

Privacy Policy

Effective May 15, 2018

The American Vacuum Society (“AVS”) is committed to protecting your privacy. This Privacy Policy describes how AVS collects, uses, and shares your information when you use and interact with our Services and applies to all persons who use our Services (“Users”). Our Privacy Policy governs your access to and use of all AVS operated and controlled websites including <http://www.avs.org> (the “Website”), all other publicly available online services controlled or provided by AVS (collectively, the “Services”).

If you have questions about AVS’s Privacy Policy or practices, or if you need to contact us about the information we collect about you, our contact information is at the end of this Privacy Policy.

Applicability & Eligibility

Applicability

This Privacy Policy applies only to the Services, and AVS’s collection, use, disclosure, and protection of your data. It does not apply to third party websites, applications, or services.

Before accessing, using, or interacting with the Services you should carefully review the terms and conditions of this Privacy Policy.

Eligibility To Use The Services

The Services are not directed to children under the age of 16. You may not use the Services if you are under the age of 16.

Information Collection & Use

AVS collects data about you and your use of the Services through various means, including when you provide information to us such as when you join, sign up for a membership, donate, register for events, courses, and webinars, and when we automatically collect information about you when you access, use, or interact with the Services. We use this information for a variety of different reasons, including to improve the Services and to tailor the Services to you.

AVS processes Personal Data collected through the Services on the lawful basis of legitimate interests to provide the Services to you. Such processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by AVS or by our Service Providers related to the Services.

The types of information AVS will collect about you include:

Information You Provide To Us:

AVS Membership & Event Information: AVS collects certain Personal Data from you when you join the AVS or register for AVS events. “Personal Data” refers to information about you that will be used to identify you, such as your first name, last name, title, email address, phone number, and mailing address. AVS uses this information to provide your membership, register you for events, provide information about memberships and events, and administer your registrations with AVS.

AVS Account Information: AVS will require you to register for an account (an “AVS Account”) in order to use certain Services, such as the AVS Career Center. We do not require you to register to use all of our Services. However if you do register for Services offering an AVS Account, you will gain access to those areas and features of the Services that require registration. AVS will collect certain information about you in connection with your registration for your AVS Account, which will include Personal Data and other information such as a username, password, personal profile, pictures, your location, and information about your contacts. Some of your AVS Account information will be displayed publicly. You are not required to provide your Personal Data; however, if you choose to withhold certain Personal Data, we may not be able to provide you with certain Services.

Payment Transaction Information: We will collect and store information related to purchases, registration for events and courses, products purchased through the AVS store, and donations made through the Services. You may

provide certain information to complete payments via the Services, including your credit or debit card number, card expiration date, CVV code, and billing address (collectively, “**Payment Information**”), along with your name and billing, delivery and shipping address, to complete payment transactions through certain Services.

Please note AVS works with Service Providers (as defined below) to handle payment transactions. AVS does not itself collect or maintain your credit card or other financial account information; this information is handled for AVS by our Service Providers. You are subject to the Privacy Policies and Terms and Conditions of our Service Providers when purchasing an AVS membership, shopping for AVS products, or making donations, the terms of which may differ from those of AVS for the AVS Services. Please review the Service Providers’ Privacy Policies and Terms and Conditions before using their services.

Form Information: We will use online forms to request certain information from you in order to perform certain Services, such as your location to assist you in locating our products, or your contact information to assist with contacts or service requests. This information will include Personal Data.

Correspondence Information: If you sign up for a membership, attend a conference or event, email us, subscribe to our newsletters mailing lists, publications, or blogs, we will keep your message, email address, and contact information to respond to your requests, provide the requested products or Services, and to provide notifications or other correspondences to you. If you do not want to receive email from us in the future, you may let us know by sending us an email or by writing to us at the address below. Please note requests to remove your email address from our lists will take some time to fulfill. We will also still contact you as needed to provide important announcements or notifications regarding the Services.

Support Information: You may provide information to us via a support request submitted through the Services. We will use this information to assist you with your support request and will maintain this information to assist you or other Users with support requests. Please do not submit any information to us via a support submission, including confidential or sensitive information that you do not wish for AVS or our Service Providers to have access to or use in the future.

Information We Collect Automatically:

Cookies, Web Beacons, Links, And Other Tracking Technologies: AVS will keep track of how you use and interact with the Services through the use of cookies, web beacons, links, and other tracking technologies. We do this to help analyze the use of and improve the Services. Through these technologies we will automatically collect information about your use of the Services and other online activities, including our email correspondences, third-party services, and client applications, and certain online activities after you leave the Services. Link information is generally only analyzed on an aggregate basis. Some Services will not function properly if you disable cookies. Such data will include analytics information, sites visited before visiting the Services, browser type, operating system, and tracking of your interactions with our content and emails.

Unique Identifiers: When you use or access the Services, we will access, collect, monitor, store on your device, and/or remotely store one or more "Unique Identifiers," such as a universally unique identifier (“UUID”). A Unique Identifier will remain on your device persistently, to help you log in faster and enhance your navigation through the Services. Some features of the Services will not function properly if use or availability of Unique Identifiers is impaired or disabled.

Log File Information: When you use our Services, we will receive log file information such as your IP address, browser type, access times, domain names operating system, the referring web page(s), pages visited, location, your mobile carrier, device information (including device and application IDs), search terms, and cookie information. We receive log file data when you interact with our Services, for example, when you visit our websites, sign into our Services, or interact with our email notifications. AVS uses log file data to provide, understand, and improve our Services, and to customize the content we show you. AVS will link this log file to other information AVS collects about you via the Services.

Public Information: AVS will also collect information about you from publicly available sources. Information you make publicly available in any public or open forum, such as on a social network, will be considered public information for the purposes of this Privacy Policy, and will be accessed and collected by AVS. Please be aware that any content or information you share with or provide to third parties using or related to your use of the Services is neither private, nor confidential. AVS is not responsible for any content or information you post or share with third parties. If you do not wish for certain information to be public, please do not share it.

Information Sharing

AVS Personnel: AVS’s personnel will have access to your information as needed to provide and operate the Services in the normal course of business. This includes information regarding your use and interaction with the Services.

Service Providers: AVS works with various organizations and individuals to help provide the Services to you (“**Service Providers**”), such as website and data hosting companies and companies providing analytics information, like Google Analytics. We will share your personal information with our Service Providers for the purpose of providing the Services. The information we share to our Service Providers will include both information you provide to us and information we collect about you, including Personal Data and information from data collection tools like cookies, web beacons, log files, Unique Identifiers, and location data. AVS takes reasonable steps to ensure that our Service Providers are obligated to reasonably protect your information on AVS’s behalf. If AVS becomes aware that a Service Provider is using or disclosing information improperly, we will take commercially reasonable steps to end or correct such improper use or disclosure.

Business Transactions: AVS will purchase other businesses or their assets, sell our business assets, or be involved in a bankruptcy, merger, acquisition, reorganization or sale of assets (a “**Business Transaction**”). Your information, including Personal Data, will be among assets sold or transferred as part of a Business Transaction.

Lawful Requests: We will be required to disclose User information pursuant to lawful requests, such as subpoenas or court orders, or in compliance with applicable laws. We generally do not disclose User information unless we have a good faith belief that an information request by law enforcement or private litigants meets applicable legal standards. We will share your information when we believe it is necessary to comply with applicable laws, to protect our interests or property, to prevent fraud or other illegal activity perpetrated through the Services or using the AVS name, or to protect the safety of any person. This will include sharing information with other companies, lawyers, agents, or government agencies. Nothing in this Privacy Policy is intended to limit any legal defenses or objections that you will have to a third party’s, including a government’s, request to disclose your information.

Your Rights and Choices Regarding Your Information

Your Rights

Relevant data protection laws provide you certain rights regarding the protection of your data, including:

- the right to access;
- the right to rectification;
- the right to erasure;
- the right to restrict processing;
- the right to object to processing;
- the right to data portability;
- the right to complaint to a supervisory authority; and
- the right to withdraw consent.

More information about your rights relating to AVS and the Services is provided via this Privacy Policy.

Access To The Information AVS Has Collected About You

AVS provides certain tools and settings within the Services to help you access, correct, delete, or modify your personal information associated with the Services. AVS welcomes you to contact us regarding the information we have collected about you, including regarding the nature and accuracy of the data that has been collected about you, to request an update, modification, or deletion of your information, to opt-out of certain Services uses of your information, or to withdraw any consent you will have granted to AVS.

Please note requests to delete or remove your information do not necessarily ensure complete or comprehensive removal of the content or information posted, and removed information will persist in backup copies indefinitely. Please note that if you choose to delete your information or opt-out of the collection and use of your information, you understand that certain features, including but not limited to access to the Services, will no longer be available to you.

We will store the information we collect about you indefinitely, but information generally will be retained only for as long as necessary to fulfill the purposes for which the information was collected, or as otherwise required by law. Following termination or deactivation of an AVS Account, AVS will retain your information and content for a commercially reasonable time for backup, archival, and audit purposes.

Opting-Out Of Communications From AVS

Users may opt-out of receiving certain communications from AVS by following the unsubscribe process described in an email communication, or by contacting us using the contact information provided below. However, please note you may not opt-out of Services-related communications, such as account verification, changes or updates to features of the Services, or technical and security notices.

Do Not Track

AVS does not currently employ a process for automatically responding to “Do Not Track” (DNT) signals sent by web browsers, mobile devices, or other mechanisms. Per industry standards, third parties will be able to collect information, including Personal Data, about your online activities over time and across different websites or online services when you use Services. You may opt out of online behavioral ads at <http://www.aboutads.info/choices/>. You also may limit certain tracking by disabling cookies in your web browser.

Information Security

Security Of Your Information

AVS takes reasonable efforts to secure and protect the privacy, accuracy, and reliability of your information and to protect it from loss, misuse, unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration and destruction. AVS implements security measures as we deem appropriate and consistent with industry standards. As no data security protocol is impenetrable, AVS cannot guarantee the security of our systems or databases, nor can we guarantee that personal information we collect about you will not be breached, intercepted, destroyed, accessed, or otherwise disclosed without authorization. Accordingly, you assume a measure of risk with any information you transfer or from services provided.

Please do your part to help us keep your information secure. You are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of your password and AVS Account, and are fully responsible for all activities that occur under your password or AVS Account. AVS specifically reserves the right to terminate your access to the Services and any contract you have with AVS related to the Services in the event it learns or suspects you have disclosed your AVS Account or password information to an unauthorized third party.

Additional Provisions Regarding The Services & Your Information

Transfer And Storage Of Your Information

Please note information AVS collects about you will be transferred, processed and/or accessed by us in the United States, or another country where we, or our Service Providers operate. Please be aware Personal Data will be transferred to, and maintained on, computers located outside of your state or country where privacy laws may differ from and may not be as protective as those where you live. If you are located outside the United States and choose to allow us to collect information about you, please be aware that AVS will transfer your Personal Data to the United States and process and store it there.

If you are located in the European Economic Area (“EEA”) or other regions with laws governing data collection and use that may differ from U.S. law, please note that we will transfer information to a country or jurisdiction that does not have the same data protection laws as your jurisdiction, as disclosed in this Privacy Policy. It will also be processed by staff operating outside the EEA who work for us or for one of Service Providers, also as disclosed.

Website Hosting: AVS works with [The Atom Group] as its web hosting services provider, along with Abila, which hosts the AVS Membership portal. [The Atom Group] is located [Portsmouth, NH] and the Website are stored by [Rackspace] in [Windcrest, TX]. [Abila] is located [Austin, TX] and the Website are stored by [Abila] in [Austin, TX]. AVS shares your data, including Personal Data, with our website hosting Service Provider for the purposes of processing your data pursuant to your use of the Services.

Data Hosting: AVS works with [Abila] as its data hosting services provider. [Abila] is located Austin, TX] and AVS’s data are stored by [Abila] in [Austin, TX]. AVS shares your data, including Personal Data, with our website hosting Service Provider for the purposes of processing your data pursuant to your use of the Services.

E-mail Marketing Service Provider: AVS works with [Constant Contact] as its e-mail marketing hosting services provider. [Constant Contact] is located in Waltham, MA] and AVS’s data are stored by [Constant Contact] in Waltham, MA] AVS shares your data, including Personal Data, with our e-mail marketing hosting service provider for the purposes of AVS related e-mail marketing and promotions.

Safely Using AVS's Services

Despite AVS's safety and privacy controls, we cannot guarantee the Services are entirely free of illegal, offensive, pornographic, or otherwise inappropriate material, or that you will not encounter inappropriate or illegal conduct from other Users when using the Services. You can help AVS by notifying us of any unwelcome contact by contacting us using the information below.

Your California Privacy Rights

Under California Civil Code Section 1798.83 (known as the "Shine the Light" law), AVS members and customers who are residents of California may request certain information about our disclosure of personal information during the prior calendar year to third parties for their direct marketing purposes. To make such a request, please write to us at the address below or at [Data_Protection@avs.org] with "Request for California Privacy Information" on the subject line and in the body of your message. We will comply with your request within thirty (30) days or as otherwise required by the statute. Please be aware that not all information sharing is covered by the "Shine the Light" requirements and only information on covered sharing will be included in our response.

Changes to Our Privacy Policy

AVS will modify this Privacy Policy from time to time. The most current version of this Privacy Policy will govern our use of your information and will be located at [<https://avs.org/About/Privacy-Policy>]. Please check back for any updates to this Privacy Policy.

Contact AVS

[Yvonne Towse]
Data Protection Officer
American Vacuum society
125 Maiden Lane, 15B, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10038
Tel: 212-248-0200 ext. 222
[DPO@avs.org]