



Industry Security Notice

Number 2015/05

Subject: Government Security Classification Scheme – Update

1. Introduction:

1.1. On the 2 April 2014 the United Kingdom Government implemented the new Government Security Classification (GSC) policy which replaced the Government Protective Marking Scheme (GPMS). Guidance and instruction for the application of the GSC by Ministry of Defence (MOD) List X contractors was issued in Industry Security Notice (ISN) 2014/01 with further clarification provided in ISN 2014/05.

1.2. The security requirements to be applied for the each GSC tier are defined in the Security Policy Framework (SPF) much of the SPF can be accessed on the GOV.UK website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-security>.

2. Issue:

The MOD continues to engage with industry on various aspects of the GSC and we will provide information and advice as necessary.

3. Aim:

The aim of this particular ISN is to provide MOD contractors with an update and information on various aspects of the application of the GSC and clarity on some of the guidance that was included in the above mentioned ISNs.

4. Security Aspects Letters:

4.1. Paragraph 8.1.4 of ISN 2014/01 identified the requirement to report to the MOD any loss or compromise of OFFICIAL information associated with contracts that have been specifically identified in a Security Aspect Letter (SAL) as “Reportable OFFICIAL”. Paragraph 4.1.2 of ISN 2014/05 advised that the policy regarding Reportable OFFICIAL information and the reporting requirement was being reviewed by the MOD.

4.2. Following discussions with the various Trade Associations the MOD has decided to withdraw the concept of Reportable OFFICIAL. Action is being taken to communicate this change of policy within the MOD and when this is done future SALs should not include any aspects that are identified as Reportable OFFICIAL. However, should contractors receive SALs from the MOD that identify Reportable OFFICIAL aspects, you should use this ISN as the basis for challenging its inclusion in the SAL.

4.3. MOD contractors are reminded of Industry Security Notice 2014/02 and specifically the requirement to report to the MOD, Defence Industry, Warning Advice and Reporting Point

(WARP) any security incident involving MOD owned, processed or generated information that is held by industry.

4.4. Paragraph 4.1.4 of ISN 2014/05 re-iterated the advice in ISN 2014/01 that MOD Project Teams were required to review the security aspects of all contracts at the next contract amendment point, SAL annual review or, at the latest, by 1 April 2015 and issue new SALs to bring the security aspects of the contract in line with GSC classifications. MOD Project Teams were reminded of this requirement however we cannot be certain that all MOD contracts awarded prior to 2 April 2014 have had GSC compliant SALs issued.

4.5. Where MOD contractors have not received new GSC compliant SALs, we request that you contact the relevant MOD Project Team and inform it that you are doing so at the direct request of MOD Def Sy to enquire when the replacement SAL will be issued. If an SAL is not received within 4 weeks of your engagement with the Project Team you should contact the MOD DE&S Security Advice Centre (SAC) providing the details of the MOD Project Team and the contract. The contact details of the SAC are: MOD DE&S Security Advice Centre (SAC) Poplar-1 # 2004, Abbey Wood, Bristol, BS34 8JH, Tel: 030679 34378, email: DESPSyA-SecurityAdviceCentre@mod.uk

5. **Action by Industry:**

This ISN should be read in conjunction with ISNs 2014/01 and 2014/05 and is issued to provide further information and clarification for MOD contractors on the requirements and implementation of the GSC. It may be utilised for internal use and promulgation as appropriate.

6. **Validity / Expiry Date:**

There is no expiry date to this ISN.

7. **MOD Point of Contact Details:**

Ministry of Defence
DBR-Def Sy STInd
Zone I
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB
Email: DBR-DefSy-STInd@mod.uk

7 October 2015