

§ 2008.3 Applicability.

This regulation governs the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations. In consonance with the authorities listed in section 1-1, it establishes the general policy and certain procedures for the security classification, downgrading, declassification, and safeguarding of information that is owned by, is produced for or by, or is under the control of the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

Subpart B—Classification**§ 2008.4 Basic policy.**

It is the policy of the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations to make available to the public as much information concerning its activities as is possible, consistent with its responsibility to protect the national security.

§ 2008.5 Level of original classification.

Unnecessary classification, and classification at a level higher than is necessary, shall be avoided. If there is reasonable doubt as to which designation in section 1-1 of Executive Order 12065 is appropriate, or whether information should be classified at all, the less restrictive designation should be used, or the information should not be classified.

§ 2008.6 Duration of original classification.

(a) Except as permitted below, in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, information or material which is classified after December 1, 1978, shall be marked at the declassification no more than six years following its original classification.

(b) Original classification may be extended beyond six years only by officials with Top Secret classification authority and agency heads listed in section 1-2 of the order. This extension authority shall be used only when these officials determine that the basis for original classification will continue throughout the entire period that the classification will be in effect and only for the following reasons:

(1) The information is “foreign government information” as defined by the authorities in section 1.1;

(2) The information reveals intelligence sources and methods;

(3) The information pertains to communications security;

(4) The information reveals vulnerability or capability data, the unauthorized disclosure of which can reasonably be expected to render ineffective a system, installation, or project important to the national security;

(5) The information concerns plans important to the national security, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably can be expected to nullify the effectiveness of the plan;

(6) The information concerns specific foreign relations matters, the continued protection of which is essential to the national security;

(7) The continued protection of the information is specifically required by statute.

(c) Even when the extension of authority is exercised, the period of original classification shall not be greater than twenty years from the date of original classification, except that the original classification of “foreign government information” pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section may be for a period of thirty years.

§ 2008.7 Challenges to classification.

If holders of classified information believe that the information is improperly or unnecessarily classified, or that original classification has been extended for too long a period, they should discuss the matter with their immediate superiors or the classifier of the information. If these discussions do not satisfy the concerns of the challenger, the matter should be brought to the attention of the chairperson of the Information Security Oversight Committee. Action on such challenges shall be taken 30 days from date of receipt and the challenger shall be notified of the results. When requested, anonymity of the challenger shall be preserved.