

Glossary

Protected Distribution Systems

Authorizing Official: Senior official or executive with the authority to formally assume responsibility for operating an information system at an acceptable level of risk to organizational operations (including mission, functions, image, or reputation), organizational assets, individuals, other organizations, and national security

Certified TEMPEST Technical Authority (CTTA): An experienced, technically qualified U.S. Government employee who has met established certification requirements in accordance with CNSS approved criteria and has been appointed by a U.S. Government Department or Agency to fulfill CTTA responsibilities

Controlled Access Area (CAA): The complete building or facility area under direct physical control within which unauthorized persons are denied unrestricted access and are either escorted by authorized persons or are under continuous physical or electronic surveillance

Ferrous Metals: Mostly iron or steel. They have small amounts of other metals or elements added, to give the required properties. Ferrous metals are magnetic and give little resistance to corrosion.

Limited Access Area (LAA): The space surrounding a PDS within which PDS exploitation is not considered likely or where legal authority to identify and remove a potential exploitation exists

National Security Information (NSI): Information that has been determined pursuant to Executive Order 12958, as amended, or any predecessor order to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and that is so designated

Protected Distribution System (PDS): A wire line or fiber optic communication system with adequate acoustic, electrical, electromagnetic, and physical safeguards to permit carriage of unencrypted classified information

PDS Lock: A lock required to be resistant to surreptitious manipulation but not required to be resistant to physical penetration or interchangeable with a “high security” lock. A 3-position spin combination lock that meets the requirements of FF-L-2740B, Federal Specification Locks, Combination, Electromechanical, may be used as an alternative. A tamper indicative padlock with a wire loop seal may also be used.

REDLINE (as-built) Drawings: REDLINE drawings are floor plans depicting the location where all PDS hardware is installed.

Tamper Evident Seal: A serialized mechanical seal used to secure an access panel from unintended entry. The tamper evident seal is resistant to physical removal without showing signs of tampering and provides visual evidence of the panel's integrity. Guidance on the effective use and information on how to obtain tamper evident seals and tamper indicative padlocks is available from the National Security Agency (NSA) Information Assurance Directorate.

TEMPEST: A name referring to the investigation, study, and control of unintentional compromising emanations from telecommunications and automated information systems equipment.

Temporary Configuration: Temporary configurations are those which are in place for less than 30 calendar days and are confined within USG installations in areas that are not accessible to the general public, and do not process higher than Secret collateral information.

Uncontrolled Access Area (UAA): The area external or internal to a facility over which no personnel access controls are or can be exercised or any area not meeting the definition of Controlled Access Area (CAA) or Limited Access Area (LAA).