



Why This Matters

Protecting information critical to national security and demonstrating a commitment to open government through accurate and accountable application of classification standards and routine, secure, and effective declassification of national security information is a priority. Misclassification of national security information impedes effective information sharing, may provide adversaries with information that could harm the United States and its allies, and cause millions of dollars in avoidable administrative costs.

DHS Response

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Management concurred with Recommendation 1 and the Office of the Chief Security Officer concurred with Recommendation 2.

Reducing Over-classification of DHS National Security Information

What We Determined

The DHS Office of Management has effectively implemented, managed, and provided oversight for a classified National Security Information program as outlined in Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information; Public Law 111-258, Reducing Over-Classification Act; 32 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2001; and Intelligence Community Directive Number 710, Classification and Control Markings System, September 2009. Specifically, the Office of the Chief Security Officer has created and implemented policies and procedures that have established a firm foundation for DHS. DHS has met the program management, classification management, security education and training, and self-inspections requirements as specified. The Department has also fulfilled the requirements for classification guides, as well as original and derivative classification authorities, and how to challenge incorrect classifications. However, the Department's program can be strengthened by deploying a new classification management tool after testing and by better capturing all classified holdings, which will improve the Departments overall management of its classification processes.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the Office of Management:

- 1) Ensure that DHS fully deploys the new Classification Management Tool to all DHS components and offices when pilot testing is completed.

We recommend that the Office of the Chief Security Officer:

- 2) Create and implement a standard method for components to collect and report information for the SF 311 Agency Security Classification Management Program Data form.

For Further Information:

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