

§ 1203.101 Other applicable NASA regulations.

(a) Subpart H of this part, “Delegation of Authority to Make Determinations in Original Security Classification Matters.”

(b) Subpart I of this part, “NASA Information Security Program Committee.”

(c) NASA Handbook 1620.3, “NASA Physical Security Handbook.”

Subpart B—NASA Information Security Program**§ 1203.200 Background and discussion.**

(a) In establishing a civilian space program, the Congress required NASA to “provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof,” and for the withholding from public inspection of that information that is classified to protect the national security.

(b) In recognition of the essential requirement for an informed public concerning the activities of its Government, as well as the need to protect certain national security information from unauthorized disclosure, “the Order” was promulgated. It designates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration certain responsibility for matters pertaining to national security and confers on the Administrator of NASA, or such responsible officers or employees as the Administrator may designate, the authority for original classification of official information or material which requires protection in the interest of national security. It also provides for:

(1) Basic classification, downgrading and declassification guidelines;

(2) The issuance of directives prescribing the procedures to be followed in safeguarding classified information or material;

(3) A monitoring system to ensure the effectiveness of the Order;

(4) Appropriate administrative sanctions against officers and employees of the United States Government who are found to be in violation of the Order or implementing directive; and

(5) Classification limitations and restrictions as discussed in §§ 1203.410 and 1203.411.

(c) “The Order” requires the timely identification and protection of that NASA information the disclosure of which would be contrary to the best interest of national security. Accordingly, the determination in each case must be based on a judgment as to whether disclosure of information could reasonably be expected to result in damage to the national security.

[44 FR 34913, June 18, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 5889, Feb. 9, 1983]

§ 1203.201 Information security objectives.

The objectives of the NASA Information Security Program are to:

(a) Ensure that information is classified only when a sound basis exists for such classification and only for such period as is necessary.

(b) Prevent both the unwarranted classification and the overclassification of NASA information.

(c) Ensure the greatest practicable uniformity within NASA in the classification of information.

(d) Ensure effective coordination and reasonable uniformity with other Government departments and agencies, particularly in areas where there is an interchange of information, techniques or hardware.

(e) Provide a timely and effective means for downgrading or declassifying information when the circumstances necessitating the original classification change or no longer exist.

§ 1203.202 Responsibilities.

(a) The Chairperson, NASA Information Security Program Committee (Subpart I of this part), is responsible for:

(1) Directing the NASA Information Security Program in accordance with NASA policies and objectives and applicable laws and regulations.

(2) Ensuring effective compliance with and implementation of “the Order” and the Information Security Oversight Office Directive No. 1 relating to security classification matters.