



**Homeland  
Security**

# The Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program

Protected Critical Infrastructure Information is an information protection program for infrastructure information voluntarily shared with DHS to be used for homeland security purposes. PCII was protected by Congress in the CII Act of 2002, ensuring that PCII in the government's hands is protected from disclosure.

## Protections

PCII cannot:

- Be disclosed through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, or through a request under a similar State, tribal, or territorial disclosure law.
- Be disclosed in civil litigation.
- Be used for regulatory purposes.

PCII may only be used:

- By a Federal, State, local, tribal, or territorial government employee or contractor who has taken PCII training.
- For homeland security purposes.
- With a need-to-know that particular information for their official duties.

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 whether it contains critical homeland security-related information or sensitive/proprietary private sector information.

## Uses

PCII is used by DHS to identify vulnerabilities, mitigation strategies, and protective measures, which are often shared with the asset owner/operator in question. DHS works closely with asset owners/operators to provide a wide array of services and products to help them protect the Nation's critical infrastructure and PCII is a key component in these efforts. PCII is used by DHS programs such as the Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Program, Site Assessment Visit Program, Computer-Based Assessment Tool, Automated Critical Asset Management System, and a series of sector-specific voluntary self-assessment tools, among others. PCII also allows DHS to collect cyber attack, risk, and vulnerability information in order to protect the Nation's cyber infrastructure. PCII protections allow access to a vast amount of data necessary to detect, deter, and defend against threats to the Nation.

## Contact Information

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Caption (provide source)