



Ministry
of Defence

Industry Security Notice

Number 2023/16 (Issued 14/12/2023)

Subject: Arrangements for the Handling and Transmission of Defence Classified Information Concerning the Australian Hunter Class Frigate and UK Type 26 Frigate.

Introduction

1. This Industry Security Notice (ISN) is an update and replacement to ISN 2018/06 due to an update of the UK OFFICIAL and OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Contractual Security Conditions.
2. The purpose of this ISN is to inform suppliers of the specific arrangements that have been agreed concerning the handling and transmission procedures for defence classified information at UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE and Australian PROTECTED levels between our two countries – these arrangements take effect immediately. By implementing these arrangements, such classified information may be disclosed or released on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with the principle of originator control, by the originating party to the recipient party.

Arrangements

3. The following arrangements have been agreed between the AUS DoD and UK MOD that sets out the policies, practices and procedures for the handling and transmission of defence classified information:
 - On a government-to-government level, AUS PROTECTED classified information corresponds directly to UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information and will be handled and protected in accordance with respective national laws and regulations. However, access to and protection of such classified information by Australian and UK suppliers will be subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Suppliers to UK MOD will handle and protect AUS PROTECTED as UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE but will also apply the additional measures of protection

outlined in the UK Cabinet Office document "[Guidance Protecting International RESTRICTED Classified Information](#)" or successor document found at: www.gov.uk

b. Australian suppliers will be required to handle and protect UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information in accordance with the "*UK Official and UK Official-Sensitive Contractual Security Conditions*" attached as an Annex to the SAL and Contractual Security Conditions [ISN 2023/13](#), or successor ISN.

c. Access to AUS PROTECTED and UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information will be limited to those personnel who as a minimum, have been subjected to basic recruitment checks which should establish proof of nationality, identity and confirms that they satisfy all legal requirements for employment and verification of their employment record. Criminal records checks should also be undertaken as required under UK national laws, regulations and policies.

d. Australian suppliers are not required to hold a facility security clearance for access to UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information. Suppliers to UK MOD are not required to hold a facility security clearance for access to AUS PROTECTED.

e. Classified information at UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE level may be transmitted physically by suppliers to UK MOD (subject to release approval from MOD sponsors) direct to Australian suppliers in accordance with national procedures which, may include the use of commercial couriers. Annex B to ISN 2023/13 or successor ISN (the "*UK Official and UK Official-Sensitive Contractual Security Conditions*") should be appended to the classified material as part of the required security measures.

f. Transmission of AUS PROTECTED and UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information by electronic means will be protected using cryptographic devices that have been approved by the AUS DoD and UK MOD Security Authorities.

g. Suppliers to UK MOD will handle and protect Australian sensitive information at the level of **Australian OFFICIAL: Sensitive** to the same degree as UK classified information at the level of UK OFFICIAL. Information at the UK OFFICIAL and Australian OFFICIAL: Sensitive levels may be transmitted electronically in clear text.

h. Suppliers to UK MOD will handle and protect Australian legacy sensitive information at the level **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY** to the same degree as UK classified information at the level of UK OFFICIAL.

- The physical transfer of classified information/material as freight between the UK and Australia will be subject to approval of a Transportation Plan/Movement Security Plan by the AUS DoD and UK MOD respective Security Authorities.
- General advice on the handling and transmission of classified information can be sought from the following national Security Authorities:

UK Competent Security Authority

Defence Equipment and Support PSyA – Industry Security Assurance Centre (ISAC), Poplar -1, ~2004, MOD Abbey Wood, Bristol BS34 8JH

E: ISAC-Group@mod.gov.uk

UK Designated Security Authority

Ministry of Defence, Chief Operating Officer– Directorate of Security and Resilience (COO-DSR-IIPCSy), Level 4, Zone B, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

E: COO-DSR-IIPCSy@mod.gov.uk

Action_by_Industry

4. Suppliers to the UK MOD are advised to follow the arrangements provided herein when handling AUS PROTECTED classified information and/or releasing UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information to Australian suppliers. Further advice can be sought from the Security Authorities listed above as necessary.

Validity_/_Expiry_Date

This ISN is valid with immediate effect and remains so until further notice.

MOD_Point_of_Contact_Details

Ministry of Defence

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