

Update on the Fundamental Classification Guidance Review

Spring 2017

ISOO continues to work with agencies and departments as they complete the 2017 Fundamental Classification Guidance Review (FCGR). Agencies with original classification authority received a tasking Memorandum from ISOO on March 17, 2016, detailing the requirements of the FCGR and setting the final reporting date as June 30, 2017. Agencies provided informal updates to ISOO in October 2016 and again in February 2017 in order to remain actively engaged with ISOO as they work to ensure agency classification guidance authorizes classification only in those instances necessary to protect national security.

ISOO has been able to track consistent progress of twenty-one agencies and departments through the informal update process as they review hundreds of security classification guides (SCG) for the FCGR. ISOO has seen agencies develop internal processes for reviewing SCGs with subject matter experts (SME) and engage with senior leadership to ensure compliance with the criteria ISOO provided for the successful completion of the FCGR. SMEs are working across agencies to bring about more uniform and consistent guidance by teaming with program managers and technologists who are more actively engaged in the 2017 FCGR than agencies reported to ISOO during the 2012 FCGR. ISOO has also seen the establishment of security classification working groups at agencies and the development of baseline and formalized criteria for the review of original classification decisions and SCGs.

Agencies have broadened the scope of their review to include the review of policies, classification authorities, and training. Many agencies are also making a concerted effort to determine if dissemination and availability of guidance is appropriate, timely, and effective. ISOO is seeing agencies capitalize on the 2017 FCGR to improve their overall security classification programs while engaging with their senior leaders to complete this review.

As ISOO receives final reports from agencies, they will be posted on the ISOO web page at <https://www.archives.gov/isoo/fcgr>. Additionally, ISOO will provide a written analysis of the 2017 review process in the FY 2018 Annual Report to the President.

Questions about the FCGR can be made to ISOO Senior Program Analyst, Ms. Peggy Ushman, at peggy.ushman@nara.gov.