

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

COMMISSIONERS: **William E. Kovacic, Chairman**
 Pamela Jones Harbour
 Jon Leibowitz
 J. Thomas Rosch

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In the Matter of)	
)	DOCKET NO. C-4221
American Cash Market, Inc.,)	
a corporation)	
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DECISION AND ORDER

The Federal Trade Commission has conducted an investigation of certain acts and practices of the respondent named in the caption hereof, and the respondent having been furnished thereafter with a copy of a draft complaint which the Bureau of Consumer Protection proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration and which, if issued by the Commission, would charge respondent with violation of the Truth in Lending Act and its implementing Regulation Z; and

The respondent and counsel for the Federal Trade Commission having thereafter executed an agreement containing a consent order, an admission by the respondent of all jurisdictional facts set forth in the aforesaid draft of complaint, a statement that the signing of said agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by respondent that the law has been violated as alleged in the complaint, or that the facts as alleged in such complaint, other than jurisdictional facts, are true, and waivers and other provisions as required by the Commission’s Rules; and

The Commission having thereafter considered the matter and having determined that it had reason to believe that the respondent has violated the Truth in Lending Act and its implementing Regulation Z, and that complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect, and having thereupon accepted the executed consent agreement and placed such agreement on

the public record for a period of thirty (30) days, and having duly considered the comment filed by an interested person, now in further conformity with the procedure prescribed in § 2.34 of its Rules, the Commission hereby issues its complaint, makes the following jurisdictional findings and enters the following order:

1. Respondent American Cash Market, Inc. is a corporation with its principal office or place of business at 2207 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, C.A. 90064.
2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this proceeding and of the respondent, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this order, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Advertisement" shall mean a commercial message in any medium that promotes, directly or indirectly, a credit transaction.
2. "Consumer" means a cardholder or a natural person to whom consumer credit is offered or extended. The term also includes a natural person in whose principal dwelling a security interest is or will be retained or acquired, if that person's ownership interest in the dwelling is or will be subject to a security interest.
3. "Consumer Credit" shall mean credit offered or extended to a consumer primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
4. "Clearly and conspicuously" shall mean as follows:
 - A. In a print advertisement, the disclosure shall be in a type size, location, and in print that contrasts with the background against which it appears, sufficient for an ordinary consumer to notice, read and comprehend it.
 - B. In an electronic medium, the disclosure shall be:
 - (a) unavoidable;
 - (b) of a size and shade, and appear on the screen for a duration, sufficient for an ordinary consumer to read and comprehend it;
 - (c) understandable language and syntax; and
 - (d) prior to the consumer incurring any financial obligation.

- C. In a television or video advertisement, the audio disclosure shall be delivered in a volume and cadence sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend it. The video disclosure shall be of a size and shade, and appear on the screen for a duration, sufficient for an ordinary consumer to read and comprehend it, and shall be in understandable language and syntax.
- D. In a radio advertisement, the disclosure shall be delivered in a volume and cadence sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend it.

Nothing contrary to, inconsistent with, or in mitigation of the material terms shall be used in any advertisement or promotion.

- 5. "Respondent" unless otherwise specified, shall mean American Cash Market, Inc., its successors and assigns and its officers, agents, representatives, and employees.

I.

IT IS ORDERED that respondent, directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with any advertisement to promote, directly or indirectly, any extension of consumer credit in or affecting commerce, shall not, in any manner, expressly or by implication:

- A. State the amount or percentage of any downpayment, the number of payments or period of repayment, the amount of any payment, or the amount of any finance charge, without disclosing clearly and conspicuously all of the terms required by Section 144 of the Truth in Lending Act ("TILA"), 15 U.S.C. §1664, as amended, and Section 226.24(c) of Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. §226.24(c), as amended, as more fully set out in Section 226.24(c) of the Federal Reserve Board's Official Staff Commentary to Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. §226.24(c), as amended, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. The amount or percentage of the downpayment;
 - 2. The terms of repayment;
 - 3. The annual percentage rate, using that term or the abbreviation "APR." If the annual percentage rate may be increased after the consummation of the credit transaction, that fact must also be disclosed.
- B. State a rate of finance charge without stating the rate as an "annual percentage rate" or the abbreviation "APR," using that term, as required by Section 144 of the TILA, 15 U.S.C. §1664, as amended, and Section 226.24(b) of Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. §226.24(b), as amended, as more fully set out in Section 226.24(b) of the

Federal Reserve Board's Official Staff Commentary to Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. §226.24(b), as amended.

- C. Fail to comply in any other respect with the TILA, 15 U.S.C. §§1601-1667, as amended, and Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. §226, as amended.

II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall, for five (5) years after the last date of dissemination of any representation covered by this order, maintain and upon request make available to the Federal Trade Commission for inspection and copying all records that will demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this order.

III.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent, and its successors and assigns, for a period of five (5) years from the date of issuance of this order, shall deliver a copy of this order to all current and future principals, officers, directors, and managers, and to all current and future employees, agents, and representatives having responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of this order, and shall secure from each such person a signed and dated statement acknowledging receipt of the order. Respondent shall deliver this order to current personnel within thirty (30) days after the date of service of this order, and to future personnel within thirty (30) days after the person assumes such position or responsibilities.

IV.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent, and its successors and assigns, for a period of five (5) years from the date of issuance of this order, shall notify the Commission at least thirty (30) days prior to any change in the corporation(s) that may affect compliance obligations arising under this order, including but not limited to a dissolution, assignment, sale, merger, or other action that would result in the emergence of a successor corporation; the creation or dissolution of a subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to this order; the proposed filing of a bankruptcy petition; or a change in the corporate name or address. Provided, however, that, with respect to any proposed change in the corporation about which respondent learns less than thirty (30) days prior to the date such action is to take place, respondent shall notify the Commission as soon as is practicable after obtaining such knowledge. All notices required by this Part shall be sent by certified mail to the Associate Director, Division of Enforcement, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580.

V.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent, and its successors and assigns, shall, within sixty (60) days after the date of service of this order, and at such other times as the Federal Trade Commission may require, file with the Commission a report, in writing, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which they have complied with this order.

VI.

This order will terminate on June 3, 2028, or twenty (20) years from the most recent date that the United States or the Federal Trade Commission files a complaint (with or without an accompanying consent decree) in federal court alleging any violation of the order, whichever comes later; provided, however, that the filing of such a complaint will not affect the duration of:

- A. Any Part in this order that terminates in less than twenty (20) years;
- B. This order's application to any respondent that is not named as a defendant in such complaint; and
- C. This order if such complaint is filed after the order has terminated pursuant to this Part.

Provided, further, that if such complaint is dismissed or a federal court rules that the respondent did not violate any provision of the order, and the dismissal or ruling is either not appealed or upheld on appeal, then the order will terminate according to this Part as though the complaint had never been filed, except that the order will not terminate between the date such complaint is filed and the later of the deadline for appealing such dismissal or ruling and the date such dismissal or ruling is upheld on appeal.

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark
Secretary

SEAL:
ISSUED: June 3, 2008