

# **PRIVACY LAWS & ASSUREON COMPLIANCE BY NEXSAN**

Privacy Regulations, such as the UK Data Protection Act, Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) and California SB 1386 are three of the growing list of privacy laws that organizations need to be aware of when doing business in certain countries. These laws are designed to protect the privacy and personal information of individuals.

## What Privacy Regulations?

- Disposition at the File Level on Disk, Tape, Optical, DVD or WORM Media
- Retention Period
- Integrated Retention Management System
- Scrubbing of Data
- Security: Access & Encryption

Below are excerpts from privacy regulations that refer to requirements that a compliant storage solution should address. After each excerpt is a brief description of how Nexsan Assureon addresses that particular requirement.

**4.5 Principle 5 — “Limiting Use, Disclosure, and Retention—Personal information shall not be used or disclosed for purposes other than those for which it was collected, except with the consent of the individual or as required by law. Personal information shall be retained only as long as necessary for the fulfillment of those purposes.” PIPEDA**

**3.5 Fifth Principle “Personal data processed for any purpose or purposes shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes.” UK Data Protection Act** Disposing of personal information is a core requirement of all privacy laws. This regulation poses a challenge for organizations because a fundamental IT policy has been to continually backup information, causing multiple copies to be stored. Another challenge is that tape or optical media, normally used for backups, makes it impossible to delete a specific file, a compliance requirement.

The Assureon “virtual disposition” option encrypts all files under management based on a unique encryption key. At the time of disposition, Assureon scrubs all copies of the file it has access to and then deletes the file along with its encryption key. When the encryption key is deleted, every copy of the file, regardless of location and media (Tape, Disk, Optical, DVD, or WORM Media) is effectively destroyed.

**“4.5.2 Organizations should develop guidelines and implement procedures with respect to the retention of personal information. These guidelines should include minimum and maximum retention periods.” PIPEDA**

Assureon has an integrated retention management system which allows an organization to apply their retention policies to any document without the necessity of implementing a third-party document management system. Retention policies can include information such as length of retention, document type, whether to encrypt the information, and so on. Retention policies can be transparent to end users.

## Protect Your Business Records and Meet Your Privacy Obligations

**“4.7.1 Personal information that is no longer required to fulfill the identified purposes should be destroyed, erased, or made anonymous. Organizations shall develop guidelines and implement procedures to govern the destruction of personal information.” PIPEDA**

Assureon follows a very specific procedure to ensure the proper scrubbing (destruction) of data from a magnetic media based storage system:

- File is opened and binary 1s are written to every bit in the file.
- File is saved to disk and closed.
- File is re-opened and binary 0s are written to every bit in the file.
- File is saved to disk and closed.
- File is re-opened and alternate 1s and 0 are written to every bit.
- File is saved to disk and closed.
- File is deleted.

**“4.7.3(c) technological measures, for example, the use of passwords and encryption.”  
“4.7.5 Care shall be used in the disposal or destruction of personal information, to prevent unauthorized parties from gaining access to the information.” PIPEDA**

Assureon integrates with the Microsoft Authentication system in order to control user access and has the capability to encrypt all information under its management.

### ABOUT NEXSAN

Nexsan® is a leading provider of innovative data storage systems with over 10,000 customers worldwide. Nexsan’s pioneering hybrid storage systems combine solid-state technologies, spinning disk storage and advanced software to deliver radical new levels of performance and capacity at lower cost. The company’s advanced technologies enable organizations to optimize traditional, virtual and cloud computing environments for increased productivity and business agility. With more than 28,000 systems deployed since 1999, the company delivers its data storage systems through a worldwide network of solution providers, VARs and system integrators. Nexsan is based in Thousand Oaks, Calif. For more information, visit [www.nexsan.com](http://www.nexsan.com).