Q: Are there plans for more in depth presentations about the NISPOM Rule (32 CFR Part 117)?

A: DCSA is planning additional NISPOM Rule webinars to address requirements like SEAD 3 reporting, Senior Management Official (SMO) responsibilities, and changes regarding safeguarding. Once schedule, DCSA will post Webinar availabilities on the DCSA NISPOM Rule webpage.

Q: What is the best way to become familiar with the NISPOM Rule?

A: Download the NISPOM Rule Cross Reference Tool which can be found. Click on familiar sections of the current NISPOM and review the comparable sections of the NISPOM Rule.

Q: Why does the NISPOM Rule discuss Cognizant Security Agencies (CSAs) other than DOD and does that mean that Industry will respond to multiple CSAs?

A: The scope of both documents, DOD 5220.22 (NISPOM Manual) and 32 CFR Part 117 (NISPOM Rule) have not changed. The current NISPOM Manual and the NISPOM Rule apply to contractors under all NISP CSAs including the Department of Defense, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Homeland Security. DOD issued Industrial Security Letters (ISLs) are only for contractors under Department cognizance and DCSA oversight.

Q: Does the NISPOM Rule (32 CFR Part 117) replace the DOD publication 5220.22-M, "NISPOM Manual?"

A: Yes, 32 CFR Part 117 will replace DOD 5220.22-M, but not until the six month implementation period for 32 CFR Part 117 ends. DOD will cancel the NISPOM Manual (DOD 5220.22-M) shortly thereafter. The NISPOM Rule and NISPOM Manual will coexist during the six month implementation period.

Q: Does DOD plan to issue a subsequent policy document similar to DOD 5220.22-M to accompany 32 CFR Part 117?

A: No. The federal rule is considered DOD Policy for "day-to-day" use by cleared industry under DOD cognizance. To help Industry become accustomed to the NISPOM Rule's format, DCSA created a Cross Reference Tool to aid cleared industry in this transition.

Q: Did anything in the NISPOM Manual (DOD 5220.22-M) not transition to the NISPOM Rule (32 CFR Part 117)?

A: Yes. While much of DOD 5520.22-M (NISPOM Manual) shows up in 32 CFR Part 117 (sometimes verbatim), certain items either do not, or were revised. An example is that the new NISPOM Rule refers to "open storage areas" instead of "closed areas" in the "safeguarding" section. The Rule also directs contractors to §2001.53 of 32 CFR Part 2001 (Classified National Security Information) for open storage area requirements. (See the FAQ under Safeguarding regarding "closed areas" and "open storage" for more details.) Some current NISPOM Manual guidance, like for TEMPEST and Independent Research and Development (IR&D), was not included in the NISPOM Rule.

Q: Are previous Industrial Security Letters (ISLs) incorporated into the NISPOM Rule (32 CFR Part 117) or do we need to use them in addition to the new rule?

A: Many of the ISLs providing CSA-guidance were incorporated into the NISPOM Rule. DCSA is working with Industrial Security Policy staff at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security concerning new ISLs, revising and re-issuing current required guidance, and determining which ISLs need to be rescinded. DCSA will coordinate through the NISPPAC concerning new ISLs, as well as those revised and re-issued.

Q: Will you update the National Industrial Security System (NISS) to reflect new citation(s) formatting when entering vulnerabilities?

A: Yes. Efforts are underway to update NISS by August 2021.

Q: Will DOD update forms referencing the current NISPOM Manual (DOD 5220.22-M) within the six months implementation period allotted to cleared industry?

A: Yes. Efforts are under way to update NISP related forms to reflect the NISPOM Rule.

Q: Will there be an updated Self Inspection Handbook reflecting the new NISPOM Rule?

A: Yes. A new Self Inspection Handbook will align with the changes found in 32 CFR Part 117. We intended to release it in August 2021.

Q: For Top Secret (TS) materials stored in a GSA-approved security container, is the inspection by a cleared employee every two hours throughout the 24 hour day or just during staff working hours?

A: The use of cleared employees to inspect TS stored in a GSA-approved security container is required when container location is not occupied by cleared employees.

Q: How does the NIPSOM Rule's (32 CFR Part 117) "open storage area" requirements affect existing "closed area" approvals?

A: In the new NISPOM Rule, the term "closed area" and its associated construction requirements is replaced by "open storage area" and its requirements found in 32 CFR Part 2001, "Classified National Security Information." However, if your organization has an existing DCSA approval for a "closed area" under the requirements of the NISPOM Manual (DOD 5220.22-M), that closed area can remain in effect. If major changes occur, the "open storage area" requirements found in 32 CFR part 117 are required.

Q: Will the Senior Management Official (SMO) need to re-appoint Facility Security Officers (FSOs), Insider Threat Program Senior Officials (InTPSOs), or Information Security System Managers (ISSMs) already serving in these roles?

A: No, the SMO will only need to appoint in writing those cleared employees who assume those duties after the implementation date.

Q: Is training required for Senior Management Officials (SMOs) now that they have prescribed responsibilities?

A: There is no dedicated training for SMOs. As a cleared employee performing security duties, he/she is required to complete commensurate training. In this respect, DCSA is planning a SMO specific webinar during July 2021. We're also developing an information tool about responsibilities.

Q: Will DCSA provide additional information about SEAD 3 reporting requirements?

A: DCSA will schedule webinars beginning in June 2021, to discuss SEAD 3 reporting requirements for cleared contractors under DOD cognizance. Additionally, an Industrial Security Letter (ISL) providing DOD specific guidance is under development.