

§ 8.11

member may designate a representative with full power to serve in his/her place.

(c) In carrying out its responsibilities to review decisions to revoke or not to issue clearances, or to deny access to classified information, the Committee will establish whatever procedures it deems fit.

§ 8.11 Authority to classify information.

(a) Executive Order 12958 confers upon the Secretary of Transportation the authority to originally classify information as "SECRET" or "CONFIDENTIAL" with further authorization to delegate this authority.

(b) The following delegations of authority originally to classify information as "Secret" or "Confidential", which may not be redelegated, are hereby made:

(1) *Office of the Secretary of Transportation.* The Deputy Secretary; Assistant Secretary for Administration; Director of Intelligence and Security; Director of Security and Administrative Management.

(2) *United States Coast Guard.* Commandant; Chief, Office of Law Enforcement and Defense Operations.

(3) *Federal Aviation Administration.* Administrator; Assistant Administrator for Civil Aviation Security.

(4) *Maritime Administration.* Administrator.

(c) Although the delegations of authority set out in paragraph (b) of this section are expressed in terms of positions, the authority is personal and is invested only in the individual occupying the position. The authority may not be exercised "by direction of" a designated official. The formal appointment or assignment of an individual to one of the identified positions or a designation in writing to act in the absence of one of these officials, however, conveys the authority originally to classify information as "SECRET".

(d) Previous delegations and redelegations of authority within the Department of Transportation originally to classify information are hereby rescinded.

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§ 8.13 Authority to downgrade or declassify.

Information originally classified by the Department may be specifically downgraded or declassified by either the official authorizing the original classification, if that official is still serving in the same position, the originator's current successor in function, a supervisory official of either, officials delegated declassification authority in writing by the Secretary, or by the Departmental Information Security Review Committee.

§ 8.15 Mandatory review for classification.

(a) All information classified by the Department of Transportation under Executive Order 12958 or predecessor orders shall be subject to a review for declassification if:

(1) The request for review describes the information with sufficient specificity to enable its location with a reasonable amount of effort; and

(2) The information has not been reviewed for declassification within the prior two years. If the information has been reviewed within the prior two years, or the information is the subject of pending litigation, the requestor will be informed of this fact, and of the Department's decision not to declassify the information and of his/her right to appeal the Department's decision not to declassify the information to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel.

(b) All information reviewed for declassification because of a mandatory review will be declassified if it does not meet the standards for classification in Executive Order 12958. The information will then be released unless withholding is otherwise authorized and warranted under applicable law.

§ 8.17 Classification challenges.

(a) Authorized holders of information classified by the Department of Transportation who, in good faith, believe that its classification status is improper are encouraged and expected to challenge the classification status of the information before the Departmental Information Security Review Committee.