

# CIPA COMPLIANCE

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), HR4577, is a federal law enacted by Congress in December 2000 to address concerns about access in schools and libraries to the Internet and other information. Fortinet's FortiGuard Web Filtering Subscription Service has been extensively developed to help our customers attain compliance with HR4577 by offering a hosted service that provides Web URL filtering for schools, libraries, government agencies, and enterprise businesses of all sizes. The FortiGuard Web Filtering solution consists of two parts, the FortiGuard Rating Server and the FortiGate Antivirus Firewall. The FortiGuard Rating Server is a master ratings database that is made up of billions of web addresses. The FortiGuard Web Filtering solution does not require any additional hardware and can be activated on all FortiGate Antivirus Firewalls to improve productivity, and reduce substantial risks and limit access to inappropriate and illegal content.

For any school or library that receives discounts for Internet access or for internal connections, CIPA imposes certain requirements. Starting in 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued rules to ensure that CIPA is carried out.

## **CIPA Requirements**

Under CIPA, schools and libraries subject to CIPA do not receive the discounts offered by the "E-Rate" program (discounts that make access to the Internet affordable to schools and libraries) unless they certify that they have certain Internet safety measures in place. These include measures to block or filter pictures that: (a) are obscene, (b) contain child pornography, or (c) when computers with Internet access are used by minors, are harmful to minors; Schools subject to CIPA are required to adopt a policy to monitor online activities of minors; and Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt a policy addressing: (a) access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web; (b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online; (d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and (e) restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them. CIPA does not require the tracking of Internet use by minors or adults.

Schools and libraries are now required to certify that they had their safety policies and technology in place, or that they were taking the necessary actions to put them in place before receiving E-rate funding for the following school year. After a lower court found the application of CIPA to libraries unconstitutional, the United States Supreme Court upheld the statute in *U.S. v. American Library Association*.

For further information on Fortinet's CIPA compliant FortiGuard Web Content Filtering subscription service, or to learn more about our award-winning family of FortiGate antivirus firewalls, please contact Fortinet at [www.fortinet.com](http://www.fortinet.com) or call us at 408-235-7700 or toll free 866-868-3678.

CERTIFIED