WHAT IS CUI?

Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) is unclassified information that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls pursuant to and consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and government-wide policies.

CUI SHOULD NOT BE USED TO:

- Conceal violations of the law, inefficiency, or administrative errors
- Prevent embarrassment to a person, organization, or agency
- Prevent open competition
- Control information that does not require protection under a law or regulation
**Controlled Unclassified Information** is similar to For Official Use Only (FOUO) as it is handled, stored, transmitted, and destroyed in basically the same manner as the legacy FOUO program.

- All media that contains CUI must be marked as CUI in order to alert the user to the presence of CUI. When the option is available, CUI should be processed on Government Furnished Equipment (GFE)
- CUI must be encrypted if sent via email
- Access to CUI should be limited to those with a lawful government purpose
- CUI should be destroyed by means approved for destroying classified or in a manner making it unreadable, indecipherable, and irrecoverable.
- After working hours, CUI may be stored in unlocked containers, desks, or cabinets if the facility provides security for continuous monitoring of access. Otherwise, the information must be stored in locked desks, file cabinets, bookcases, locked rooms, or similarly secured areas.
- CUI will be formally reviewed in accordance with DoDI 5230.09, Clearance of DoD Information for Public Release, before being decontrolled or released to the public.

**COVERSHEET AND CUI MEDIA LABELS**

- Coversheets are optional except when required by agency policy, but can replace banner markings.
- A CUI coversheet can also include categories/dissemination controls or list/originator designation
- Sample coversheets can be found in the CUI Registry at: [www.archives.gov/cui/additional-tools](http://www.archives.gov/cui/additional-tools) and can be printed in black and white.
- Every page does not have to be marked if you are using a coversheet.
ALTERNATE MARKING METHODS

Storing CUI
Authorized holders should mark the container to indicate that it contains CUI.

Systems marking or identifying CUI in databases
Agencies may authorize or require the use of alternate CUI indicators on IT systems, websites, browsers, or databases through agency CUI policy.

These may be used to alert users of the presence of CUI where use of markings has been waived by the agency head.

Shipping/Mailing CUI
Address packages that contain CUI for delivery only to a specific recipient.

DO NOT put CUI markings on the outside of an envelope or package for mailing/shipping.

Remember to track the package.
**MANDATORY CUI BANNER MARKING**

It is mandatory to include a banner marking at the top of each page denoting Controlled Unclassified Information.

It is optional, but a best practice to include the banner marking on the bottom in addition to the top.

The content of the CUI banner marking must be inclusive of all CUI within the document and must be the same on each page.

There are two kinds of CUI: Basic and Specified. If the laws or regulations, or Government-wide policy that pertains to your information is listed in the CUI Registry as a Specified Authority, then you must mark the CUI based in that authority as “CUI Specified” on the banner. Information marked as “CUI Basic” does not require specific protection.

The CUI banner marking may include up to three elements:

1. **The CUI Control Marking** (mandatory) may consist of either the word “CONTROLLED” or the acronym “CUI.”

2. **CUI Category or Subcategory Markings** (mandatory for CUI Specified). These are separated from the CUI Control marking by a double forward slash (//). When including multiple categories or subcategories in a banner marking, they must be alphabetized and are separated by a single forward slash (/).

3. **Limited Dissemination Control Markings.** These are preceded by a double forward slash (//) to separate them from the rest of the CUI banner marking. When a document contains multiple Limited Dissemination control markings, those Limited Dissemination control markings must be alphabetized and separated from each other with a single forward slash (/).

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**THE DOD CUI REGISTRY**

The DoD CUI Registry provides an official list of the Indexes and Categories used to identify the various types of CUI used within DoD. Contractors performing on DOD classified contracts with CUI requirements should consult the DOD Registry.

- Mirrors the National CUI Registry [www.archives.gov/cui](http://www.archives.gov/cui).
- The DoD CUI Registry is located at [https://www.dodcui.mil](https://www.dodcui.mil).
COMMINGLING PORTION MARKING

In a commingled document, when a portion contains both CUI and classified information, the portion marking for the classified information must precede the CUI portion marking. Keep the CUI and classified portions separate to the greatest extent possible to allow for maximum information-sharing.

U.S. Classification

CUI Control Marking

Category Markings

Dissemination Control Marking

(S//CUI//SP-AAAA/BBBB//DISSEM)

All categories relating to specified information MUST have “SP-” precede the category marking

DESIGNATION INDICATOR

- All documents containing CUI must indicate the agency of designation (a letterhead, signature block, or “Controlled By” line) on the first page or cover of all documents containing CUI.

- Include the contact information of the designating agency, and identify a point of contact or division within the organization.
MARK OR IDENTIFY CUI IN SPREADSHEETS & FORMS

• If working in a spreadsheet, the header and/or footer should clearly be marked.

• Forms that contain CUI, must be marked accordingly, when filled in.

MARKING EMAILS

• It is mandatory to include banner markings to indicate that an email contains CUI.

• If an email is forwarded, the banner marking must be carried forward.

• If sending an attachment that contains CUI, the name of the file can contain a CUI indicator.

• If an attachment is removed, and the email no longer contains CUI, add the following statement below the banner marking “Uncontrolled Unclassified Information.”

• Emails that contain CUI must be encrypted.

Note: Once you begin marking a document, every page in the document must also be marked.
CUI LIMITED DISSEMINATION CONTROL (LDC)

- LDC markings are used to limit and/or control who can or cannot access CUI based on a specific law, regulation, or policy.

- LDC markings cannot unnecessarily restrict CUI access. (e.g., do not mark a document as “No Dissemination to Contractors” or “NOCON” unless there is a law, regulation, or policy that prohibits dissemination to a contractor).

- Individuals must have a lawful government purpose to access and disseminate CUI.

- Personnel who receive CUI from another Executive branch agency must comply with the LCD markings annotated on their document.

- All legacy information is not automatically CUI. Legacy material that is being re-used and incorporated into another document of any kind needs to be marked CUI.

- When a document contains multiple LDC markings, those LDC markings are separated by a single slash (/).

- For a complete list LDC markings visit https://www.dodcui.mil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LD CONTROL</th>
<th>MARKING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Foreign Dissemination</td>
<td>NOFORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Employees Only</td>
<td>FED ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Employees and Contractors Only</td>
<td>FEDCON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Dissemination to Contractors</td>
<td>NOCON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Dissemination List Controlled</td>
<td>DL ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Authorized for release to</td>
<td>REL TO [USA], LIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display Only</td>
<td>DISPLAY ONLY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The dissemination list limits access to the specified individuals, groups, or agencies and must accompany the document.

** For a complete a list of approved Tri-graph Country Codes, go to https://www.dod.dodcui.mil.
FLOWCHART FOR CUI DETERMINATION

START

Does the information meet the standards for classification in accordance with DoDM 5200.01 Volume 1?

YES

Go to DoDM 5200.01 Volume 1 for guidance on processing classified information

NO

Does the information fall within a law, regulation, or government-wide policy?

YES

Identify the category(ies) the information falls within: DoD CUI Registry https://www.dodcui.mil

This information cannot be marked as CUI

NO

STOP

Example

The CUI category is annotated on the document in the CUI Designation Indicator block

Controlled by: OUSD(I&S)
Controlled by: CL&S INFOSEC
CUI Category(ies): PRVCY
Limited Dissemination Control: FEDCON
POC: John Brown, 703-555-0123
**CATEGORIES OF CUI**
For information to be considered CUI, it must fall within a category, such as:

- Critical Infrastructure
- Defense
- Export Control
- Financial and Tax
- Immigration
- Intelligence
- International Agreements
- Law Enforcement
- Legal
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- NATO
- Nuclear
- Patent
- Privacy
- Procurement and Acquisition
- Proprietary Business Information
- Provisional (for DHS use only)
- Statistical
- Transportation

**EXAMPLE OF DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT:**

**Controlled by:** Insert the name of the Government Contracting Activity (not required if identified in the letterhead).

**Controlled by:** Insert the name of the office creating the document.

**CUI Category:** Identify all types of CUI contained in the document.

**Distribution/Limited Dissemination Control:** Insert applicable distribution statement or LDC.

**Distribution Statement C:** Used for distribution authorized to U.S. Government agencies and their contractors: “Document created using [insert SCG name] in coordination with Contract #123 for [name of USG]. Other requests for this document shall be referred to [insert controlling DoD office].”

**POC:** Include the name and phone number or office mailbox for the originating DoD (GCA/IO) component or authorized holder of CUI.

**Note on the POC:** DoDI 5200.48 Section 3.4(f).5 states that the fifth line must contain the phone number or office mailbox (email address) for the originating DoD Component or Authorized CUI Holder. Minimally, you may be able to add the Authorized Holder’s name and number and/or IDA Document control number.

**EXAMPLE OF DESIGNATION INDICATOR:**

**Controlled by:** Insert the name of the Government Contracting Activity (not required if identified in the letterhead).

**Controlled by:** Insert the name of the office creating the document.

**CUI Category:** Identify all types of CUI contained in the document (you may reference an additional sheet when dealing with multiple categories).

**Distribution/Limited Dissemination Control:** Insert applicable distribution statement or LDC.

**POC:** Include the name and phone number or office mailbox (email address) for the originating DoD component or authorized CUI designated Holder.