

Adjudicative Guideline G

Alcohol Consumption

The Concern

Excessive alcohol consumption often leads to the exercise of questionable judgment or the failure to control impulses, and can raise questions about an individual's reliability and trustworthiness.

Disqualifying Conditions

Conditions that could raise a security concern and may be disqualifying include:

- (a) alcohol-related incidents away from work, such as driving while under the influence, fighting, child or spouse abuse, disturbing the peace, or other incidents of concern, regardless of the frequency of the individual's alcohol use or whether the individual has been diagnosed with alcohol use disorder;
- (b) alcohol-related incidents at work, such as reporting for work or duty in an intoxicated or impaired condition, drinking on the job, or jeopardizing the welfare and safety of others, regardless of whether the individual is diagnosed with alcohol use disorder;
- (c) habitual or binge consumption of alcohol to the point of impaired judgment, regardless of whether the individual is diagnosed with alcohol use disorder;
- (d) diagnosis by a duly qualified medical or mental health professional (e.g., physician, clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, or licensed clinical social worker) of alcohol use disorder;
- (e) the failure to follow treatment advice once diagnosed;
- (f) alcohol consumption, which is not in accordance with treatment recommendations, after a diagnosis of alcohol use disorder; and
- (g) failure to follow any court order regarding alcohol education, evaluation, treatment, or abstinence.

Mitigating Conditions

Conditions that could mitigate security concerns include:

- (a) so much time has passed, or the behavior was so infrequent, or it happened under such unusual circumstances that it is unlikely to recur or does not cast doubt on the individual's current reliability, trustworthiness, or judgment;

(b) the individual acknowledges his or her pattern of maladaptive alcohol use, provides evidence of actions taken to overcome this problem, and has demonstrated a clear and established pattern of modified consumption or abstinence in accordance with treatment recommendations;

(c) the individual is participating in counseling or a treatment program, has no previous history of treatment and relapse, and is making satisfactory progress in a treatment program; and

(d) the individual has successfully completed a treatment program along with any required aftercare, and has demonstrated a clear and established pattern of modified consumption or abstinence in accordance with treatment recommendations.

Clarifying Guidance – Relevance to Security

Some alcohol use is normal, but excessive use can be a serious security concern. Impaired judgement, along with the accompanying susceptibility to exploitation, behavioral concerns, and legal and/or disciplinary concerns, are all factors that make alcohol consumption relevant to overall national security.

Factor	Description
Impaired Judgment/Decision Making	<p>Individuals who misuse alcohol can experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor decision-making • Reckless behavior • Inability to follow security protocols. <p>Alcohol misuse can increase the risk of unauthorized disclosure of classified information due to impulsive or careless behavior.</p>
Susceptibility to Exploitation	<p>Individuals with alcohol-related problems may be more vulnerable to foreign intelligence services or adversaries who engage in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extortion • Coercion • Manipulation

Behavior Concerns	<p>Individuals who misuse alcohol may experience work-related problems such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absences • Reduced productivity • Unreliability • Carelessness • Unsafe habits <p>The most serious incidents are those that involve the protection of classified information, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who become excessively talkative while intoxicated may reveal information they later regret or forget, compromising their ability to protect classified information. • Excessive alcohol use can lead to loss of physical control, increasing the risk of mishandling or losing physical control over sensitive materials.
Legal/Disciplinary Concerns	<p>Individuals with alcohol-related problems may experience legal problems such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving while intoxicated • Public drunkenness • Disorderly conduct