

Office of the Under Secretary of  
Defense for Intelligence and Security  
OUSD (I&S)

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Department of Defense  
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW



**DoD**  
**Controlled Unclassified**  
**Information (CUI)**  
**Awareness and Marking**

December 2024



# Introduction

This presentation provides basic information on the CUI program.

Mandatory CUI training is provided by the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) / Center for the Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) at <https://www.cdse.edu>

DoD's CUI policy and a link to the CDSE-provided training are available at <https://www.dodcui.mil>

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**DoD CUI Senior Agency Official** - Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (USD(I&S))

**DoD CUI Senior Program Manager** - Director for Defense Intelligence (Counterintelligence, Law Enforcement, and Security) (DDI(CL&S))



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is CUI?

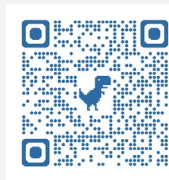
- UNCLASSIFIED information that allows for, or requires, safeguarding and dissemination controls in accordance with laws, regulations, or Government-wide policies.
- DoD does not differentiate between CUI Basic and CUI Specified. Specified CUI categories have specific requirements for dissemination controls or warning statements. While we do not apply the specified markings (e.g., CUI//SP-CTI), we do apply the required dissemination controls and warning statements.

## What is the basis of CUI?

- Executive Order 13556, "Controlled Unclassified Information," November 4, 2010
- 32 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2002, September 14, 2016
- DoDI 5200.48, "Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)" March 6, 2020

## What is the CUI Registry?

- Provides an official list of the categories used to identify the various types of CUI.
- The DoD CUI Registry is available at <https://www.dodcui.mil/CUI-Registry-New/>





# Frequently Asked Questions

## Is CUI a classification between UNCLASSIFIED and CONFIDENTIAL?

- No. CUI is not a classification and should not be referred to as “classified as CUI.” Instead, say information is “controlled as CUI.”
- CUI is a safeguarding system for sensitive UNCLASSIFIED information that requires protection in accordance with a law, regulation, or government-wide policy.
- CUI and Classified National Security Information (CNSI) have separate, co-equal Executive Orders and implementing directives.
  - CUI – E.O. 13556 and 32 CFR Part 2002
  - CNSI – E.O. 13526 and 32 CFR Part 2001



## What is the difference between FOUO and CUI?

- DoD's legacy "FOUO" marking was authorized to protect UNCLASSIFIED information that "may be exempt from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)."
- The CUI Program developed a common marking system across Executive Branch agencies and created categories to capture the many types of UNCLASSIFIED information requiring safeguarding based on existing laws, regulations, and government-wide policies.

## Does all legacy-marked FOUO qualify as CUI?

- Not necessarily. It is not an automatic one-to-one swap. Some information previously marked as FOUO will qualify as CUI.
- Information previously marked as FOUO does not need to be re-marked as long it remains under DoD control or is accessed online and downloaded for use within the DoD. However, if that same information is put in a new document or is shared outside the Department, it needs to be assessed to see if it meets the criteria for CUI and re-marked appropriately.

### Examples of what may qualify as CUI:

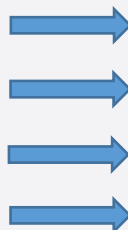
- Defense Critical Infrastructure Information (DCRIT)
- Export Controlled information
- Information related to sensitive international agreements
- Law Enforcement information
- Legal Privilege
- Pre-decisional budget or policy information
- Privacy Act information
- Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information (NNPI)



# Policy Change at a Glance

## Legacy Policy

- Marking system and reasoning unique to each Department or Agency.
- Based on FOIA exemptions
- No underlying FOIA category or originator information required
- Encouraged, but did not require or define “secure communications”



## CUI Policy

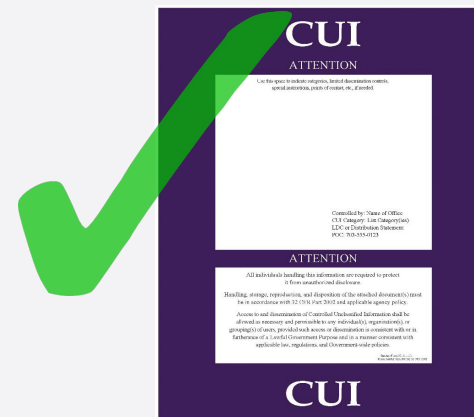
- Executive branch-wide policy
- Based on laws, regulations, and Government-wide policies
- Requirement to document category and originator
- Defines configuration standards for Federal and non-Federal systems and requires encryption in transit



From many cover sheets to one cover sheet

Note: The Privacy Act cover sheet may still be used for documents containing Privacy Act information.

The CUI cover sheet can be downloaded from  
<https://www.esd.whs.mil/dd/dod-issuances/>  
or  
<https://www.dodcui.mil>





# Information Sharing

The standard for sharing and access to CUI is an authorized “lawful government purpose.”

A lawful government purpose is any activity, mission, function, operation, or endeavor that the U.S. Government authorizes or recognizes as within the scope of its legal authorities or the legal authorities of non-executive branch entities (such as state and local law enforcement).

## Can I share CUI with State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector entities?

- Unless otherwise prohibited by a limited dissemination control (e.g., FEDONLY), and provided sharing is consistent with a lawful government purpose, yes, you may; but it’s a best practice to check with your security manager or information security policy representative.
- Sharing U.S. Government information with outside entities may only occur if:
  - The entity is authorized to receive the information.
  - The sharer is authorized to pass the information.
  - The sharing complies with U.S. laws and regulations.
  - The sharing benefits the U.S. Government.

## Can I share CUI with foreign governments?

- CUI can be shared with our foreign allies and partners unless sharing with that country is specifically restricted (e.g., marked with the NOFORN LDC).



# DoD CUI Web Page



## DoD CUI PROGRAM

- HOME
  - ABOUT US
  - POLICY
  - TRAINING
  - CMMC
  - WHAT'S NEW
  - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
  - CUI REGISTRY CHANGE LOG
  - CUI REGISTRY NEW
- COMPONENT POINTS OF CONTACT

# Controlled Unclassified Information

- CUI Registry
- Policies and Forms
- Training Resources
- What's New
- FAQs
- Contact Us
- Component POCs

### What is Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)?

CUI is sensitive information that does not meet the criteria for classification but must still be protected. It is Government-created or owned UNCLASSIFIED information that allows for, or requires, safeguarding and dissemination controls in accordance with laws, regulations, or Government-wide policies.

### Why is CUI important?

CUI policy provides a uniform marking system across the Federal Government that replaces a variety of agency-specific markings, such as FOUO, LES, SBU, etc.

CUI markings alert recipients that special handling may be required to comply with law, regulation, or Government-wide policy.

The **DoD CUI Registry** will give you information on every category to include a description of the category, required markings, authorities and DoD policies, and examples.

**Not every category or authority listed in the Registry will be applicable to DoD.**

### Quick Reference Links

- List of Categories/Abbreviations
- Limited Dissemination Controls
- Distribution Statements
- Trigraph Country Codes
- DoD Infographics

<https://www.dodcui.mil>







# CUI Identification

## How do I determine if information is CUI?

*The key to correctly identifying unclassified information as CUI is ensuring it aligns with a CUI category in the DoD CUI Registry.*

Is the information unclassified?

Does the information fall within a law, regulation, or government-wide policy?

Using the CUI Registry, identify the organizational index group.

Identify the CUI category and annotate it in the CUI designation indicator block.

**CUI Registry**

Quick Reference

- Alphabetical List of Categories & Abbreviations
- Limited Dissemination Controls
- Distribution Statements
- CUI Registry Change Request Form

Organizational Index

*click on the index group for a list of categories*

Critical Infrastructure	Defense	Export Control	Financial	Immigration
Intelligence	International Agreements	Law Enforcement	Legal	Natural and Cultural Resources
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	Nuclear	Patent	Privacy	Procurement and Acquisition
Proprietary Business Information	Statistical	Tax	Transportation	



# CUI Category Identification

## Defense Categories

Controlled Technical Information

DoD Critical Infrastructure Security Information

Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information

Privileged Safety Information

Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information - Defense

Organizational Index Group

Categories within the Organizational Index Group

Information page  
for each category

## Privileged Safety Information

Category Abbreviation:

PSI

Category Description:

Information reflective of a deliberative process in the safety investigation or given to a safety investigator pursuant to a promise of confidentiality, which the safety privilege protects from being released outside safety channels or from being used for any purpose except mishap prevention.

Required Warning Statement:

Required Dissemination Control:

Examples

Authorities

Public Law 115-232 (FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act) Section 1087(j)  
10 U.S.C. 184 - Joint Safety Council

Applicable DoD Policies

[Back to Main Page](#)

[CUI Registry](#)

### *Links to Defense Categories*

[Controlled Technical Information](#)  
[DoD Critical Infrastructure Security Information](#)  
[Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information](#)  
[Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information - Defense](#)



# CUI Required Markings

## How do we mark CUI?

Mandatory markings include:

- "CUI" at the top and bottom of the page. Do not add the dissemination control or category to the banner line.
- CUI designation indicator block

The CUI designation indicator block consists of 4 lines:

**Controlled by:** The name of the DoD Component and the identity of the office creating the document. If the Component is identified in the letterhead or other standard indicator, the Component name may be omitted.

**CUI category:** Identification of all types of CUI contained in the document. ONLY USE THE DOD-APPROVED CATEGORY ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS. DO NOT SPELL OUT THE CATEGORY.

**Distribution statement** or **LDC** applicable to the document.

**POC:** The name and phone number or office mailbox for the originating DoD Component.

CUI

Controlled by:  
CUI Category:  
Distribution Statement or LDC:  
POC:

CUI



# CUI Designation Indicator Block

## CUI Designation Indicator Block Examples

Controlled by: OUSD(I&S)/DDI(CL&S)  
CUI categories: PRVCY, BUDG  
LDC: FEDCON  
POC: John Brown, 703-555-0123

*Demonstrates use of an LDC. Either "LDC" or "Limited Dissemination Control" is acceptable.*

Controlled by: OUSD(I&S)/DDI(CL&S)  
CUI category: CTI  
Distribution Statement: B  
POC: John Brown, 703-555-0123

*Demonstrates use of a distribution statement. The full distribution statement will be placed on the cover or first page of the document.*



## Portion Marking

Portion marking is optional on unclassified documents. However, if portion markings are applied, then all portions must be marked. Portions include subjects, titles, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs, bullet points and sub-bullet points, headings, pictures, graphs, charts, maps, reference list, etc. Do not apply portion marks to the designation indicator block.

Place portion markings at the beginning of each portion.

When portion marking, all portions containing CUI will be portion marked with "(CUI)." Do not place "(U)://" before "(CUI)." Unclassified information will be portion marked with "(U)."

CUI

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1300 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-6000

INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SECURITY OVERSIGHT OFFICE

SUBJECT: (U) Information Security Oversight Office Fiscal Year 2019 Report to the President

(U) The Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) issued its annual report to the President on June 22, 2010. The report contains ISOO's judgements on, and analysis of, a range of information security issues. The Department of Defense (DoD) reviewed the report and I wanted to share my comments.

(CUI) I am proud of the Department's efforts to align itself with the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Program, in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 13556 and 32 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) part 2002, and hope that DoD Instruction 5200.48, "Controlled Unclassified Information," is model for our interagency partners as they prepare their CUI policies.

- (CUI) DoD is committed to continued engagement with both ISOO and our partners to facilitate UNCLASSIFIED information sharing, while also ensuring proper safeguarding.
- (U) We agree that the CUI Program is new and complex, and welcome future simplification and reform efforts, particularly as our training and early implementation efforts become better informed by experience with the program.

(U) The report focuses attention on leveraging advanced technologies to mitigate "antiquated" information security practices. Specifically, ISOO notes the growing volume of digitized information. The DoD, as the largest creator and user of classified and CUI welcomes innovation and efficiency efforts and commits to assisting ISOO to identify assistive technology standards and tools to support the Classified National Security Information Program.

CUI designation indicator block

Controlled by: OUSD(I&S)  
Controlled by: CL&S INFOSEC  
CUI Category(es): PRVCY, OPSEC  
Limited Dissemination Control: FEDCON  
POC: John Brown, 703-555-0123

CUI

Overall (banner) marking



# Classified Text Documents Containing CUI

Portion marking is mandatory on classified documents. Portions include titles, subjects, paragraphs and sub- paragraphs, bullet points, charts, etc.

**SECRET**

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
5000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-5000

INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: (U) Fiscal Year 2023 Information Security Oversight Office Annual Reporting Requirements

(CUI) Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations Parts 2001 and 2002, requires agencies to annually report on aspects of their information security programs.

(S) The Fiscal Year 2023 revised questionnaire reflects improved information collection requirements for Classified National Security Information and Controlled Unclassified Information from the Information Security Oversight Office. The Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) has once again waived the use of the SF 311 and SF 716 for data collection and is instead requesting executive branch agencies submit using the attached fillable form (TAB A). Additionally, for the sixth year, ISOO has deferred requesting that agencies account for costs associated with implementing E.O. 13526, as directed by the President in section 5.4(d)(8) and critical to appropriate Department and Agency resourcing.

(U) In addition to providing answers to the questionnaire, Components are requested to also provide an updated original classification authority delegation listing using the attached spreadsheet (TAB B) and an updated list of security classification guides (TAB C). To support a complete and accurate report to the DoD Senior Agency Official on behalf of the Secretary, responses are required from every Component.

Signature Block

Classified By: Scott Smith, Program Analyst  
Derived From: DGM Memo, June 5, 2023, same subject  
Declassify On: 20330605

Controlled by: DDI(CL&S)  
CUI Category: BUDG  
LDC: FEDCON  
POC: 703-555-0123

**SECRET**

Overall classification

The CUI markings, categories, and dissemination controls are not carried forward to the banner line.

Overall classification

Both the classification authority block and CUI designation indicator block are placed at the bottom of the first page.



# Classified Slide Presentations Containing CUI

SECRET

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security  
OUSD (I&S)

**(U) DoD Controlled  
Unclassified Information  
Awareness and Marking**

June 2023

Classified By: Scott Smith, Program Analyst  
Derived From: DGM memo, same subject, June 5, 2021  
Declassify On: 20310605

Controlled By: DDI(CL&S)/CTP  
CUI Category: EMGT  
LDC: FEDCON  
POC: osd.pentagon.rsrcgmt.list.ousd-intel-infosec-mbx@mail.mil

SECRET

Overall classification

Portion marking  
is mandatory on  
classified  
documents.

Overall classification

SECRET

**(U) Frequently Asked Questions**

**(U) What is CUI?**

- (CUI) UNCLASSIFIED information that allows for, or requires, safeguarding and dissemination controls in accordance with laws, regulations, or Government-wide policies.
- (U) DoD does not differentiate between CUI Basic and CUI Specified.

**(U) What is the basis of CUI?**

- (S) Executive Order 13556, "Controlled Unclassified Information," November 4, 2010
- (S) 32 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2002, September 14, 2016
- (S) DoDI 5200.48, "Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)" March 6, 2020

**(U) What is the CUI Registry?**

- (U) Provides an official list of the categories used to identify the various types of CUI.
- (CUI) The DoD CUI Registry is available at <https://www.dodcui.mil>

SECRET

Both the **classification authority block** and CUI designation indicator block are placed at the bottom of the first slide.

The CUI markings, categories, and dissemination controls are not carried forward to the banner line.



# Distribution Statements

## Distribution Statements

Distribution statements, in accordance with DoDI 5230.24, are required on documents containing:

- Export controlled information (*CUI category*)
- Controlled technical information (*CUI category*)
- Other scientific, technical, and engineering information

Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited.

Distribution Statement B: Distribution authorized to U.S. Government agencies only [fill in reason and date of determination].

Distribution Statement C: Distribution authorized to U.S. Government agencies and their contractors [fill in reason and date of determination]. Other requests for this document shall be referred to [insert controlling DoD office].

Distribution Statement D: Distribution authorized to Department of Defense and U.S. DoD contractors only [insert reason and date of determination]. Other requests for this document shall be referred to [insert controlling DoD office].

Distribution Statement E: Distribution authorized to DoD Components only [fill in reason and date of determination]. Other requests shall be referred to [insert controlling DoD office].

Distribution Statement F: Further dissemination only as directed by [insert controlling DoD Office and date of determination] or higher DoD authority.

**Note: a distribution statement does not automatically mean the document contains CUI. Certain types of CUI require a distribution statement, but distribution statements can be applied to all technical and scientific information.**





# Limited Dissemination Controls

## Limited Dissemination Controls (LDC)

LDCs:

- Facilitate control, secondary sharing, decontrol, and release without the need to repeatedly obtain approval or authorization from the controlling DoD office.
- Identify the audience deemed to have a lawful government purpose for the information.

LDCs are to be placed on documents and other materials containing CUI to identify access restrictions, including those required by law, regulation, or government-wide policy.

The absence of an LDC on a document means anyone with an authorized lawful government purpose is permitted access to the document. This does not imply it can be publicly released. All documents containing CUI must go through a public release review pursuant to DoDIs 5230.09 and 5230.29.

### CUI Limited Dissemination Controls

Dissemination Control	Marking	Description
Federal Employees Only	FED ONLY	Dissemination authorized only to employees of the U.S. Government executive branch agencies or armed forces personnel of the U.S. or Active Guard and Reserve.
Federal Employees and Contractors Only	FEDCON	Includes individuals or employees who enter into a contract with the U.S. to perform a specific job, supply labor and materials, or for the sale of products and services, so long as dissemination is in furtherance of the contractual purpose.
No Dissemination to Contractors	NOCON	Intended for use when dissemination is not permitted to federal contractors, but permits dissemination to state, local, or tribal employees.
Dissemination List Controlled	DL ONLY	Dissemination authorized only to those individuals, organizations, or entities included on an accompanying dissemination list.
Releasable by Information Disclosure Official	RELIDO	A permissive foreign disclosure and release marking used to indicate that the originator has authorized a Senior Foreign Disclosure and Release Authority (SFDR) to make further sharing decisions for unclassified intelligence material (intelligence with no restrictive dissemination controls) in accordance with existing procedures, guidelines, and implementation guidance. Note: Only agencies that are eligible to use RELIDO in the intelligence community (IC) classified information context may use this LDC on CUI. It is defined and applied in the same manner as in the IC context.
No Foreign Dissemination	NOFORN	Information may not be disseminated in any form to foreign governments, foreign nationals, foreign or international organizations, or non-U.S. citizens.
Authorized for Release to Certain Foreign Nationals Only	REL TO USA, [LIST]	Information has been predetermined by the designating agency to be releasable only to the foreign country(ies) or international organization(s) indicated, through established foreign disclosure procedures and channels. It is NOFORN to all foreign countries/international organizations not indicated in the REL TO marking. See list of approved country codes.
Display Only	DISPLAY ONLY	Information is authorized for disclosure to a foreign recipient, but without providing them a physical copy for retention to the foreign country(ies) or international organization(s) indicated, through established foreign disclosure procedures and channels.
Attorney Client	ATTORNEY-CLIENT	Dissemination of information beyond the attorney, the attorney's agents, or the client is prohibited, unless the agency's executive decision makers decide to disclose the information outside the bounds of its protection.
Attorney Work Product	ATTORNEY-WP	Dissemination of information beyond the attorney, the attorney's agents, or the client is prohibited, unless specifically permitted by the overseeing attorney who originated the work product or their successor.

**FED ONLY and FEDCON apply to Executive Branch agencies only.**



# CUI Warning Statements

## Examples of Required Warning Statements

### DoD UCNi

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
UNCLASSIFIED CONTROLLED NUCLEAR INFORMATION  
EXEMPT FROM MANDATORY DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO  
5 U.S.C. 552(b)(3), AS AUTHORIZED BY 10 U.S.C. 128

### GEOINT LIMDIS

Distribution authorized to DoD, IAW 10 U.S.C. §§130 & 455. Release authorized to U.S. DoD contractors IAW 48 C.F.R. §252.245-7000. Refer other requests to: Headquarters, NGA, ATTN: Disclosure and Release Office, Mail Stop S81-IA, 7500 GEOINT Drive, Springfield, VA 22150 or by email at NDRO@nga.mil. Destroy IAW DoDI 5200.48. Removal of this caveat is prohibited; the caveat must be retained regardless of classification. Sharing LIMDIS material beyond USG-authorized users requires NGA-originator approval.

### Export Control

WARNING - This document contains technical data whose export is restricted by the Arms Export Control Act (Title 22, U.S.C., Sec 2751, et seq.) or the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (Title 50, U.S.C., Chapter 58, Sec. 4801-4852). Violations of these export laws are subject to severe criminal penalties. Disseminate in accordance with provisions of DoD Directive 5230.25.



# Contact Information

INFORMATION AND ACQUISITION PROTECTION

OUSD(I&S)/DDI(CL&S)/IAP

[osd.pentagon.rsrcmgmt.list.ousd-intel-infosec-mbx@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.rsrcmgmt.list.ousd-intel-infosec-mbx@mail.mil)