
CHAPTER 14

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE INFORMATION

A. General Information

This chapter provides guidance for determining if historical records, containing DOE NSI, pertaining to chemical and biological defense information are to be declassified or have their classification retained beyond 25 years in accordance with the provisions of E.O. 12958. ***Documents containing RD and FRD are not addressed by this document and retain present classification.***

B. Broad Guidance

Chemical and biological materials used as weapons of mass destruction (WMD) (also called C/B agents) pose a serious threat to the U.S. national security. These two generic types of weapons are often referred to as "the poor man's atomic bomb." They are much easier to produce than nuclear devices and are capable of inflicting massive casualties over large areas.

DOE's work related to C/B agents is based on threats to DOE sites, facilities, and the national security. The work in this area consists of focused technology development for facility protection and a broad-based research and development program, purely defensive in nature, with the goal of reducing the threat of C/B weapons of mass destruction. This program encompasses information, technologies, and systems that may be used to prevent, detect, mitigate, or otherwise defensively respond to the threatened or actual use of chemical or biological weapons.

Chemical formulas for traditional chemical warfare agents (H-series mustard agents, G and V series nerve agents) are widely

available, as are traditional methods for manufacture of these agents. Nevertheless, the production methods, including exactly how to carry out the chemical reactions, frequently require specialized knowledge, materials, and equipment and thus some degree of security is achieved by avoiding unnecessary release of such information. There have been essentially no advances in these technologies for several decades, though a few new chemical agents (so-called next-generation agents) have emerged from focused research programs in several nations. Information on these agents is not widely available.

Historical records, 25 years or older, containing DOE/NNSA C/B NSI not covered by the specific guidance below are unclassified. This does not include records containing information classified by statute such as RD and FRD (AEA of 1954, as amended). These records shall be handled, protected, classified, downgraded, and declassified in accordance with the provisions of the AEA and regulations issued under that Act. Reviewers who are not authorized by DOE/NNSA to classify or declassify such documents should not attempt final determinations. Refer to appendix A for information on identifying and handling documents containing potential RD/FRD. In all cases where there is a question concerning the sensitivity of the information, it should be referred to the DOE HQ classification office for a classification determination.

Topics describing information likely to contain or closely related to RD or FRD are marked "(potential for RD/FRD)".

C. Topics

14.0 CHEMICAL/BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE INFORMATION

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