Security Rating Process
Identifying Vulnerabilities, Administrative Findings, and Serious Security Issues

Severity Category | Characterization | FCL Impact
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CRITICAL VULNERABILITY | SYSTEMIC 1 | Critical or serious vulnerabilities which have an impact on the facility clearance are considered serious security issues.
 | ISOLATED 2 | |
SERIOUS VULNERABILITY | SYSTEMIC 1 | Serious security issues may result in an invalidation or intent to revoke (see footnote 4)
 | ISOLATED 2 | |
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING | REPEAT 3 | Administrative findings may stand alone or be further characterized as a repeat. As appropriate, a repeat may be elevated to a serious vulnerability (see footnote 3)

1. Systemic is a characterization given to a vulnerability – critical or serious – to indicate the issue is spread across multiple elements of the security program that place the entire security program at risk.
2. Isolated is a characterization given to a vulnerability – critical or serious – to indicate a single occurrence of an issue identified in one element of the security program.
3. When appropriate, a repeat administrative finding shall be characterized as such. Repeat administrative findings can be elevated to a serious vulnerability when the finding indicates intentional disregard of security regulations or a pattern of negligence, or when multiple findings indicate a lack of overall security program.
4. Serious security issue is an FCL relevant vulnerability that without mitigation would affect a facility’s ability to obtain or maintain a FCL. Serious security issues may result in an invalidation or intent to revoke.

Identifying Vulnerabilities, Administrative Findings, and Serious Security Issues

Critical or serious vulnerabilities which have an impact on the facility clearance are considered serious security issues.

Serious security issues may result in an invalidation or intent to revoke (see footnote 4).

Administrative findings may stand alone or be further characterized as a repeat. As appropriate, a repeat may be elevated to a serious vulnerability (see footnote 3).

Classified information has been, or is in imminent risk of being, lost or compromised.

Classified information is in danger of loss or compromise.

Classified information is not at risk of loss or compromise.

Systemic is a characterization given to a vulnerability – critical or serious – to indicate the issue is spread across multiple elements of the security program that place the entire security program at risk.

Isolated is a characterization given to a vulnerability – critical or serious – to indicate a single occurrence of an issue identified in one element of the security program.

When appropriate, a repeat administrative finding shall be characterized as such. Repeat administrative findings can be elevated to a serious vulnerability when the finding indicates intentional disregard of security regulations or a pattern of negligence, or when multiple findings indicate a lack of overall security program.

Serious security issue is an FCL relevant vulnerability that without mitigation would affect a facility’s ability to obtain or maintain a FCL. Serious security issues may result in an invalidation or intent to revoke.