

Original vs Derivative Classification

Original Classification

“Original classification” means an initial determination that information requires, in the interest of the national security, protection against unauthorized disclosure.

Derivative Classification

“Derivative classification” means the incorporating, paraphrasing, restating, or generating in new form information that is already classified, and marking the newly developed material consistent with the classification markings that apply to the source information.

Derivative classification includes the classification of information based on classification guidance.

The duplication or reproduction of existing classified information is not derivative classification.



Original Classification

E.O. 13526, Sec 1.1. Classification Standards.

(a) Information may be originally classified under the terms of this order only if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) an original classification authority is classifying the information;
- (2) the information is owned by, produced by or for, or is under the control of the United States Government;
- (3) the information falls within one or more of the categories of information listed in section 1.4 of this order; and
- (4) the original classification authority determines that the unauthorized disclosure of the information reasonably could be expected to result in damage to the national security, which includes defense against transnational terrorism, and the original classification authority is able to identify or describe the damage.

E.O. 13526, Sec 1.3(d). All original classification authorities must receive training in proper classification (including the avoidance of over-classification) and declassification as provided in this order and its implementing directives at least once a calendar year. Such training must include instruction on the proper safeguarding of classified information and on the sanctions in section 5.5 of this order that may be brought against an individual who fails to classify information properly or protect classified information from unauthorized disclosure.

Derivative Classification

E.O. 13526, Sec. 2.1. Use of Derivative Classification.

(a) Persons who reproduce, extract, or summarize classified information, or who apply classification markings derived from source material or as directed by a classification guide, need not possess original classification authority.

(b) Persons who apply derivative classification markings shall:

- (1) be identified by name and position, or by personal identifier, in a manner that is immediately apparent for each derivative classification action;
- (2) observe and respect original classification decisions; and
- (3) carry forward to any newly created documents the pertinent classification markings. For information derivatively classified based on multiple sources, the derivative classifier shall carry forward:
 - (A) the date or event for declassification that corresponds to the longest period of classification among the sources, or the marking established pursuant to section 1.6(a)(4)(D) of this order; and
 - (B) a listing of the source materials.

Originally Classified Document

- 1. Portion markings - titles, subject lines, paragraphs, sub-paragraphs, bullets, pictures, graphs, charts, tables, etc.
- 2. Overall classification of document
- 3. Classification authority block

Classified By: John E. Doe, Chief Division 5
 Reason: 1.4(a)
 Declassify On: 20151231

The classification authority block for originally classified documents must contain the **reason** the information is classified, as listed in E.O. 13526, Section 1.4.

Derivatively Classified Document

- 1. Portion markings - titles, subject lines, paragraphs, sub-paragraphs, bullets, pictures, graphs, charts, tables, etc.
- 2. Overall classification of document
- 3. Classification authority block

Classified By: Joe Carver, Director
 Derived From: Department of Good Works Memorandum
 dated June 27, 2010, Subj: (U) Examples
 Declassify On: 20151231

The classification authority block for derivatively classified documents must contain the source document information, or **derived from** information.