

Roy, Lauren

From: Blanch, Belinda on behalf of Adjudication
Sent: Friday, 18 April 2008 9:33 AM
To: Chisholm, Shane; Roy, Lauren
Subject: FW: Spam: FORCED ACCEPTANCE OF PAYPAL BY EBAY [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Categories: SEC=UNCLASSIFIED
ACCC Classification: SEC=UNCLASSIFIED

EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC REGISTER

-----Original Message-----

From: K S [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, 18 April 2008 8:35 AM
To: Adjudication
Subject: Spam: FORCED ACCEPTANCE OF PAYPAL BY EBAY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find set out below my objection to eBay's forced use of Paypal for sellers to receive payments.

1. Firstly some points of order;

1.1. The application is being made by eBay International AG based in Switzerland, whilst correspondence mandating the changes that I have received is from eBay Australia Pty Ltd. - can you confirm which entity is in fact making the changes, is it an Australian Pty Ltd company or a Swiss company?

1.2. eBay Australia has registered a web domain name of ebay.com.au and uses the eBay Pty Ltd name on this domain and is where I have placed ads to sell and have bought items, but eBay claims that I place ads with eBay International AG and is the company that I receive invoices from. Can you again confirm which entity is making the claim for the exemption?

1.3. eBay International AG send me an invoice for services provided in Australia, by ebay.com.au and eBay Australia Pty Ltd but do not charge any GST on the services that their Australian subsidiary provides to me.

1.4. The items hidden from public view in Para 4.4 of eBay's application "the Nera Report" make it difficult to make a full and accurate submission with substantial (and VERY IMPORTANT) parts of eBay's submission missing from public scrutiny. Whilst I understand the need for some "commercial in confidence", in this case ALL details of their submission should be made public to ensure an open process and that the ACCC is in no way seen to be assisting eBay to circumvent Australian laws.

1.5. eBay confuses the commonly accepted use of the word "customer", I as a seller, pay eBay fees for the use of their advertising platform, I pay a fee for listing an item, and a fee if the item sells based upon a % of the selling price. I as a seller am eBay's customer, I pay the fees and I have a contractual arrangement with eBay (whether it is eBay Australia Pty Ltd or eBay International AG I am yet to find out).

1.5.1. eBay defines its customers much more broadly and includes people who buy from me as also being their customers - however my customers do not pay fees to eBay and cannot have a contractual relationship with eBay in any particular sale.

2. My objection;

2.1 I object to being forced to use Paypal as a condition of continuing membership of eBay.

2.2. Whilst eBay may believe that Paypal is a secure method of purchasing goods via its auction site, many sellers find Paypal to be the exact opposite and are notoriously difficult to deal with.

2.3. The following known problems with Paypal exist;

2.3.1 Paypal will refund money from a seller's account to a buyer without informing the seller.

2.3.2. Paypal will refund money from a seller's account to a buyer when the buyer makes a claim against their credit card, they NEVER inform the seller as they cannot meet the seven day time limit of disputing a credit card chargeback.

2.3.3. Paypal is considered just another merchant as far as the credit card suppliers are concerned and this is not clearly or accurately explained to users of Paypal. Paypal is subject to the conditions imposed by the credit card card suppliers, but represents itself as a "payment service".

2.3.4. Paypal has unreasonably delayed refunding money to a buyer when the seller's Paypal account has a zero balance. Often leading to Paypal making an "out of time" response to a continuing claim. Source - eBay's own discussion boards.

2.3.5. Paypal is an expensive service, fees are charged for every movement of funds in and out of the seller's account, fees are charged to sellers even when fraudulent claims are made by buyers, or a buyer claims fraudulent use of their credit card. Paypal charges the account holder fees to reverse these claims even if the claim is fraudulent, and the account holder can prove the buyer has received the item.

2.3.6. Paypal Pty Ltd is an Australian registered company and holds an APRA licence, invoices for services come from Paypal Inc. an American company.

2.3.7. Paypal Inc. is an unregulated (in Australia) entity where sellers funds are held without gurantee, if the company fails with substantial debts owing to other related companies, sellers funds would be forfeit to meet those debts. The related company structures are such that it is very difficult to ascertain the safety of funds held by Paypal, there appear to be similarities to the Pyramid Building Society collapse of the 1980s.

2.3.8. Complaints sent to Paypal are met with automated email responses, often the response has nothing to do with the complaint. The grammar in the responses would indicate that the emails are generated in the USA again confusing the location of Paypal Pty Ltd or Paypal Inc and the jurisdiction that Paypal must comply with.

2.3.9. The confusion as to the regulated location of Paypal Pty Ltd places the \$5,000,000 or 5% security deposit required by APRA at serious risk if the parent company were to fail and make a call upon that secured asset.

2.3.10. Paypal Pty Ltd is the only Australian company listed by APRA as an approved deposit taker for internet commerce in Australia, to further broaden that monopoly position will substantially reduce the ability of any new entrants wishing to enter the market place.

2.3.11. Paypal Pty Ltd does not accept all common Australian credit cards, notably it does not accept American Express.

2.3.12. With the confusion existing as to which company is operating Paypal in Australia, security of banking and credit card information held by Paypal is not regulated by Australian privacy and confidentiality laws. The laws applying to Paypal Inc (the company that sends invoices to Paypal account holders in Australia) is not regulated in Australia. Paypal Pty Ltd does not send invoices, it just sends emails giving the false impression that account holders are dealing with an Australian Company regulated by Australian commercial and financial laws.

Signed:

Ken Sommerville (ebay user ID "oziken")