



ISOO Notice 2014-03: U.S. Protection of Information Shared by the Government of the United Kingdom

August 27, 2014

In April 2014 the Government of the United Kingdom instituted a new information marking system with three classification levels: Official, Secret, and Top Secret. Previously used UK markings have been replaced in the system as follows:

- “Unclassified or Not Protectively Marked” – All UK government information is presumed to be Official and requires appropriate handling, safeguarding and marking when reused by U.S. classifiers. The UK does not require explicit marking of information as “UK Official” however; it is permitted if required by the originator.
- “UK Protect” – Replaced by “UK Official.” The UK does not require explicit marking of information as “UK Official;” however, it is permitted if required by the originator.
- “UK Restricted” – Replaced by “UK Official-Sensitive.”
- “UK Confidential” – Planned phase out over the next several years, with the exception of civilian and military nuclear information.

All agencies that receive information from the Government of the United Kingdom are advised to direct their workforce to protect this information as follows:

- UK Official information will be protected in the same manner as U.S. controlled unclassified information (CUI). Until CUI is implemented in the U.S., protect as U.S. information marked Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) or For Official Use Only (FOUO).
- “UK Official-Sensitive” will be protected in the same manner as previously agreed for UK Restricted. Refer to department or agency guidance on existing protection requirements for UK Restricted information.
- “UK Confidential” information pertaining to civilian and military nuclear matters will be protected in the same manner as U.S. Confidential, as will any UK information received after April 2014 that carries the “UK Confidential” marking. Confidential Restricted Data and Formerly Restricted Data will be handled in accordance with joint agreements.

The table below provides a simplified classification equivalency table for the new UK to U.S. markings:

UK Classification Marking	U.S. Marking Equivalent
UK TOP SECRET	TOP SECRET
UK SECRET	SECRET
No equivalent * (with the exception of UK CONFIDENTIAL for civilian and nuclear information and any information received after April 2014 marked UK CONFIDENTIAL)**	CONFIDENTIAL
UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE	No equivalent***
UK OFFICIAL	SBU or FOUO (Note: to become CUI)

* No UK equivalent – The UK will handle “U.S. CONFIDENTIAL” information it receives as it would “UK SECRET.”

** The UK will continue to use “UK CONFIDENTIAL” for information pertaining to civilian and military nuclear matters with no change to current protective measures. In addition, U.S. classifiers may continue to receive “UK CONFIDENTIAL” information while the UK transitions to the new system, on some products prepared by the UK for foreign release, and on legacy UK information.

*** No U.S. equivalent – The U.S. will handle “UK OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE” as it would legacy “UK RESTRICTED.” Refer to department or agency guidance.

Information with obsolete/discontinued UK markings will be protected as follows:

- “UK Restricted” will now be protected as “UK Official-Sensitive,” refer to the guidance above for protection of “UK Official-Sensitive.”
- “UK Protect” will be protected in the same manner as “U.S. CUI,” refer to the guidance above for protection requirements.
- “UK Unclassified” or “UK Not Protectively Marked” will be protected as “UK Official”, refer to the guidance above for protection requirements.

The wholesale remarking of legacy UK documents is not necessary. UK information with legacy markings listed above will only be subject to re-marking if the information is reused in a new U.S. document. In accordance with E.O. 13526 Section 1.6(e), the responsible agency (i.e., the agency that entered into the sharing arrangement) determines if the foreign government information is re-marked as wholly of U.S. origin, as foreign government information, or retains its original markings.

This interim guidance will remain in effect until the U.S. and UK governments complete their review and updates to applicable U.S./UK security arrangements.

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