

Reasons and Exemptions

Reasons for Classification, Executive Order 13526, Section 1.4

Classification Categories. Information shall not be considered for classification unless its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause identifiable or describable damage to the national security in accordance with section 1.2 of this order, and it pertains to one or more of the following:

- (a) military plans, weapons systems, or operations
- (b) foreign government information
- (c) intelligence activities (including covert action), intelligence sources or methods, or cryptology
- (d) foreign relations or foreign activities of the United States, including confidential sources
- (e) scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to the national security
- (f) United States Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- (g) vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to the national security
- (h) the development, production, or use of weapons of mass destruction

25X Exemptions from Automatic Declassification, E.O. 13526, Section 3.3(b)

An agency head may exempt from automatic declassification specific information, the release of which should clearly and demonstrably be expected to:

- (1) reveal the identity of a confidential human source, a human intelligence source, a relationship with an intelligence or security service of a foreign government or international organization, or a non-human intelligence source; or impair the effectiveness of an intelligence method currently in use, available for use, or under development
- (2) reveal information that would assist in the development, production, or use of weapons of mass destruction
- (3) reveal information that would impair U.S. cryptologic systems or activities
- (4) reveal information that would impair the application of state-of-the-art technology within a U.S. weapon system
- (5) reveal formally named or numbered U.S. military war plans that remain in effect, or reveal operational or tactical elements of prior plans that are contained in such active plans
- (6) reveal information, including foreign government information, that would cause serious harm to relations between the United States and a foreign government, or to ongoing diplomatic activities of the United States
- (7) reveal information that would impair the current ability of United States Government officials to protect the President, Vice President, and other protectees for whom protection services, in the interest of the national security, are authorized
- (8) reveal information that would seriously impair current national security emergency preparedness plans or reveal current vulnerabilities of systems, installations, or infrastructures relating to the national security
- (9) violate a statute, treaty, or international agreement that does not permit the automatic or unilateral declassification of information at 25 years

50X1 Exemptions from Automatic Declassification, E.O. 13526, Section 3.3(h)

All records exempted from automatic declassification under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section shall be automatically declassified on December 31 of a year that is no more than 50 years from the date of origin, subject to the following:

3.3(h)(1) Records that contain information the release of which should clearly and demonstrably be expected to reveal the following are exempt from automatic declassification at 50 years:

(A) the identity of a confidential human source or a human intelligence source **(50X1-HUM)**; or

(B) key design concepts of weapons of mass destruction **(50X1-WMD)**