



HIPAA COMPLIANCE AND DIGITAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Passed by Congress in 1996, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was enacted with three primary goals: improve healthcare insurance; improve efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare systems; and ensure privacy of individual patient information.

HIPAA requires healthcare institutions to protect the privacy of patient information, particularly when utilizing electronic communications. With the privacy requirements of HIPAA going into effect in April 2003, this aspect raises the most questions regarding supposed compliance of digital multifunction office equipment.

Regarding “compliance” of digital multifunction equipment and software solutions:

- Hardware and software in and of themselves cannot be “HIPAA compliant.”
- Being “HIPAA compliant” is an organizational obligation, not a technical specification.
- HIPAA is technology-neutral, with no specific technology required or endorsed.
- A given software solution or hardware item can be a legitimate part of an organization’s HIPAA compliance, but the determination of compliance is not made at that level.

MURATEC SOLUTION

Muratec multifunction office equipment and software solutions can be integral parts of an organization’s efforts toward becoming HIPAA compliant. For example:

- Muratec multifunction fax machines have a “Secure RX” feature which allows incoming fax documents to sit in memory until a password is entered.
- The Muratec OfficeBridge™ digital document distribution solution gives users the ability to route incoming faxes to personal folders which are password protected.
- Selected Muratec units offer “secure transmit” and “closed network” features which ensure fax transmissions are sent and received between designated machines only.

These examples demonstrate how a healthcare facility can utilize Muratec digital office equipment and software solutions to become “HIPAA compliant” as an organization. By limiting access to patient information to authorized individuals, the privacy of patient information is enhanced.

For more information about how Muratec digital office equipment and software solutions can contribute to HIPAA compliance, contact your authorized Muratec dealer or Muratec area sales manager.

