ISOO Training Tip #18
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TOPIC: Security Classification Guides

What is a security classification guide (SCG)?
- An SCG is a record of original classification decisions made by an original classification authority on the elements of program-specific information that should or should not be classified.

What is the purpose of a security classification guide?
- SCGs provide detailed classification guidance for derivative classifiers to apply accurate classification markings.
- SCGs can be used as a source document when creating derivatively classified documents.
- SCGs ensure all users of the information are applying the same level of protection and the same duration of classification for the same information.

A Properly Constructed Classification Guide Will...
- Allow users to build products at a desired classification level.
- Enable accurate classification.
- Refer you to release processes and authorities.
- Improve your derivative classification decisions.
- Focus on your agency's/component's equities.

A Properly Constructed Classification Guide Will Not...
- Make your information unclassified.
- Make classification decisions for you.
- Allow unclassified public release.
- Make you an original classification authority.
- Classify external agency equities.

Reference: E.O. 13526, Sec. 2.2 / 32 CFR 2001.15

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