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BUSINESS PROGRAMS | UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE
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REDACTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

In order to protect personal privacy and in compliance with California Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) section 9526.5, the Secretary of State's office (SOS) has removed ("redacted") social security numbers, if provided, from all UCC records filed prior to December 31, 2007. In addition, the SOS commenced redacting any social security number provided on a record filed on paper after January 1, 2008.

For each UCC record that is redacted, the SOS maintains the original un-redacted official filing image and creates a redacted public filing image, which is available for UCC information requests. The un-redacted official filing image only is available to the public pursuant to a subpoena or an order from a court of competent jurisdiction.

In the event that the SOS misses redacting a social security number from a UCC record, any person may notify the SOS and specify the file or document number of the record and the location of the social security number within the record, and the SOS will create a redacted public filing image of the record within 10 business days from the date of notification.

In addition, the SOS has made a filing form available pursuant to UCC section 9521 that removes the space identified for the disclosure of the social security number of an individual. These UCC filing forms can be obtained by visiting the California Business Portal at www.sos.ca.gov and clicking on the Forms & Fees link.

UCC filings are public records. Please do not put people at risk of identity theft by including social security numbers on any documents for filing with the Secretary of State.

For more information on identity theft, you may want to visit the California Office of Privacy Protection's website at www.privacy.ca.gov/ or review its consumer information on social security number privacy available at http://www.privacy.ca.gov/ssn.htm.