



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Investigative
Services

Federal Investigations Notice

Notice No. 16-02

Date: October 6, 2015

SUBJECT: Federal Investigative Standards for Tier 3 and Tier 3 Reinvestigation

The 2012 Federal Investigative Standards (FIS) established requirements for conducting background investigations to determine eligibility for logical and physical access, suitability for U.S. Government employment, fitness to perform work for, or on behalf of, the U.S. Government as a contract employee, and eligibility for access to classified information or to hold a sensitive position. The standards consist of five tiers with an Expandable Focused Investigation (EFI) model at each tier. The FIS Implementation Plan (Plan) issued by the Security and Suitability Executive Agents and the Performance Accountability Council directed a phased implementation according to a specified schedule.

Implementation of Tier 3 and Tier 3 Reinvestigation

In accordance with the Plan, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is implementing Tier 3 (T3) and Tier 3 Reinvestigation (T3R) effective FY2016. T3 is the investigation required for positions designated as non-critical sensitive and/or requiring eligibility for "L" access or access to Confidential or Secret information. T3R is the reinvestigation product required for the same positions. The Standard Form (SF) 86 is used to conduct these investigations.

Additional information is provided on the OPM Secure Portal for Federal agencies that request OPM investigations or conduct investigations under delegated investigative authority from OPM.

Tier 3 and Tier 3R investigations will be identified as T3 and T3R in OPM's databases. T3 investigations will be identified by case type code 64, and T3R investigations will be identified by case type code 65.

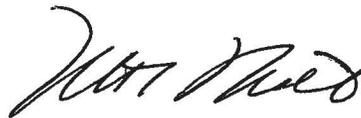
Other investigative service providers (ISPs) that conduct T3 and T3R investigations should report initiation of T3 and T3R investigations to OPM's Security and Suitability Investigations Index (SII). The updated naming conventions for Tier 3 and Tier 3R will be added to the valid values listing in the Central Verification System (CVS) under the "Type of Investigation." For additional information on OPM's reporting process for ISPs, please refer to the private library maintained for ISPs on OPM's Secure Portal. The updated transaction file layout is available on the OPM Secure Portal and includes the new naming conventions.

Other Changes

Effective October 1, 2015, OPM will no longer offer the Access National Agency Check with Inquiries (ANACI) and National Agency Checks with Law and Credit (NACLC). This change is consistent with the Plan.

Additionally, per the Federal Investigative Standards, OPM will no longer offer the ANACI with an Enhanced Subject Interview (ANACI-P) product. Information regarding requirements for applying reciprocity in light of the implementation of T3 and T3R will be provided under separate guidance.

For questions regarding this notice, please contact OPM-Federal Investigative Services External Liaison at 724-794-5612.



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