



Ministry
of Defence

Industry Security Notice

Number 2024/07 (Issued 14/06/2024)

Subject: UK-Australia Arrangements for the Handling and Transmission of Defence Classified Information.

Introduction

1. This Industry Security Notice (ISN) is an update and replacement to ISN 2023/16 due to an update of the security classification equivalences in the 2018 UK – AUS Defence to Defence Security Arrangement and the Exchange of Letters dated 19th March 2024.

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 and OFFICIAL: Sensitive 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. It has also been broadened to include the wider agencies and organisations: Australian Submarines Agency and the Australian Signals Directorate.

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, both Australian PROTECTED and OFFICIAL: Sensitive 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 Australian 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.** Suppliers to UK MOD will handle and protect Australian OFFICIAL: Sensitive as UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE.
- c.** Australian suppliers will be required to handle and protect UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information as Australian OFFICIAL: Sensitive.
- d.** Access to Australian PROTECTED, OFFICIAL: Sensitive 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.
- e.** Australian suppliers are not required to hold a facility security clearance for access to Australian OFFICIAL: Sensitive or UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information.
- f.** Suppliers to UK MOD are not required to hold a facility security clearance for access to Australian PROTECTED or OFFICIAL: Sensitive.
- g.** 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. If required, especially for contractual activity between the UK and Australian Contractors not previously involved with classified activity, Annex B to ISN 2024/04 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.
- h.** Transmission of Australian PROTECTED, OFFICIAL: Sensitive 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.

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

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 Australian PROTECTED and OFFICIAL: Sensitive classified information and/or releasing UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classified information to Australian suppliers.

Validity/Expiry_Date

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

MOD Point of Contact Details

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