

Federal Personnel Vetting Investigative Standards

Crosswalk Job Aid

Federal personnel vetting (FPV) is divided into three aligned investigative tiers to support trust determinations for all personnel vetting domains: Suitability, Fitness, National Security and Credentialing (HSPD-12).

- 1 Low Tier (LT)** – Investigations conducted to this standard are for positions designated as Non-Sensitive/Low Risk. This is the minimum investigation standard for granting physical and/or logical access, or (HSPD-12) credentialing trust determinations.
- 2 Moderate Tier (MT)** – Investigations conducted to this standard are for positions designated as Non-Sensitive/Moderate-Risk Public Trust and Non-Critical Sensitive/Moderate-Risk Public Trust. For Non-Critical Sensitive positions, this standard of investigation can be used to grant eligibility for access to Confidential and Secret Information, or eligibility for “L” access.
- 3 High Tier (HT)** – Investigations conducted to this standard are for positions designated as Non-Sensitive/High-Risk Public Trust, Critical-Sensitive/High-Risk Public Trust, or Special-Sensitive/High-Risk Public Trust. For Critical-Sensitive or Special-Sensitive positions, this standard of investigation can be used to grant eligibility for access to Top Secret and Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI), or eligibility for “Q” access.

FEDERAL PERSONNEL VETTING INVESTIGATIVE STANDARDS CROSSWALK GUIDE

Position Designation	2012 Federal Investigative Standards (FIS)	2022 Federal Personnel Vetting (FPV) Investigative Standards	Transitional Standard Form (SF)	Personnel Vetting Questionnaire (PVQ) Equivalent
Non-Sensitive/Low-Risk Minimum Investigation for physical/logical access Access (HSPD-12) Credentialing	Tier 1	Low Tier (LT)	SF-85 (Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions)	Part A
Non-Sensitive/Moderate-Risk Public Trust (No National Security Sensitivity)	Tier 2	Moderate Tier (MT)	SF-85P (Questionnaire for Public Trust Positions)	Part A, B; Part D for Select Positions
Non-Critical Sensitive/Moderate-Risk Public Trust Eligibility for Access to Confidential and Secret Information Eligibility for “L” Access	Tier 3	Moderate Tier (MT)	SF-86 (Questionnaire for National Security Positions)	Part A, B, C
Non-Sensitive/High-Risk Public Trust (No National Security Sensitivity)	Tier 4	High Tier (HT)	SF-85P	Part A, B; Part D for Select Positions
Critical-Sensitive/High-Risk Public Trust Special-Sensitive/High-Risk Public Trust Eligibility for Access to Top Secret Information Eligibility for Access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) Eligibility for “Q” Access	Tier 5	High Tier (HT)	SF-86	Part A, B, C