

5304.403 Responsibilities of Contracting Officers

- (a) In accordance with the [FAR part 4.4](#), the contracting officer is responsible for reviewing all proposed solicitations to determine whether access to classified information may be required by offerors or by a contractor during contract performance.
- (b) Contracting officers will require input and support from program managers, project managers, or other personnel knowledgeable of the contract requirements to perform this responsibility.
- (c) The Contracting Officer will, in accordance with [32 CFR Part 117](#) and [DAFMAN 16-1406V2](#), National Industrial Security Program: Industrial Security Procedures for Government Activities:
 - i. Verify the vendor's facility clearance status and safeguarding capability by accessing the National Industrial Security System (NISS), unless otherwise delegated.
 - ii. Submit a facility clearance sponsorship request to the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) using NISS, unless otherwise delegated.
 - iii. Include the security requirements clause, [FAR 52.204-2](#) and the Department of Defense Contact Security Classification Specification (DD Form 254) if access to classified information is required during the solicitation phase or award phase of a contract.
 - iv. Ensure the DD Form 254 is properly prepared, reviewed, coordinated and distributed in accordance with DAFMAN 16-1406V2. In the absence of exceptional circumstances that support classification, the DD Form 254 will not be classified.
 - v. Serve as the approving official Certifier for the DD Form 254.
 - vi. Ensure the DD Form 254 is distributed to:
 - (1) The contractor as part of the contract.
 - (2) All DCSA field activities listed in blocks 6c, 7c, 8c, and 10 (as applicable).
 - (3) All host installation Air Force Information Protection Office(s) listed as government performance locations (or Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard equivalent where classified performance will occur).
 - (4) Others in accordance with local DD Form 254 processing procedures.
 - vii. Within 30 calendar days prior to classified work beginning to all government performance locations:
 - (1) Ensure the host Installation Commander is aware of the contractor's presence as a visitor on the installation normally through the installation Information Protection Office when performance is on an Air Force installation at least 30 calendar days in advance.
 - (2) If the certified DD Form 254 cannot be provided to the installation Information Protection Office at least 30 calendar days in advance due to contract performance commencing in less than 30

calendar days from date of contract award, then the DD Form 254 is to be provided within 72 hours after contract award.

viii. Upon receipt of notification of a contractor security violation from the DCSA, the contracting officer or designee will ensure the owner of the classified information subject to loss, compromise, or suspected compromise (e.g., Original Classification Authority (OCA) or representative) is further notified and can perform required actions to mitigate potential damage in accordance with DoDM 5200.01, Volume 3, Enclosure and DAFI 16-1404, Chapters 3 and 7.

ix. Upon notification of an adverse facility clearance action (e.g. Invalidation/Intent to Revoke) and/or receipt of a contractor being issued a less than satisfactory security review rating issued by DCSA, coordinate all potential contracting actions with the program office and/or affected government customer(s) personnel to ensure vendor mitigates all reported instances of non-compliance with [FAR 52.204-2](#), as applicable.

(d) National Interest Determination (NID)

i. As of 1 October 2020, in accordance with Public Law 115-232, John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Section 842, "Removal of National Interest Determination Requirements for Certain Entities," August 13, 2018:

(1) NIDs are no longer required for National Technology and Industrial Base foreign ownership entities that require access to proscribed information and under Special Security Agreements to mitigate the foreign ownership, control, or influence.

(2) If necessary, contact the servicing Information Protection Office to verify if a NID is required prior to submitting a NID request.

ii. Upon receiving adequate written justification from the requesting program office or activity, the contracting officer reviews, validates, and processes the NID request and associated written approvals/documentation, in accordance with AFH 16-1406, National Interest Determination Handbook

iii. The contracting officer shall maintain a copy of the approved program, project, or contract specific NID package in the contract file.

Parent topic: [Subpart 5304.4 - SAFEGUARDING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WITHIN INDUSTRY](#)