



Ministry  
of Defence

# Industry Security Notice

Number 2023/17 (Issued: 14/12/2023)

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**Subject: Arrangements for the Handling and Transmission of Classified and Protected Information Concerning the Canadian Surface Combatant Frigate and UK Type 26 Frigate**

## Introduction

1. This Industry Security Notice (ISN) is an update and replacement to ISN 2023/03 due to an update of the UK OFFICIAL and OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Contractual Security Conditions.
2. The purpose of this ISN is to inform contractors/suppliers of the specific arrangements that have been mutually agreed between the Government of Canada (CAN) and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) for the handling and transmission procedures for Classified and Protected Information at UK OFFICIAL, UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE and Canadian PROTECTED A & B levels between our two countries in relation to the Cooperation in the Development, Production and Follow on Support of the Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) / Type 26 (T26) Frigate Programs.
3. This mutual arrangement is in accordance with respective national security laws, regulations and the bilateral **Industrial Security Arrangement (ISA)** between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the Protection of Classified and Protected Information which was signed on 7 September 2016. The ISA provides a government-to-government assurance for the Exchange and Protection of Classified and PROTECTED Information between CAN and UK authorities and respective suppliers under their jurisdiction.

## Arrangements

4. The following arrangements have been agreed that sets out the policies, practices and procedures for the handling and transmission of Classified and PROTECTED Information related to the CSC/T26 Frigate program. By implementing these arrangements, Classified and PROTECTED Information may be provided and transmitted on a need-to-know basis subject to national release approval procedures from the Program Management Offices. The following provides some instructions:

a. On a government-to-government level, it is recognised that there is currently no security classification equivalence for UK OFFICIAL and UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE and CAN PROTECTED A & B markings. PROTECTED A & B information provided in accordance with CAN regulations will be supported by contract clauses to define the minimum security requirements for the protection of such information and as identified in the Program Security Instructions. Access to and protection of UK OFFICIAL and UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information will be supported by the Contractual Security Conditions. Canadian contractors will be required to handle and protect UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information in accordance with the Annex "*UK OFFICIAL and UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Contractual Security Conditions*" attached to ISN 2023/13 or any later edition of the Security Aspects Letter and Contractual Security Conditions ISN and any additional handling instructions provided by the CSC Program Management Office (PMO CSC).

b. UK contractors will be required to handle and protect PROTECTED A & B information in accordance with the contract clauses and handling instructions that will be provided by CAN to inform recipients of the minimum security requirements for the protection of such information. PROTECTED A & B classified information should be handled and protected by CAN contractors in line with their national industrial security program policy.

c. In general, access to PROTECTED A & B and UK OFFICIAL 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 identity, nationality, right to work, employment history and a check of criminal records as permitted under UK and CAN national laws, regulations and policies. (i.e. within the UK, the Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) will apply). For PROTECTED information, detailed requirements will be identified in CAN contract clauses and handling instructions.

d. Canadian suppliers are not required to hold a Facility Security Clearance (FSC) or any other organization screening for access to UK OFFICIAL and UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information. Similarly, suppliers to UK MOD are not required to hold an FSC (i.e. FSC/List X) for access to PROTECTED information but must meet the requirements identified in the contract clause handling instruction provided by the Canadian International Industrial Security Directorate. The involvement of suppliers (e.g. subcontractors) outside of CAN and UK will be subject to national release approval procedures from the respective Program Management Offices.

e. Classified information at UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE level may be transmitted physically by UK contractors direct to CAN contractors in accordance with national procedures, which, may include the use of

commercial couriers. Such transmission is subject to obtaining the necessary release approval from the UK PMO/information owner and the inclusion of the UK OFFICIAL and OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Contractual Security Conditions at Annex to the Security Aspects Letter and Contractual Security Conditions ISN.

f. Transmission of UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information by electronic means must be protected using cryptographic devices that have been approved by the UK MOD Security Authorities and/or respective PMOs. The availability of nationally approved cryptographic devices may be obtained from the respective Security Authorities. Classified information at the UK OFFICIAL level may be transmitted electronically in clear text subject to any 'Handling Instruction' provided by the UK PMO/information owner. Specific methods of transmission will be identified in the Program Security Instructions.

g. When no longer required, or when a contract is completed, UK OFFICIAL and UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information may be retained subject to the contractual requirements/conditions. Disposal of such information must be via nationally approved methods of destruction, standards and/or as stipulated in the contractual conditions. Such disposal/destruction methods relate to information in paper or electronic form.

h. The physical transfer of classified information/material as freight between the UK and CAN will be subject to approval of a Transportation Plan/Movement Plan by the respective CAN and UK PMO's and Security Authorities.

5. For UK suppliers, general advice on the handling and transmission of classified information can be sought from the following UK MOD Security Authorities:

UK Competent Security Authority

Defence Equipment and Support PSyA-Industry Security Assurance Centre, 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 4B, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB  
E: [COO-DSR-IIPCSy@mod.gov.uk](mailto:COO-DSR-IIPCSy@mod.gov.uk)

## **Action by Industry**

6. Suppliers based in the UK are required to follow the arrangements provided herein when releasing UK OFFICIAL and UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information to Canadian suppliers. Further advice for release of classified

information to a supply chain outside of the UK can be sought from the Security Authorities listed above as necessary.

### **Validity / Expiry Date**

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

### **MOD Point of Contact Details**

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

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