

Technology Briefing Internet: F.T.C. Inquiry On Fake Driving Permits

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The Federal Trade Commission said yesterday that it was seeking to shut six **Internet** operations that sold fraudulent international **driving permits**, many to immigrants who were looking for legitimate identification documents. The commission filed complaints in federal courts in California, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York and Washington, D.C. Officials said the operations used unsolicited e-mail messages and Web sites to promote the **permits**.

An international **driving permit** translates a government-issued driver's license into different languages; it is not a substitute for an American license, or any other identification document issued in the United States. J. Howard Beales, director of consumer protection at the commission, said the fraudulent **permits** misled people with limited English proficiency. He said the **permits** were sold on the **Internet** for as much as \$375, while the AAA and the American Automobile Touring Alliance charge \$10.

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