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A

Access

The ability and opportunity to gain knowledge of classified information

B

C

CDSE

Center for Development of Security Excellence

Classification

The act or process by which information is determined to be classified information.

Classification challenges

Authorized holders, including authorized holders outside the classifying agency, who want to challenge the classification status of information shall present such challenges to an original classification authority with jurisdiction over the information.

Classifier

An individual who makes a classification determination and applies a security classification to information or material. A classifier may be an Original Classification Authority (OCA) or a person who derivatively assigns a security classification based on a properly marked source or a security classification guide.

Classification Guidance

Is any instruction or source that prescribes the classification of specific information.

Compilation

This concept involves combining or associating individually, unclassified information which reveals an additional association or relationship that warrants protection as classified information. This concept also applies to elements of information classified at a lower level which become classified at a higher level when combined.

Compromise

An unauthorized disclosure of classified information.

Confidential

The classification level applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause damage to national security that the OCA is able to identify or describe.

Contained in

The concept that refers to the process of extracting classified information as it is stated in an authorized source of classification guidance without the need for additional interpretation or analysis, and incorporating this information into a new document.

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D

D

Damage to the National Security	Harm to the national defense or foreign relations of the United States from the unauthorized disclosure of information.
Declassification	The authorized change in the status of information from classified information to unclassified information.
Derivative Classification	Incorporating, paraphrasing, restating, or generating in new form information that is already classified, and marking the newly developed material consistent with the classification markings that apply to the source information. Includes the classification of information based on classification guidance. The duplication or reproduction of existing classified information is not derivative classification.
Derivative Classifier	A cleared and properly trained individual responsible for ensuring they apply the highest possible level of security classification when derivatively classifying information.
DODM 5200.01, Volumes 1-3, Department of Defense (DOD) Information Security Program	It establishes the DOD Information Security Program to promote proper and effective classification, protection, and downgrading of official information requiring protection in the interest of the national security. It also promotes the declassification of information no longer requiring such protection.
Downgrading	A determination that information classified at a specific level shall be classified and safeguarded at a lower level.
Duration of Classification	A determination made by an original classifier, at the time of original classification, on the length of time information will require protection of security classification.

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E

Extracting	Taking information directly from an authorized source of classification guidance and stating it verbatim in a new or different document.
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Foreign Government Information (FGI)	Information that is: provided to the U.S. by a foreign government or governments, an international organization of governments, or any element thereof with the expectation, expressed or implied, that the information, the source of the information, or both, are to be held in confidence; or produced by the U.S. pursuant to, or as a result of, a joint arrangement with a foreign government or governments, an international organization of governments, or any element thereof, requiring that the information, the arrangement, or both are to be held in confidence.
Facility Security Officer (FSO)	A U.S. citizen employee, appointed by a contractor, who will supervise and direct security measures necessary for implementing the National Industrial Security Program

F

Operating Manual (NISPOM) and other Federal requirements for classified information.

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Generating

Taking information from an authorized source of classification guidance and using it in another form or media.

Government Contracting Activity (GCA)

An element of an agency designated by the agency head and delegated broad authority regarding acquisition functions.

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I

Information

Any knowledge that can be communicated or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is owned by, produced by or for, or is under the control of the United States Government.

Information Security

The system of policies, procedures, and requirements established in accordance with Executive Order 13526 to protect information that, if subjected to unauthorized disclosure, could reasonably be expected to cause damage to national security. The term also applies to policies, procedures, and requirements established to protect unclassified information that may be withheld from release to the public pursuant to Executive order, statute or regulation.

Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP)

Provides the public and users of the classification system with a forum for further review of classification decisions. The ISCAP was created under Executive Order 12958, which was signed on April 17th, 1995. Today, the ISCAP receives its guidance from Executive Order 13526.

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M

Marking	The principal means to inform holders of classified information about specific protection requirements for that information. Marking and designation of classified information are the specific responsibility of original and derivative classifiers.
Multiple Sources	Two or more source documents, security classification guides, or a combination of both used for classification determination.

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N

National Security	The national defense and foreign relations of the United States.
National Security Information (NSI) or “Classified Information”	Information that has been determined, pursuant to Executive Order 13526 or any predecessor order, or pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and is marked to indicate its classified status when in documentary form.
National Industrial Security Operating Manual (NISPOM)	Manual issued in accordance with the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) that prescribes the requirements, restrictions, and other safeguards to prevent unauthorized disclosure of classified information.
Need-to-know	Determination that a prospective recipient requires access to specific classified information in order to perform or assist in a lawful and authorized governmental function.

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Original Classification Authority (OCA)	Individual authorized in writing, either by the President, Vice President, or by Agency Heads or other officials designated by the President, to originally classify information.
Originator Controlled (ORCON)	Dissemination marking used to mark information that requires the originator’s consent for further dissemination or extraction of information when the classification level and other controls alone are insufficient to control dissemination.
Original Classification	An initial determination that information requires, in the interest of national security, protection against unauthorized disclosure.

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P

Paraphrasing/Restating	Taking information from an authorized source of classification guidance and re-wording it in a new or different document.
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Q

R

Revealed by	The concept applied when derivative classifiers incorporate classified information from an authorized source of classification guidance into a new document, which is not clearly or explicitly stated in the source document.
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Safeguarding	Measures and controls that are prescribed to protect classified information.
Sanctions	May include reprimand, suspension without pay, removal, termination of classification authority, loss or denial of access to classified information, or other sanctions in accordance with applicable law and agency regulation.
Special Access Program (SAP)	Any program that is established to control access, distribution, and to provide protection for particularly sensitive classified information beyond that normally required for TOP SECRET, SECRET, or CONFIDENTIAL information. A SAP can be created or continued only as authorized by a senior agency official delegated such authority pursuant to E.O. 13526.
Security Classification Guide (SCG)	Any instruction or source that sets out the classification of a system, plan, program, mission, or project. Initially issued by an Original Classification Authority to document and disseminate classification decisions under their jurisdiction. Also referred to as a Classification Guide.
Security Incidents	Any attempted or actual unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification or destruction of information.
Secret	The classification level applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause serious damage to national security that the OCA is able to identify or describe.
Source Document	An authorized source of classification used by a derivative classifier, from which information is extracted, paraphrased, restated, and/or generated in a new form for inclusion in another document.

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T

Top Secret	The classification level applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to national security that the OCA is able to identify or describe.
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U

Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)

Federal Law, enacted by Congress in 1951 which applies to all active duty members as well as activated National Guard and Reserve members and military academy students. Developed to make the legal system uniform across all services.

Unauthorized disclosure

A communication or physical transfer of classified information or controlled unclassified information to an unauthorized recipient.

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W

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological, or other device that is intended to harm a large number of people.

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Y

Z