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## PART 29—PROTECTED CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION

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### § 29.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) *Purpose of this Part.* This Part implements sections 211 through 215 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (HSA) through the establishment of uniform procedures for the receipt, care, and storage of Critical Infrastructure Information (CII) voluntarily submitted to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Title II, Subtitle B, of the Homeland Security Act is referred to herein as the Critical Infrastructure Information Act of 2002 (CII Act). Consistent with the statutory mission of DHS to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States and reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorism, DHS will encourage the voluntary submission of CII by safeguarding and protecting that information from unauthorized disclosure and by ensuring that such information is, as necessary, securely shared with State and local government pursuant to section 214(a) through (g) of the CII Act. As required by the CII Act, these rules establish procedures regarding:

- (1) The acknowledgement of receipt by DHS of voluntarily submitted CII;
- (2) The receipt, validation, handling, storage, proper marking and use of information as PCII;
- (3) The safeguarding and maintenance of the confidentiality of such information, appropriate sharing of such

information with State and local governments pursuant to section 214(a) through (g) of the HSA.

(4) The issuance of advisories, notices and warnings related to the protection of critical infrastructure or protected systems in such a manner as to protect from unauthorized disclosure the source of critical infrastructure information that forms the basis of the warning, and any information that is proprietary or business sensitive, might be used to identify the submitting person or entity, or is otherwise not appropriately in the public domain.

(b) *Scope.* The regulations in this Part apply to all persons and entities that are authorized to handle, use, or store PCII or that otherwise accept receipt of PCII.

### § 29.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Critical Infrastructure* has the meaning stated in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (referencing the term used in section 1016(e) of Public Law 107-56 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

(b) *Critical Infrastructure Information*, or *CII*, has the same meaning as established in section 212 of the CII Act of 2002 and means information not customarily in the public domain and related to the security of critical infrastructure or protected systems, including documents, records or other information concerning:

(1) Actual, potential, or threatened interference with, attack on, compromise of, or incapacitation of critical infrastructure or protected systems by either physical or computer-based attack or other similar conduct (including the misuse of or unauthorized access to all types of communications and data transmission systems) that violates Federal, State, local, or tribal law, harms interstate commerce of the United States, or threatens public health or safety;

(2) The ability of any critical infrastructure or protected system to resist such interference, compromise, or incapacitation, including any planned or

past assessment, projection, or estimate of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure or a protected system, including security testing, risk evaluation thereto, risk-management planning, or risk audit; or

(3) Any planned or past operational problem or solution regarding critical infrastructure or protected systems, including repair, recovery, reconstruction, insurance, or continuity, to the extent it is related to such interference, compromise, or incapacitation.

(c) *Information Sharing and Analysis Organization*, or *ISAO*, has the same meaning as is established in section 212 of the CII Act of 2002 and means any formal or informal entity or collaboration created or employed by public or private sector organizations for purposes of:

(1) Gathering and analyzing CII in order to better understand security problems and interdependencies related to critical infrastructure and protected systems, so as to ensure the availability, integrity, and reliability thereof;

(2) Communicating or disclosing CII to help prevent, detect, mitigate, or recover from the effects of an interference, compromise, or an incapacitation problem related to critical infrastructure or protected systems; and

(3) Voluntarily disseminating CII to its members, Federal, State, and local governments, or any other entities that may be of assistance in carrying out the purposes specified in paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section.

(d) *In the public domain* means information lawfully, properly and regularly disclosed generally or broadly to the public. Information regarding system, facility or operational security is not “in the public domain.” Information submitted with CII that is proprietary or business sensitive, or which might be used to identify a submitting person or entity will not be considered “in the public domain.” Information may be “business sensitive” for this purpose whether or not it is commercial in nature, and even if its release could not demonstrably cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the submitting person or entity.

(e) *Local government* has the same meaning as is established in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and means:

(1) A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government;

(2) An Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or in Alaska a Native village or Alaska Regional Native Corporation; and

(3) A rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.

(f) *Program Manager’s Designee* means a Federal employee outside of the PCII Program Office, whether employed by DHS or another Federal agency, to whom certain functions of the PCII Program Office are delegated by the Program Manager, as determined on a case-by-case basis.

(g) *Protected Critical Infrastructure Information*, or *PCII*, means validated CII, including information covered by 6 CFR 29.6(b) and (f), including the identity of the submitting person or entity and any person or entity on whose behalf the submitting person or entity submits the CII, that is voluntarily submitted, directly or indirectly, to DHS, for its use regarding the security of critical infrastructure and protected systems, analysis, warning, interdependency study, recovery, reconstitution, or other appropriate purpose, and any information, statements, compilations or other materials reasonably necessary to explain the CII, put the CII in context, describe the importance or use of the CII, when accompanied by an express statement as described in 6 CFR 29.5.

(h) *Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program*, or *PCII Program*, means the program implementing the CII Act, including the maintenance, management, and review of the information provided in furtherance of the protections provided by the CII Act.

(i) *Protected system* has the meaning set forth in section 212(6) of the CII

Act, and means any service, physical or computer-based system, process, or procedure that directly or indirectly affects the viability of a facility of critical infrastructure and includes any physical or computer-based system, including a computer, computer system, computer or communications network, or any component hardware or element thereof, software program, processing instructions, or information or data in transmission or storage therein, irrespective of the medium of transmission or storage.

(j) *Purposes of the CII Act* has the meaning set forth in section 214(a)(1) of the CII Act and includes the security of critical infrastructure and protected systems, analysis, warning, interdependency study, recovery, reconstitution, or other informational purpose.

(k) *Regulatory proceeding*, as used in Section 212(7) of the CII Act and these rules, means administrative proceedings in which DHS is the adjudicating entity, and does not include any form or type of regulatory proceeding or other matter outside of DHS.

(l) *State* has the same meaning set forth in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States.

(m) *Submission* as referenced in these procedures means any transmittal, either directly or indirectly, of CII to the DHS PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designee, as set forth herein.

(n) *Submitted in good faith* means any submission of information that could reasonably be defined as CII or PCII under this section. Upon validation of a submission as PCII, DHS has conclusively established the good faith of the submission. Any information qualifying as PCII by virtue of a categorical inclusion identified by the Program Manager pursuant to section 214 of the CII Act and this Part is submitted in good faith.

(o) *Voluntary* or *voluntarily*, when used in reference to any submission of CII, means the submittal thereof in the

absence of an exercise of legal authority by DHS to compel access to or submission of such information. Voluntary submission of CII may be accomplished by (*i.e.*, come from) a single state or local governmental entity; private entity or person; or by an ISAO acting on behalf of its members or otherwise. There are two exclusions from this definition. In the case of any action brought under the securities laws—as is defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47))—the term “voluntary” or “voluntarily” does not include information or statements contained in any documents or materials filed, pursuant to section 12(i) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 781(i)), with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or with Federal banking regulators or a writing that accompanied the solicitation of an offer or a sale of securities. Information or statements previously submitted to DHS in the course of a regulatory proceeding or a licensing or permitting determination are not “voluntarily submitted.” In addition, the submission of information to DHS for purposes of seeking a Federal preference or benefit, including CII submitted to support an application for a DHS grant to secure critical infrastructure will be considered a voluntary submission of information. Applications for SAFETY Act Designation or Certification under 6 CFR Part 25 will also be considered a voluntary submission.

(p) The term *used directly by such agency, any other Federal, State, or local authority, or any third party, in any civil action arising under Federal or State law* in section 214(a)(1)(C) of the CII Act means any use in any proceeding other than a criminal prosecution before any court of the United States or of a State or otherwise, of any PCII, or any drafts or copies of PCII retained by the submitter, including the opinions, evaluations, analyses and conclusions prepared and submitted as CII, as evidence at trial or in any pretrial or other discovery, notwithstanding whether the United States, its agencies, officers, or employees is or are a party to such proceeding.

**§ 29.3 Effect of provisions.**

(a) *Freedom of Information Act disclosure exemptions.* Information that is separately exempt from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act or applicable State, local, or tribal law does not lose its separate exemption from public disclosure due to the applicability of these procedures or any failure to follow them.

(b) *Restriction on use of PCII by regulatory and other Federal, State, and Local agencies.* A Federal, State or local agency that receives PCII may utilize the PCII only for purposes appropriate under the CII Act, including securing critical infrastructure or protected systems. Such PCII may not be utilized for any other collateral regulatory purposes without the written consent of the PCII Program Manager and of the submitting person or entity. The PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designee shall not share PCII with Federal, State or local government agencies without instituting appropriate measures to ensure that PCII is used only for appropriate purposes.

**§ 29.4 Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program administration.**

(a) *Preparedness Directorate Program Management.* The Secretary of Homeland Security hereby designates the Under Secretary for Preparedness as the senior DHS official responsible for the direction and administration of the PCII Program. He shall administer this program through the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection.

(b) *Appointment of a PCII Program Manager.* The Under Secretary for Preparedness shall:

(1) Appoint a PCII Program Manager serving under the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection who is responsible for the administration of the PCII Program;

(2) Commit resources necessary for the effective implementation of the PCII Program;

(3) Ensure that sufficient personnel, including such detailees or assignees from other Federal national security, homeland security, or law enforcement entities as the Under Secretary deems appropriate, are assigned to the PCII

Program to facilitate secure information sharing with appropriate authorities.

(4) Promulgate implementing directives and prepare training materials as appropriate for the proper treatment of PCII.

(c) *Appointment of PCII Officers.* The PCII Program Manager shall establish procedures to ensure that each DHS component and each Federal, State, or local entity that works with PCII appoint one or more employees to serve as a PCII Officer in order to carry out the responsibilities stated in paragraph (d) of this section. Persons appointed to serve as PCII Officers shall be fully familiar with these procedures.

(d) *Responsibilities of PCII Officers.* PCII Officers shall:

(1) Oversee the handling, use, and storage of PCII;

(2) Ensure the secure sharing of PCII with appropriate authorities and individuals, as set forth in 6 CFR 29.1(a), and paragraph (b)(3) of this section;

(3) Establish and maintain an ongoing self-inspection program, to include periodic review and assessment of the compliance with handling, use, and storage of PCII;

(4) Establish additional procedures, measures and penalties as necessary to prevent unauthorized access to PCII; and

(5) Ensure prompt and appropriate coordination with the PCII Program Manager regarding any request, challenge, or complaint arising out of the implementation of these regulations.

(e) *Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Management System (PCIIMS).* The PCII Program Manager shall develop, for use by the PCII Program Manager and the PCII Manager's designees, an electronic database, to be known as the "Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Management System" (PCIIMS), to record the receipt, acknowledgement, validation, storage, dissemination, and destruction of PCII. This compilation of PCII shall be safeguarded and protected in accordance with the provisions of the CII Act. The PCII Program Manager may require the completion of appropriate background investigations of an individual before granting that individual access to any PCII.

**§ 29.5 Requirements for protection.**

(a) CII shall receive the protections of section 214 of the CII Act when:

(1) Such information is voluntarily submitted, directly or indirectly, to the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designee;

(2) The information is submitted for protected use regarding the security of critical infrastructure or protected systems, analysis, warning, interdependency study, recovery, reconstitution, or other appropriate purposes including, without limitation, for the identification, analysis, prevention, preemption, disruption, defense against and/or mitigation of terrorist threats to the homeland;

(3) The information is labeled with an express statement as follows:

(i) In the case of documentary submissions, written marking on the information or records substantially similar to the following: "This information is voluntarily submitted to the Federal government in expectation of protection from disclosure as provided by the provisions of the Critical Infrastructure Information Act of 2002"; or

(ii) In the case of oral information:

(A) Through an oral statement, made at the time of the oral submission or within a reasonable period thereafter, indicating an expectation of protection from disclosure as provided by the provisions of the CII Act; and

(B) Through a written statement substantially similar to the one specified above accompanied by a document that memorializes the nature of oral information initially provided received by the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designee within a reasonable period after using oral submission; and

(iii) In the case of electronic information:

(A) Through an electronically submitted statement within a reasonable period of the electronic submission indicating an expectation of protection from disclosure as provided by the provisions of the CII Act; and

(B) Through a non-electronically submitted written statement substantially similar to the one specified above accompanied by a document that memorializes the nature of e-mailed information initially provided, to be received

by the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designee within a reasonable period after using e-mail submission.

(4) The submitted information additionally is accompanied by a statement, signed by the submitting person or an authorized person on behalf of an entity identifying the submitting person or entity, containing such contact information as is considered necessary by the PCII Program Manager, and certifying that the information being submitted is not customarily in the public domain;

(b) Information that is not submitted to the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designees will not qualify for protection under the CII Act. Only the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designees are authorized to acknowledge receipt of information being submitted for consideration of protection under the Act.

(c) All Federal, State and local government entities shall protect and maintain information as required by these rules or by the provisions of the CII Act when that information is provided to the entity by the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designee and is marked as required in 6 CFR 29.6(c).

(d) All submissions seeking PCII status shall be presumed to have been submitted in good faith until validation or a determination not to validate pursuant to these rules.

**§ 29.6 Acknowledgment of receipt, validation, and marking.**

(a) *Authorized officials.* Only the DHS PCII Program Manager is authorized to validate, and mark information as PCII. The PCII Program Manager or the Program Manager's designees, may mark information qualifying under categorical inclusions pursuant to 6 CFR 29.6(f).

(b) *Presumption of protection.* All information submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth hereby will be presumed to be and will be treated as PCII, enjoying the protections of section 214 of the CII Act, from the time the information is received by the PCII Program Office or the PCII

Program Manager's designee. The information shall remain protected unless and until the PCII Program Office renders a final decision that the information is not PCII. The PCII Program Office will, with respect to information that is not properly submitted, inform the submitting person or entity within thirty days of receipt, by a means of communication to be prescribed by the PCII Program Manager, that the submittal was procedurally defective. The submitter will then have an additional 30 days to remedy the deficiency from receipt of such notice. If the submitting person or entity does not cure the deficiency within thirty calendar days of the date of receipt of the notification provided in this paragraph, the PCII Program Office may determine that the presumption of protection is terminated. Under such circumstances, the PCII Program Office may cure the deficiency by labeling the submission with the information required in 6 CFR 29.5 or may notify the applicant that the submission does not qualify as PCII. No CII submission will lose its presumptive status as PCII except as provided in 6 CFR 29.6(g).

(c) *Marking of information.* All PCII shall be clearly identified through markings made by the PCII Program Office. The PCII Program Office shall mark PCII materials as follows: "This document contains PCII. In accordance with the provisions of 6 CFR Part 29, this document is exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(3)) and similar laws requiring public disclosure. Unauthorized release may result in criminal and administrative penalties. This document is to be safeguarded and disseminated in accordance with the CII Act and the PCII Program requirements." When distributing PCII, the distributing person shall ensure that the distributed information contains this marking.

(d) *Acknowledgement of receipt of information.* The PCII Program Office or the PCII Program Manager's designees shall acknowledge receipt of information submitted as CII and accompanied by an express statement, and in so doing shall:

(1) Contact the submitting person or entity, within thirty calendar days of receipt of the submission of CII, by the

means of delivery prescribed in procedures developed by the PCII Program Manager. In the case of oral submissions, receipt will be acknowledged in writing within thirty calendar days after receipt by the PCII Program Office or the PCII Program Manager's designee of a written statement, certification, and documents that memorialize the oral submission, as referenced in 6 CFR 29.5(a)(3)(ii);

(2) Enter the appropriate data into the PCIIMS as required in 6 CFR 29.4(e); and

(3) Provide the submitting person or entity with a unique tracking number that will accompany the information from the time it is received by the PCII Program Office or the PCII Program Manager's designees.

(e) *Validation of information.* (1) The PCII Program Manager shall be responsible for reviewing all submissions that request protection under the CII Act. The PCII Program Manager shall review the submitted information as soon as practicable. If a final determination is made that the submitted information meets the requirements for protection, the PCII Program Manager shall ensure that the information has been marked as required in paragraph (c) of this section, notify the submitting person or entity of the determination, and disclose it only pursuant to 6 CFR 29.8.

(2) If the PCII Program Office makes an initial determination that the information submitted does not meet the requirements for protection under the CII Act, the PCII Program Office shall:

(i) Notify the submitting person or entity of the initial determination that the information is not considered to be PCII. This notification also shall, as necessary:

(A) Request that the submitting person or entity complete the requirements of 6 CFR 29.5(a)(4) or further explain the nature of the information and the submitting person or entity's basis for believing the information qualifies for protection under the CII Act;

(B) Advise the submitting person or entity that the PCII Program Office will review any further information provided before rendering a final determination;

(C) Advise the submitting person or entity that the submission can be withdrawn at any time before a final determination is made;

(D) Notify the submitting person or entity that until a final determination is made the submission will be treated as PCII;

(E) Notify the submitting person or entity that any response to the notification must be received by the PCII Program Office no later than thirty calendar days after the date of the notification; and

(F) Request the submitting person or entity to state whether, in the event the PCII Program Office makes a final determination that any such information is not PCII, the submitting person or entity prefers that the information be maintained without the protections of the CII Act or returned to the submitter or destroyed. If a request for withdrawal is made, all such information shall be returned to the submitting person or entity.

(ii) If the information submitted has not been withdrawn by the submitting person or entity, and the PCII Program Office, after following the procedures set forth in paragraph (e)(2)(i) of this section, makes a final determination that the information is not PCII, the PCII Program Office, in accordance with the submitting person or entity's written preference, shall, within thirty calendar days of making a final determination, return the information to the submitter. If return to the submitter is impractical, the PCII Program Office shall destroy the information within 30 days. This process is consistent with the appropriate National Archives and Records Administration-approved records disposition schedule. If the submitting person or entity cannot be notified or the submitting person or entity's response is not received within thirty calendar days of the date of the notification as provided in paragraph (e)(2)(i) of this section, the PCII Program Office shall make the initial determination final and return the information to the submitter.

(f) *Categorical Inclusions of Certain Types of Infrastructure as PCII.* The PCII Program Manager has discretion to declare certain subject matter or

types of information categorically protected as PCII and to set procedures for receipt and processing of such information. Information within a categorical inclusion will be considered validated upon receipt by the Program Office or any of the Program Manager's designees without further review, provided that the submitter provides the express statement required by section 214(a)(1). Designees shall provide to the Program Manager information submitted under a categorical inclusion.

(g) *Changing the status of PCII to non-PCII.* Once information is validated, only the PCII Program Office may change the status of PCII to that of non-PCII and remove its PCII markings. Status changes may only take place when the submitting person or entity requests in writing that the information no longer be protected under the CII Act; or when the PCII Program Office determines that the information was, at the time of the submission, customarily in the public domain. Upon making an initial determination that a change in status may be warranted, but prior to a final determination, the PCII Program Office, using the procedures in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, shall inform the submitting person or entity of the initial determination of a change in status. Notice of the final change in status of PCII shall be provided to all recipients of that PCII under 6 CFR 29.8.

#### **§ 29.7 Safeguarding of Protected Critical Infrastructure Information.**

(a) *Safeguarding.* All persons granted access to PCII are responsible for safeguarding such information in their possession or control. PCII shall be protected at all times by appropriate storage and handling. Each person who works with PCII is personally responsible for taking proper precautions to ensure that unauthorized persons do not gain access to it.

(b) *Background Checks on Persons with Access to PCII.* For those who require access to PCII, DHS will, to the extent practicable and consistent with the purposes of the Act, undertake appropriate background checks to ensure that individuals with access to PCII do not pose a threat to national security.

These checks may also be waived in exigent circumstances.

(c) *Use and Storage.* When PCII is in the physical possession of a person, reasonable steps shall be taken, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the PCII Program Manager, to minimize the risk of access to PCII by unauthorized persons. When PCII is not in the physical possession of a person, it shall be stored in a secure environment.

(d) *Reproduction.* Pursuant to procedures prescribed by the PCII Program Manager, a document or other material containing PCII may be reproduced to the extent necessary consistent with the need to carry out official duties, provided that the reproduced documents or material are marked and protected in the same manner as the original documents or material.

(e) *Disposal of information.* Documents and material containing PCII may be disposed of by any method that prevents unauthorized retrieval, such as shredding or incineration.

(f) *Transmission of information.* PCII shall be transmitted only by secure means of delivery as determined by the PCII Program Manager, and in conformance with appropriate federal standards.

(g) *Automated Information Systems.* The PCII Program Manager shall establish security requirements designed to protect information to the maximum extent practicable, and consistent with the Act, for Automated Information Systems that contain PCII. Such security requirements will be in conformance with the information technology security requirements in the Federal Information Security Management Act and the Office of Management and Budget's implementing policies.

**§ 29.8 Disclosure of Protected Critical Infrastructure Information.**

(a) *Authorization of access.* The Under Secretary for Preparedness, the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, or either's designee may choose to provide or authorize access to PCII under one or more of the subsections below when it is determined that this access supports a lawful and authorized government purpose as enu-

merated in the CII Act or other law, regulation, or legal authority.

(b) *Federal, State and Local government sharing.* The PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designees may provide PCII to an employee of the Federal government, provided, subject to subsection (f) of this section, that such information is shared for purposes of securing the critical infrastructure or protected systems, analysis, warning, interdependency study, recovery, reconstitution, or for another appropriate purpose including, without limitation, the identification, analysis, prevention, preemption, and/or disruption of terrorist threats to the homeland. PCII may not be used, directly or indirectly, for any collateral regulatory purpose. PCII may be provided to a State or local government entity for the purpose of protecting critical infrastructure or protected systems, or in furtherance of an investigation or the prosecution of a criminal act. The provision of PCII to a State or local government entity will normally be made only pursuant to an arrangement with the PCII Program Manager providing for compliance with the requirements of paragraph (d) of this section and acknowledging the understanding and responsibilities of the recipient. State and local governments receiving such information will acknowledge in such arrangements the primacy of PCII protections under the CII Act; agree to assert all available legal defenses to disclosure of PCII under State, or local public disclosure laws, statutes or ordinances; and will agree to treat breaches of the agreements by their employees or contractors as matters subject to the criminal code or to the applicable employee code of conduct for the jurisdiction.

(c) *Disclosure of information to Federal, State and local government contractors.* Disclosure of PCII to Federal, State, and local contractors may be made when necessary for an appropriate purpose under the CII Act, and only after the PCII Program Manager or a PCII Officer certifies that the contractor is performing services in support of the purposes of the CII Act. The contractor's employees who will be handling PCII must sign individual nondisclosure agreements in a form prescribed

by the PCII Program Manager, and the contractor must agree by contract, whenever and to whatever extent possible, to comply with all relevant requirements of the PCII Program. The contractor shall safeguard PCII in accordance with these procedures and shall not remove any “PCII” markings. An employee of the contractor may, in the performance of services in support of the purposes of the CII Act and when authorized to do so by the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager’s designee, communicate with a submitting person or an authorized person of a submitting entity, about a submittal of information by that person or entity. Contractors shall not further disclose PCII to any other party not already authorized to receive such information by the PCII Program Manager or PCII Program Manager’s Designee, without the prior written approval of the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager’s designee.

(d) *Further use or disclosure of information by State, and local governments.* (1) State and local governments receiving information marked “Protected Critical Infrastructure Information” shall not share that information with any other party not already authorized to receive such information by the PCII Program Manager or PCII Program Manager’s designee, with the exception of their contractors after complying with the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, or remove any PCII markings, without first obtaining authorization from the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager’s designees, who shall be responsible for requesting and obtaining written consent from the submitter of the information.

(2) State and local governments may use PCII only for the purpose of protecting critical infrastructure or protected systems, or as set forth elsewhere in these rules.

(e) *Disclosure of information to appropriate entities or to the general public.* PCII may be used to prepare advisories, alerts, and warnings to relevant companies, targeted sectors, governmental entities, ISAOs or the general public regarding potential threats and vulnerabilities to critical infrastructure as appropriate pursuant to the CII

Act. Unless exigent circumstances require otherwise, any such warnings to the general public will be authorized by the Secretary, Under Secretary for Preparedness, Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security and Telecommunications, or Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection. Such exigent circumstances exist only when approval of the Secretary, the Under Secretary for Preparedness, Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security and Telecommunications, or the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection cannot be obtained within a reasonable time necessary to issue an effective advisory, alert, or warning. In issuing advisories, alerts and warnings, DHS shall consider the exigency of the situation, the extent of possible harm to the public or to critical infrastructure, and the necessary scope of the advisory or warning; and take appropriate actions to protect from disclosure any information that is proprietary, business sensitive, relates specifically to, or might be used to identify, the submitting person or entity, or any persons or entities on whose behalf the CII was submitted, or is not otherwise appropriately in the public domain. Depending on the exigency of the circumstances, DHS may consult or cooperate with the submitter in making such advisories, alerts or warnings.

(f) *Disclosure for law enforcement purposes and communication with submitters; access by Congress, the Comptroller General, and the Inspector General; and whistleblower protection.*—(1) *Exceptions for disclosure.* (i) PCII shall not, without the written consent of the person or entity submitting such information, be used or disclosed for purposes other than the purposes of the CII Act, except—

(A) In furtherance of an investigation or the prosecution of a criminal act by the Federal government, or by a State, local, or foreign government, when such disclosure is coordinated by a Federal law enforcement official;

(B) To communicate with a submitting person or an authorized person on behalf of a submitting entity, about a submittal of information by that person or entity when authorized to do so by the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager’s designee; or

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(C) When disclosure of the information is made by any officer or employee of the United States—

(1) To either House of Congress, or to the extent of matter within its jurisdiction, any committee or subcommittee thereof, any joint committee thereof or subcommittee of any such joint committee; or

(2) To the Comptroller General, or any authorized representative of the Comptroller General, in the course of the performance of the duties of the Government Accountability Office.

(ii) If any officer or employee of the United States makes any disclosure pursuant to these exceptions, contemporaneous written notification must be provided to DHS through the PCII Program Manager.

(2) Consistent with the authority to disclose information for any of the purposes of the CII Act, disclosure of PCII may be made, without the written consent of the person or entity submitting such information, to the DHS Inspector General.

(g) *Responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act or State, local, and tribal information access laws.* PCII shall be treated as exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act and any State or local law requiring disclosure of records or information. Any Federal, State, local, or tribal government agency with questions regarding the protection of PCII from public disclosure shall contact the PCII Program Manager, who shall in turn consult with the DHS Office of the General Counsel.

(h) *Ex parte communications with decisionmaking officials.* Pursuant to section 214(a)(1)(B) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, PCII is not subject to any agency rules or judicial doctrine regarding ex parte communications with a decisionmaking official.

(i) *Restriction on use of PCII in civil actions.* Pursuant to section 214(a)(1)(C) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, PCII shall not, without the written consent of the person or entity submitting such information, be used directly by any Federal, State or local authority, or by any third party, in any civil action arising under Federal, State, local, or tribal law.

§ 29.9 Investigation and reporting of violation of PCII procedures.

(a) *Reporting of possible violations.* Persons authorized to have access to PCII shall report any suspected violation of security procedures, the loss or misplacement of PCII, and any suspected unauthorized disclosure of PCII immediately to the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designees. Suspected violations may also be reported to the DHS Inspector General. The PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designees shall in turn report the incident to the appropriate Security Officer and to the DHS Inspector General.

(b) *Review and investigation of written report.* The PCII Program Manager, or the appropriate Security Officer shall notify the DHS Inspector General of their intent to investigate any alleged violation of procedures, loss of information, and/or unauthorized disclosure, prior to initiating any such investigation. Evidence of wrongdoing resulting from any such investigations by agencies other than the DHS Inspector General shall be reported to the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, through the DHS Office of the General Counsel. The DHS Inspector General also has authority to conduct such investigations, and shall report any evidence of wrongdoing to the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, for consideration of prosecution.

(c) *Notification to originator of PCII.* If the PCII Program Manager or the appropriate Security Officer determines that a loss of information or an unauthorized disclosure has occurred, the PCII Program Manager or the PCII Program Manager's designees shall notify the person or entity that submitted the PCII, unless providing such notification could reasonably be expected to hamper the relevant investigation or adversely affect any other law enforcement, national security, or homeland security interest.

(d) *Criminal and administrative penalties.* (1) As established in section 214(f) of the CII Act, whoever, being an officer or employee of the United States or of any department or agency thereof, knowingly publishes, divulges, discloses, or makes known in any manner or to any extent not authorized by

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law, any information protected from disclosure by the CII Act coming to the officer or employee in the course of his or her employment or official duties or by reason of any examination or investigation made by, or return, report, or record made to or filed with, such department or agency or officer or employee thereof, shall be fined under title 18 of the United States Code, imprisoned not more than one year, or both, and shall be removed from office or employment.

(2) In addition to the penalties set forth in paragraph (d)(1) of this section,

if the PCII Program Manager determines that an entity or person who has received PCII has violated the provisions of this Part or used PCII for an inappropriate purpose, the PCII Program Manager may disqualify that entity or person from future receipt of any PCII or future receipt of any sensitive homeland security information under section 892 of the Homeland Security Act, provided, however, that any such decision by the PCII Program Manager may be appealed to the Office of the Under Secretary for Preparedness.