

This guidance document does not have the force and effect of law and is not meant to bind the public, except as authorized by law or regulation or as incorporated into a contract. Accordingly, with regard to the public, this document only provides clarity regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. This guidance document is binding on agency actions as authorized under applicable statute, executive order, regulation, or similar authority.



ISOO Notice 2013-01: Further Marking Guidance on Commingling North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Classified National Security Information (NSI)

November 1, 2012

This Notice provides further guidance on markings and declassification instructions for U.S. documents that commingle NATO information and NSI. This notice also applies to all NATO classified information, including information which requires special handling (e.g., ATOMAL).

When NATO and NSI are commingled, markings shall be consistent with 32 CFR 2001.24(c) and with United States Security Authority for NATO Affairs, USSAN 1-07. This includes an overall classification banner and portion markings with, at a minimum, the classification level and the NATO marking, and applicable classification authority block information. Furthermore, 32 CFR 2001.22(c)(1)(ii) requires derivative classifiers to include a list of sources when multiple sources are utilized.

Classified U.S. documents containing information classified by NATO shall bear a U.S. classification marking that reflects the highest level of NATO or U.S. classification information contained within the document. The statement “THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NATO [level of classification] INFORMATION” shall appear on the front of the document. Each portion that contains NATO classified information shall be marked accordingly, for example “NS” to indicate NATO SECRET.

Since NATO information is not to be declassified or downgraded without the prior consent of NATO, the “Declassify on” line of documents that commingle information classified by NATO and U.S. classified NSI, will read “N/A to NATO portions. See source list for NSI portions.” The NSI source list will appear beneath the classification authority block in a manner that clearly identifies it as separate and distinct. This NSI source list will display the appropriate declassification instructions for each source. An example follows:

Classified By: 1234576

Derived From: SCG Dept. of Good Works, 20100201

Declassify On: N/A to NATO portions. See source list for NSI portions.

Or

Declassify On: N/A to [RD/FRD/TFNI, as appropriate] and NATO portions. See source list for NSI portions.

NSI Source List:

Source Document 1, dated 20050315, declassify on 20300315

SCG v1.4, dated 17 May 2010, declassify on 20350301

Please direct any questions regarding this ISOO Notice to: isoo@nara.gov.