

US Classification



Overview

The United States government classifies sensitive information according to the degree to which the unauthorized disclosure would damage national security. The three primary levels of classification (from least to greatest) are Confidential, Secret, and Top Secret. However, even Top Secret clearance does not allow one to access all information at.

Article Overview

The United States uses multiple classification systems, including national security levels (Confidential, Secret, Top Secret), patent classifications, and business/industry classifications (NAICS).

National Security Classification

The U.S. government classifies information to protect national security under Executive Order 13526, issued in 2009. There are three primary levels of classification: Confidential, Secret, and Top Secret, each indicating increasing sensitivity and potential damage to national security if disclosed. Access to classified information requires both the appropriate clearance level and a legitimate need-to-know. Additional compartments, such as Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) and Special Access Programs (SAP), further restrict access to highly sensitive information, even for those with Top Secret clearance. Classification is governed by executive order rather than statute, except for nuclear-related information under the Atomic Energy Act .

Patent Classification...

Article Content

Jul 08, 2026

Interactive Commerce Control List | Bureau of Industry

Current from the eCFR as of 07/14/2026. Refreshed within last hour. This tool pulls information from

Dec 13, 2025

(U) NSA/CSS Policy Manual 1-52, "NSA/CSS Classification"

PURPOSE AND SCOPE In accordance with NSA/CSS Policy 1-52, "Classified National Security Information" (Reference a), this

Jul 17, 2026

(U) Authorized Classification and Control Markings Register

(U) Non-US Classification and Joint Classification Markings are restricted to the respective countries or international organizations.

Oct 25, 2025

How Government Classification Works and Why It Matters

Discover the importance and mechanics of the government's document classification system.

Dec 01, 2025

Harmonized Tariff Schedule

The Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) sets out the tariff rates and statistical categories for all merchandise

Dec 05, 2025

A Guide to U.S. Trademark Classes

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office divides trademarks into 45 different "classes." You must choose the proper

Aug 23, 2025

Goods and services | USPTO

Trademark classes Trademark classes are a way for us to organize the goods or services used in applications,

Mar 25, 2026

Search Patent Classification Systems

Access patent classification systems and resources for efficient patent search and categorization.

Feb 16, 2026

DoDM 5200.45, "Original Classification Authority and Writing a

Issue and disseminate classification guidance for classified elements of information within each system, plan, program, project, or

Aug 28, 2025

Security Classifications – Defense Technical Information Center

Security Classifications Classified documents must be marked with classification and downgrading information; discrepancies in

Dec 22, 2025

Industry Classification Systems

The US Harmonized Tariff System and Schedule B classification systems are summarized into six principal “end-use” categories and

Sep 29, 2025

Classified information

Restricted material would cause "undesirable effects" if publicly available. Some countries do not have such a classification in public

Jan 22, 2026

United States Patent Classification

The United States Patent Classification is an official patent classification system in use and maintained by the United States Patent

Mar 20, 2026

Index to USPC

Skip header and go to main content About us Jobs Contact us Classification Resources Classification Revision & Reclassification

Nov 09, 2025

DoD Guide to Marking Classified Documents, DoD 5200.1-PH

Foreword Table of Contents Security Reminders Section 1 - Marking Originally Classified Documents Portion Markings and Overall

Mar 31, 2026

DoD Guide to Marking Classified Documents, DoD 5200.1-PH

It prescribes guidance through examples, on the markings for classified national security information. It supersedes the 1982, 5200.1

Aug 25, 2025

Guidance for users | USPTO

This ID Manual features, classification and identification practices, and tips relating to particular goods and services. Click on the

Dec 12, 2025

Classification & Qualifications

This website provides Federal position classification, job grading, and qualifications information that is used to determine the pay

Dec 02, 2025

Classified National Security Information (CNSI) Guidance

From the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Jun 18, 2026

49 CFR Part 8 -

Classification means the act or process by which information is determined to be classified information. Classification levels means

Aug 30, 2025

USA Class

It is intended to streamline classification workflows, support AI-assisted major duty and factor level generation, and facilitate

Nov 26, 2025

Classified information in the United States

The United States government classification system is established under Executive Order 13526, the latest in a long series of

Feb 04, 2026

Classified information in the United States

OverviewLevels and categories of classificationTerminologyProper procedure for classifying U.S. government documentsClassifying non-government-generated informationProtecting classified informationClassifications and clearances between U.S. government agenciesStandard form 312

The United States government classifies sensitive information according to the degree to which the unauthorized disclosure would damage national security. The three primary levels of classification (from least to greatest) are Confidential, Secret, and Top Secret. However, even Top Secret clearance does not allow one to access all information at

Apr 28, 2026

Classified information

Classified information is confidential material that a government, corporation, or non-governmental organisation deems to be

Feb 13, 2026

US Classes by Number

Patents > Guidance, Tools, and Manuals > Classification > US Classes by Number Menu

Dec 28, 2025

OPM Expands Access to AI-Powered USA Class Tool to Streamline

USA Class uses AI technology trained on thousands of existing federal position descriptions to help managers quickly generate

Sep 26, 2025

26 CFR § 301.7701-3

LII Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR) Title 26—Internal Revenue
CHAPTER I—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,

Mar 18, 2026

US Employee Classification: A Guide for Global

Navigate the complexities of US Employee Classification with our comprehensive guide.

Apr 25, 2026

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) U.S. Census

The products developed under Phases I - III are assembled into 102 product lists that identify and define the significant

Contact Us

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