



Job Aid: PKI/ECA – access to NCAISS and NISS

This Job Aid explains how to access the DCSA NCAISS Portal, which is required for accessing the National Industrial Security System (NISS), using a CAC or DoD-approved ECA certificate.

For FSOs who are not being issued a Common Access Card, it is recommended to purchase a medium token assurance hardware-based certificate immediately following notification of contract award and the need for a facility clearance (FCL). It can take two or more weeks to obtain the PKI/ECA once all documentation is submitted, and starting the process as early as possible avoids delays in processing the FCL.

The DCSA National Industrial Security Program (NISP) Central Access Information Security System (NCAISS Portal, <https://ncaiss.dss.mil/>) is a web-based application that provides Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)-based authentication services to DCSA applications and information systems for authorized users. NCAISS access is required for access to the National Industrial Security System (NISS), the system of record for FCL processing and industrial security oversight. Through the NCAISS Portal, an authorized user can access their DCSA NCAISS Portal account via a single sign-on (SSO) capability using PKI certificates (either a Common Access Card or DoD-approved External Certification Authority (ECA) certificate). The NCAISS database accepts all DoD-Approved PKIs. Thus, NISS cannot be accessed until a PKI/ECA is obtained and an NCAISS account is created.

Third-Party Vendors

Approved ECA Vendors:

- [Widepoint https://eca.orc.com/](https://eca.orc.com/)
- [Identrust, Inc. https://www.identrust.com/digital-certificates/dod-eca-programs](https://www.identrust.com/digital-certificates/dod-eca-programs)

Choose your preferred vendor and follow the external vendor's instructions to purchase your PKI

Final Purchase

Complete the necessary identity proofing to begin the purchase process. Then, when prompted select the **Medium Token Assurance hardware-based certificate** PKI option.

Once PKI has been purchased, you will receive instructions from your chosen vendor on how to obtain and set up your PKI and hardware.

Additional Resources

DoD PKI Help Desk disa.gsd.maops@mail.mil
(844) 347-2457 Option 1,3,4

ECA PKI Support: [PKI/PKE Help https://public.cyber.mil/pki-pke/help/](https://public.cyber.mil/pki-pke/help/)

ECA Website: [ECA Home https://public.cyber.mil/eca/](https://public.cyber.mil/eca/)

PKI Interoperability Website: [PKI/PKE Home https://public.cyber.mil/pki-pke/interoperability/](https://public.cyber.mil/pki-pke/interoperability/)

DoD ECA X.509 Certificate Policy: https://dl.dod.cyber.mil/wp-content/uploads/eca/pdf/unclass-eca_cp.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://public.cyber.mil/pki-pke/interoperability/interop-faq/>

Additional information on NISS can be found at: <https://www.DCSA.mil/is/ncaiss/>. You can also find information on how to setup your NISS account by accessing the job aid titled, "[Creating an NCAISS Account & Registering for the NISS](#)."