



CSP-AB Antitrust Statement

Trade associations have long been recognized as serving a valuable, procompetitive and entirely lawful role in promoting the economic development and consumer welfare of our country. However, serious antitrust problems can arise if a trade association's activities are not properly conducted. Accordingly, the Cloud Service Provider Advisory Board (CSP-AB) assigns the highest priority to full compliance with both the letter and the spirit of the antitrust laws. It is thus vital that all meetings and activities of CSP-AB be conducted in a manner consistent with that policy.

Agreements among competitors that unreasonably limit competition are unlawful under the antitrust laws, and violators are subject to criminal fines and incarceration, civil fines and private treble damage actions – as well as substantial administrative disruption, defense costs and adverse publicity. Examples of such illegal agreements by competitors are agreements to fix or stabilize prices, agreements to allocate territories or customers, and agreements to limit output or even investments in innovation and regulatory compliance. Accordingly, it is inherently risky and potentially illegal for competitors to discuss any prices, pricing policies, specific terms and conditions of sale, profit margins, problems experienced with individual customers or suppliers, individual company costs, production or R&D plans, specific market shares of any competitor, or any other elements or factors that may affect competition.

It is important to bear in mind that those in attendance at CSP-AB meetings, or participating in other CSP-AB activities, include your competitors. Any discussion of sensitive antitrust subjects with one's competitors should be avoided at all times before, during, and after any CSP-AB meeting or activity. If at any time during the course of any meeting or activity, CSP-AB staff believes that a sensitive topic under the antitrust laws is being discussed, or is about to be discussed, they will so advise those present and halt further discussion. Attendees at any CSP-AB meeting or other activity should likewise not hesitate to voice any concerns they may have in this regard. All CSP-AB members and staff share in this important responsibility.