

EXTRACT FROM EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356

Sec. 1.3 Classification Categories

(a) Information shall be considered for classification if it concerns:

- (1) military plans, weapons, or operations;
- (2) the vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, projects, or plans relating to the national security;
- (3) foreign government information;
- (4) intelligence activities (including special activities), or intelligence sources or methods;
- (5) foreign relations or foreign activities of the United States;
- (6) scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to the national security;
- (7) United States Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities;
- (8) cryptology;
- (9) a confidential source; or
- (10) other categories of information that are related to the national security and that require protection against unauthorized disclosure as determined by the President or by agency heads or other officials who have been delegated original classification authority by the President. Any determination made under this subsection shall be reported promptly to the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office.

(b) Information that is determined to concern one or more of the categories in Section 1.3(a) shall be classified when an original classification authority also determines that its unauthorized disclosure, either by itself or in the context of other information, reasonably could be expected to cause damage to the national security.

(c) Unauthorized disclosure of foreign government information, the identity of a confidential foreign source, or intelligence sources or methods is presumed to cause damage to the national security.

(d) Information classified in accordance with Section 1.3 shall not be declassified automatically as a result of any unofficial publication or inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure in the United States or abroad of identical or similar information.