal personal information about a third party or could reasonably be expected to threaten the life or security of another individual. Also, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** may not provide access to information if disclosure would reveal confidential commercial information.

In order to safeguard personal information, a respondent may be required to provide sufficient identification information to permit **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** to account for the existence, use and disclosure of personal information and to authorize access to the individual's file. Any such information shall be used only for this purpose.

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**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall promptly correct or complete any personal information found to be inaccurate or incomplete. Any unresolved differences as to accuracy or completeness shall be noted in the individual's file. Where appropriate, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall transmit to third parties having access to the personal information in question any amended information or the existence of any unresolved differences.

Respondents and employees can obtain information or seek access to their individual files by contacting the **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** Department.

**PRINCIPLE 10 - CHALLENGING COMPLIANCE**

An individual shall be able to address a challenge concerning compliance with the above principles to the designated person or persons accountable for **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**'s compliance with the **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** Panel Privacy Policy.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall maintain procedures for addressing and responding to all inquiries or complaints from its respondents regarding **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**'s handling of personal information. **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall, on written request, inform its respondents about the existence of these procedures as well as the availability of complaint procedures.

The person or persons accountable for compliance with the **Clear Seas Research** Panel Privacy Policy may seek external advice where appropriate before providing a final response to individual complaints.

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall investigate all complaints concerning compliance with its Research Panel Privacy Policy. If a complaint is found to be justified, **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** shall take appropriate measures to resolve the complaint including, if necessary, amending its policies and procedures. The respondent shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation regarding his or her complaint.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For more information regarding the **Clear Seas Research** Panel Privacy Policy, please contact **CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH** by e-mail at [info@clearseasresearch.com](mailto:info@clearseasresearch.com), or by mail at:

**CLEAR SEAS RESEARCH**  
2401 W. Big Beaver Rd. Suite 700  
Troy, MI 48084  
Attention: Research Department