



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

5510

Ser N09N2/7U223109

JUN 18 2007

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: POLICY REGARDING EXEMPTION CATEGORIES X1-X8 DECLASSIFICATION
MARKINGS

Ref: (a) OUSD(I) memo of 1 May 07
(b) SECNAV M-5510.36

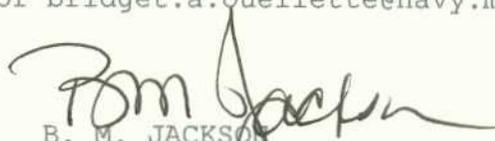
Encl: (1) Policy Guidance Regarding Exemption Categories X1-X8
Declassification Markings

1. The use of exemption categories X1 through X8 on originally classified information has been prohibited since 22 September 2003, when 32 C.F.R. Part 2001, ISOO Directive No. 1 was issued, but the marking persists. This is due to outdated Security Classification Guides (SCGs) that do not reflect the current declassification guidance of date or event not to exceed 25 years. In turn, a multitude of derivatively classified documents are being improperly marked X1 through X8, based on deficient source documents or SCGs. Reference (a) provided policy guidance regarding subject, in order to remove ambiguity as to the duration of classification. Enclosure (1) contains the Department of Navy (DON) implementing guidance.

2. Effective immediately, all DON classifiers and command security management personnel shall use the guidance provided in enclosure (1).

3. Enclosure (1) updates, as well as supplements, reference (b).

4. Please ensure widest dissemination of this information to subordinate commands. My point of contact is Bridget Ouellette at (202) 433-8842, DSN 288-8842, or bridget.a.ouellette@navy.mil.


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MARKINGS

CNO (N09B11)
COMLANTFLT
COMPACFLT
COMUSNAVEUR-COMSIXFLT
COMUSNAVCENT BAHRAIN
COMFLTFORCOM
COMNAVAIRSYSCOM
COMNAVSEASYSYSCOM
COMNAVFACENGCOM
COMSPAWARSYSCOM
COMSC
COMNAVRESFOR
BUPERS
COMNAVDIST
CNIC
DIRSSP
ONI
COMNAVLEGSVCCOM
USNA
NAVPGSCOL
NAVWARCOL
BUMED
PRESINSURV
NAVOBSY
COMNAVSPECWARCOM
NAVSTKAIRWARCEN
COMOPTVFOR
NAVHISTCEN
FLDSUPPACT
NCTSI
COMNAVSAFECEN
COMNAVMETOCCOM
COMNAVNETWARCOM
NETC
NAVCRIMINSERV (CODE 11)
NAVY IPO

POLICY GUIDANCE REGARDING EXEMPTION CATEGORIES X1-X8
DECLASSIFICATION MARKINGS

- o Original Classification Authorities shall:
 - o Be briefed on the policy in SECNAV M-5510.36, Chapter 4, regarding duration of classification and the new guidance set forth in this letter. Confirm, in writing, the briefing is completed within 90 days of receipt of this letter, for further reporting to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence).
- o Derivative Classifiers shall:
 - o Mark all new derivatively classified documents with **"Declassify on: 22 September 2028,"** if the classification guide or source document was created **on or after** 22 September 2003 and contains the unauthorized markings X1 through X8. The declassification date of 22 September 2028 represents 25 years from the last possible appropriate use of the X1 through X8 marking.
 - o Re-mark all derivatively classified documents with **"Declassify on: 22 September 2028,"** if created **on or after** 22 September 2003 and contains the unauthorized markings X1 through X8. Re-marking is only required when the document is used as a source document for derivative classification. Cite this letter as the authority when re-marking the document.
 - o Mark documents **"Declassify on: Source marked (enter applicable exemption category X1-X8), Date of source: (as applicable),"** when X1 through X8 appears on a source document dated **before** 22 September 2003. The information shall be declassified 25 years from the date of the original decision.
 - o In all cases, before declassifying the document, confirm that the original classifier has not changed the declassification instructions.
- o DON Commands that receive or generate classified information shall:
 - o Update all implementing regulations, security education and training, and inspection guidelines to reflect the discontinuation of X1 through X8 declassification instructions, and include the new declassification guidance stated in SECNAV M-5510.36 and this letter.
 - o Properly classify information. Authorized holders of information shall challenge the classification status when they believe it does not meet the classification criteria in SECNAV M-5510.36.