

This briefing is unclassified in its entirety.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECURITY RATING SCORE

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

NISP Mission Performance Division, Mission Branch



AGENDA



- Explain why DCSA refined the security rating process
- Explain the top 3 security rating process refinements
- Explain the process used to calculate a score and assign a security rating
- Explain where to find security rating requirements and resources

BACKGROUND: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!



- May 2023: DCSA began making refinements to the security rating process in collaboration with a NISPPAC working group.
- January - March 2024: Provisional refinements were piloted using data from 40 security reviews.
- April 2024: Minor feedback was incorporated into final rating refinements.
- May 2024: DCSA leadership approved refinements for **full implementation on October 1, 2024**.
- June 2024: DCSA publicly announced the successful joint development of the rating process refinements.

Why this matters:

- Reflects DCSA's ongoing commitment to partnering with Industry.
- Goal: Enhance clarity, fairness, and transparency within the security framework governing the NISP.

Security is a team sport. We are all on the same team and share the same goals.

– DCSA Director Cattler

CDSE TRAINING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!



Session	Topic	Dates	Description
Session 1	Introduction to the SRS	Access recording here	Introduction to the refined security rating process which will be implemented on October 1, 2024.
Session 2	Security Rating Criteria Requirements	Access recording here	Overview of the refined security rating criteria.
Session 3	Security Rating Score Tool and Resources	August 29	Overview of security rating resources and discussion on how contractors can use the security rating score tool within their self-inspection program.



Scan the QR Code
to access the CDSE
[Webinars website](#).

*Additional training is available through NCMS –
The Society of Industrial Security Professionals.
Members can register for NCMSLive! sessions [here](#).

RATING PROCESS REFINEMENTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!



- No changes to the security review process.
- Security rating process is still **policy-based, compliance-first**, using a **whole-of-company approach**.
- **Top 3** refinements include:
 1. Consolidates rating criteria into a single list known as the “gold standard” and incorporates a common interpretation on how to achieve each criterion.
 2. Added numeric component to the rating process resulting in a security rating score and eliminating the “lowest category rating” calculation.
 3. Created a new security rating tool and scorecard which provides granular level feedback on facility program effectiveness and opportunities for growth.



REFINEMENT #1: CONSOLIDATED AND CLARIFIED RATING CRITERIA



- 20 “gold standard” criteria, 5 in each of the 4 categories of:
 - NISPOM Effectiveness
 - Management Support
 - Security Awareness
 - Security Community
- Supporting guidance creates a common understanding of definitions, requirements, exceptions, considerations, and examples.
- Criteria and supporting guidance are available to all stakeholders.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA



DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY
DCSA SRS "Gold Standard" Criteria

SECURITY RATING SCORE

DCSA SRS "Gold Standard" Criteria

Refer to the Security Rating Score (SRS) Criteria Reference Card for definitions and supporting guidance on how to achieve each criterion within the four categories.

SECURITY AWARENESS

- (NE-1) Facility promptly informed DCSA of any security violations and also mitigated any known vulnerabilities and administrative findings in a timely manner.
- (NE-2) Appointed security personnel performed their duties and responsibilities to the fullest extent outlined in the NISPOM.
- (NE-3) Facility maintained documented security procedures outlining all applicable requirements to the NISPOM for their operations and involvement with classified information and implemented those procedures to protect classified information.
- (NE-4) Facility completed compliant and effective self-inspections that addressed issues or concerns in a timely manner.
- (NE-5) Facility implemented a continuous monitoring program that facilitated ongoing awareness of threats, vulnerabilities, and changes in classified operations to support organizational risk management decisions.

SECURITY COMMUNITY

- (MS-1) Management included the security staff in business decisions that impact the security program and promptly notified the security staff of changed conditions impacting the facility clearance.
- (MS-2) Management provided the security staff with sufficient personnel and resources to oversee the security program and ensure prompt support and successful execution of a compliant security program.
- (MS-3) Management was aware of the facility's classified operations and remained informed of any identified issues or concerns and supported implementation of measures to mitigate known issues.
- (MS-4) Management was aware of approach vectors applicable to the facility and supported implementation of measures to counter potential threats.
- (MS-5) Management made decisions using threat information while considering potential impacts caused by a loss of classified information, contract deliverables, and technology.

NISPOM EFFECTIVENESS

- (NE-1) Facility promptly informed DCSA of any security violations and also mitigated any known vulnerabilities and administrative findings in a timely manner.
- (NE-2) Appointed security personnel performed their duties and responsibilities to the fullest extent outlined in the NISPOM.
- (NE-3) Facility maintained written security procedures outlining all applicable requirements of the NISPOM for their operations and involvement with classified information and implemented those procedures to protect classified information.
- (NE-4) Facility completed compliant and effective self-inspections that addressed issues or concerns in a timely manner.
- (NE-5) Facility implemented a continuous monitoring program that facilitated ongoing awareness of threats, vulnerabilities, and changes in classified operations to support organizational risk management decisions.

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY



Gold Standard Criteria

NISPOM EFFECTIVENESS

- (NE-1) Facility promptly informed DCSA of any security violations and also mitigated any known vulnerabilities and administrative findings in a timely manner.
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- (NE-4) Facility completed compliant and effective self-inspections that addressed issues or concerns in a timely manner.
- (NE-5) Facility implemented a continuous monitoring program that facilitated ongoing awareness of threats, vulnerabilities, and changes in classified operations to support organizational risk management decisions.

Criteria within a single category

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRITERIA AND SUPPORTING GUIDANCE



DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY
DCSA SRS "Gold Standard" Criteria

SECURITY RATING SCORE

DCSA SRS "Gold Standard" Criteria

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NE-1

Facility promptly informed DCSA of any security violations and also mitigated any known vulnerabilities and administrative findings in a timely manner.

NE-2

Appointed security personnel performed their duties and responsibilities to the fullest extent outlined in the NISPOM.

NE-3

Facility maintained documented security procedures outlining all applicable requirements to the NISPOM for their operations and involvement with classified information and implemented those procedures to protect classified information.

NE-4

Facility completed compliant and effective self-inspections that addressed issues or concerns in a timely manner.

NE-5

Facility implemented a continuous monitoring program that facilitated ongoing awareness of threats, vulnerabilities, and changes in classified operations to support organizational risk management decisions.

MS-1

Management included the security staff in business decisions that impact the security program and promptly notified the security staff of changed conditions impacting the facility clearance.

MS-2

Management provided the security staff with sufficient personnel and resources to oversee the security program and ensure prompt support and successful execution of a compliant security program.

MS-3

Management was aware of the facility's classified operations and remained informed of any identified issues or concerns and supported implementation of measures to mitigate known issues.

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MS-5

Management made decisions using threat information while considering potential impacts caused by a loss of classified information, contract deliverables, and technology.

DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

Gold Standard Criteria

Security Rating Score (SRS) Criteria Reference Card

UID	Criteria	"GOLD STANDARD" Supporting Information
NE-1	Facility promptly informed DCSA of any security violations and also mitigated any known vulnerabilities and administrative findings in a timely manner.	<p>REQUIREMENT: The contractor must meet <u>all elements</u> below to achieve this criterion (5-point value).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Security Incidents/Violations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Security staff explained the facility's security incident procedures and the requirement to report security violations to DCSA within timeframes listed below. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintained documented procedures related to security incidents, including timeframes listed below. See Considerations. <p>Additionally, if the contractor had any security incidents during the security review cycle, the facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately isolated and safeguarded affected material. <input type="checkbox"/> Conducted a preliminary inquiry within 3 calendar days. <input type="checkbox"/> If the inquiry resulted in an infraction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documented the incident. - Maintained a copy for review by DCSA upon request through the security review cycle. <input type="checkbox"/> If the inquiry could not immediately rule out loss or compromise resulting in a violation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submitted an initial report to DCSA within 1 calendar day for violations involving Top Secret information and within 3 calendar days for violations involving Secret or Confidential information. - Conducted an internal investigation to make a final determination of loss, compromise, or suspected compromise. - Submitted a final security violation report within 30 calendar days unless an extension was requested and granted in writing by the ISR prior to the 30-day suspense. <input type="checkbox"/> When needed as a result of lessons learned or after-action report, updated documented procedures or provided additional training to individuals or all cleared employees to minimize the possibility of security incident recurrence. See Considerations. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NISPOM Non-Compliance Mitigation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Security staff explained the requirement to mitigate identified NISPOM non-compliances within the established timelines (15-calendar days for vulnerabilities, 30-calendar days for administrative findings). <input type="checkbox"/> Maintained documented procedures related to mitigating NISPOM non-compliances within the established timelines identified above. <p>Additionally, if the contractor or DCSA identified any vulnerabilities or administrative findings during the security review cycle, the facility:</p>

version 1.0, May 2024

Criteria Supporting Guidance

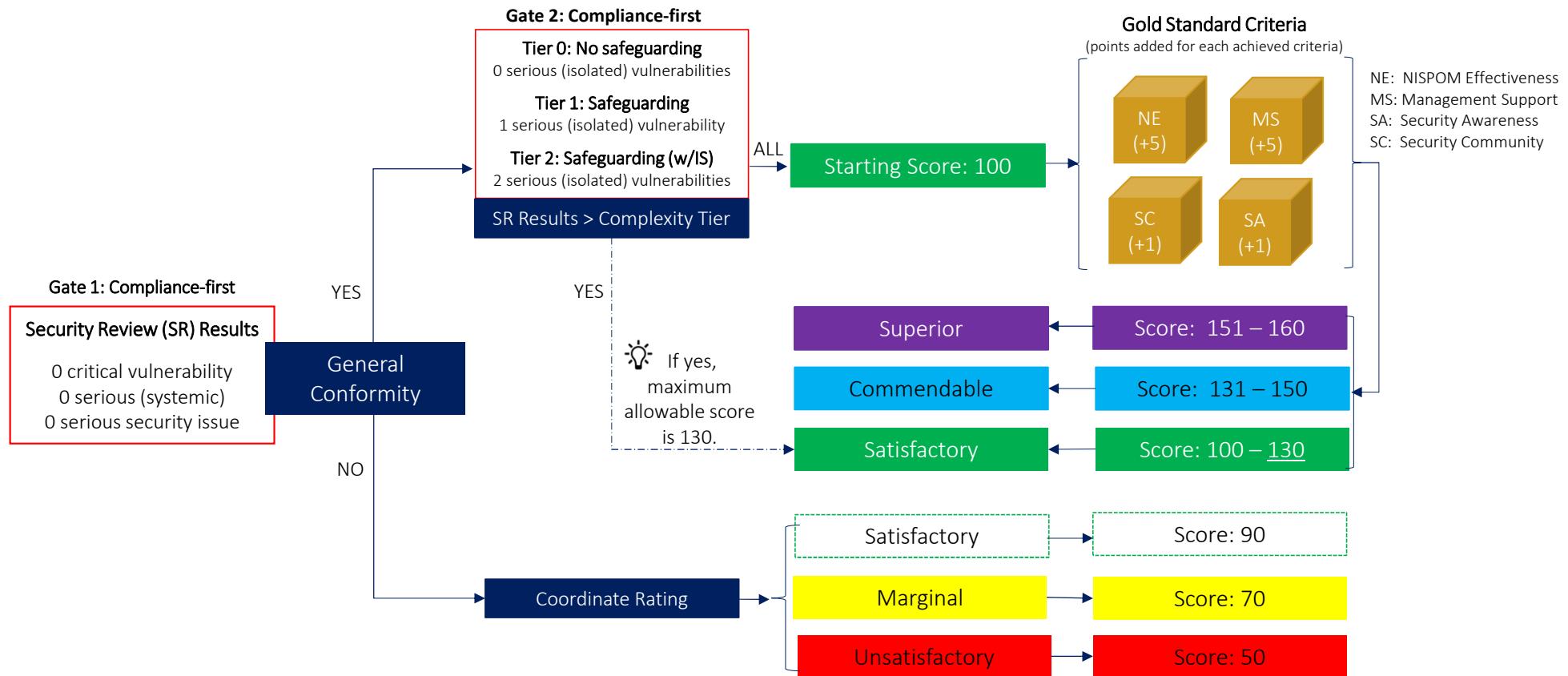
DEFENSE
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
AND SECURITY AGENCY

HOW TO READ THE SUPPORTING GUIDANCE SECTION



Item	Color-Code	Description
Requirements	Black	Required elements a contractor <u>must achieve</u> to be awarded the criterion points.
Exceptions	Green	Clearly defined exceptions to the baseline requirement (only a few instances).
Definitions	Blue	Clearly defined words or phrases that assists with consistency.
Considerations	Orange	Additional context to add clarity, disqualifications, and other items to consider when determining if the contractor achieved the criteria.
Examples	Purple	Examples of how a contractor may achieve a criterion element. These are not the only ways to achieve the criterion and the listed examples may change based on available programs. DCSA will consider the intent of the element when awarding the criterion.

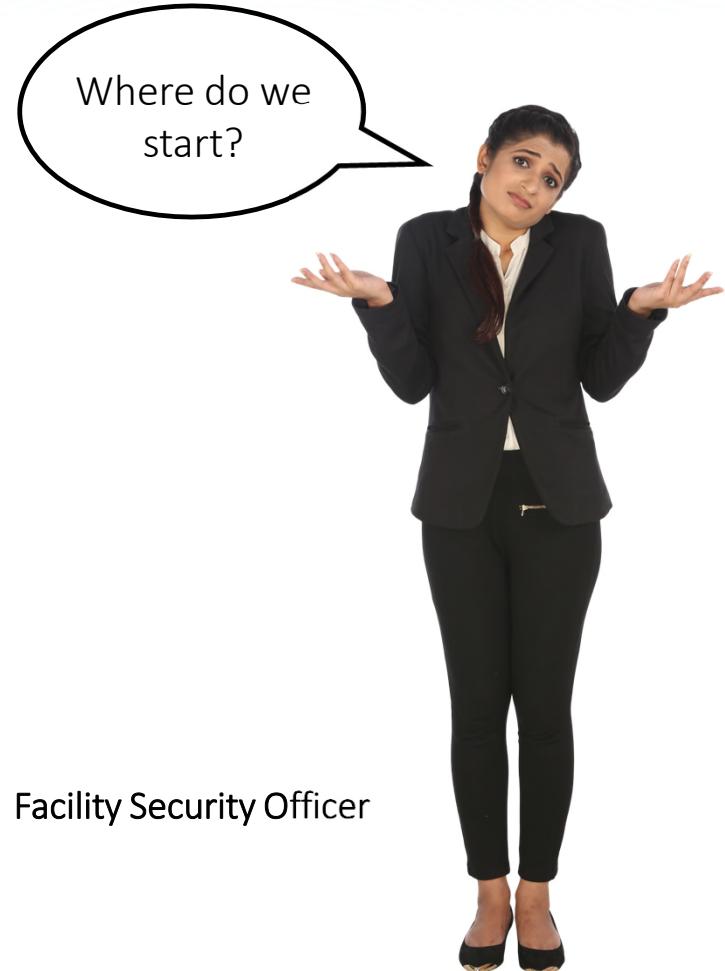
REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT



REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT



Where do we start?



Facility Security Officer

General Conformity



Industrial Security Representative

General conformity means your facility had no critical vulnerabilities, no systemic vulnerabilities, and no serious security issues identified during the security review.



REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT (NON-CONFORMITY)

What if my facility is not in general conformity?



Facility Security Officer

DCSA would first coordinate a policy-based rating.



Industrial Security Representative

The coordinated policy-based rating then determines the final security rating score.

Coordinated Rating

Satisfactory

Marginal

Unsatisfactory

Final SRS

Score: 90

Score: 70

Score: 50

REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT (GENERAL CONFORMITY)



What if my facility
is in general
conformity?



DCSA will first determine
your maximum allowed
score.



To do this we consider the following:

1. Facility's complexity tier.
2. Number of serious (isolated) vulnerabilities identified during the security review.

If your facility has more serious (isolated) vulnerabilities than your complexity tier allows, the maximum allowed score is 130. Otherwise, the maximum allowed score is 160.

Facility Security Officer

Industrial Security Representative

REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT (GENERAL CONFORMITY)



How do I know my facility's complexity tier?



Tier 0: No Safeguarding

0 serious (isolated) vulnerabilities allowed

Tier 1: Safeguarding (no classified IS)

1 serious (isolated) vulnerability allowed

Tier 2: Safeguarding (with classified IS)

2 serious (isolated) vulnerabilities allowed

Facility Security Officer

Industrial Security Representative

REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT (GENERAL CONFORMITY)



So, if my facility is access elsewhere then we are Tier 0?



Yes, this is correct.



As **Tier 0**, your facility is **allowed 0 serious (isolated) vulnerabilities**. This means if you have any serious (isolated) vulnerabilities, your maximum score drops from 160 to 130.

However, this will not impact your facility's general conformity status.

Facility Security Officer

Industrial Security Representative

REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT (GENERAL CONFORMITY)



If my maximum allowed score is 130, do you still review rating criteria?



Yes, of course.



DCSA reviews rating criteria for all facilities in general conformity.

Let's discuss how that works.

Facility Security Officer

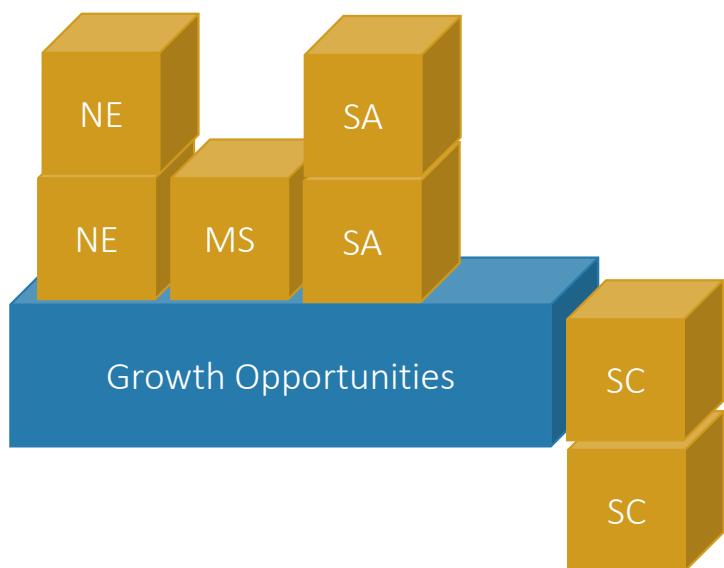
Industrial Security Representative



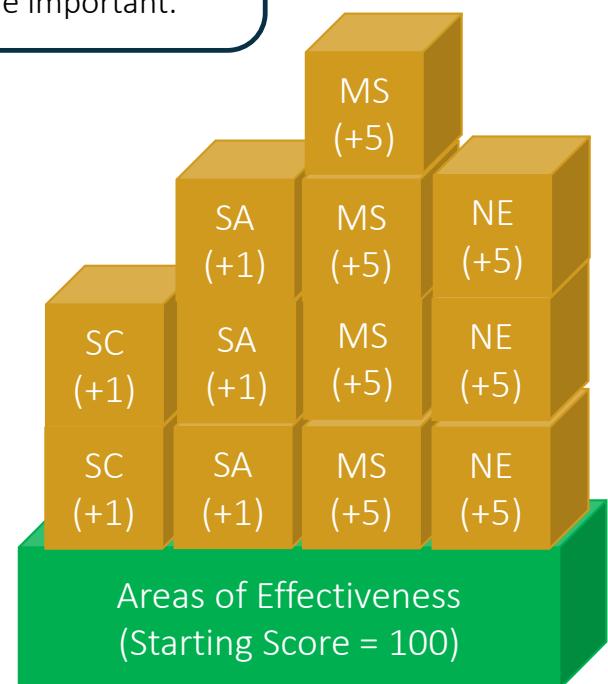
REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT (GENERAL CONFORMITY)

Using the supporting guidance, DCSA reviews each criterion, one-by-one, to determine if your facility achieved the criterion or not.

Achieved criterion is considered an area of effectiveness. Whereas criterion not achieved is considered an opportunity for growth. Both are important.



Industrial Security Representative

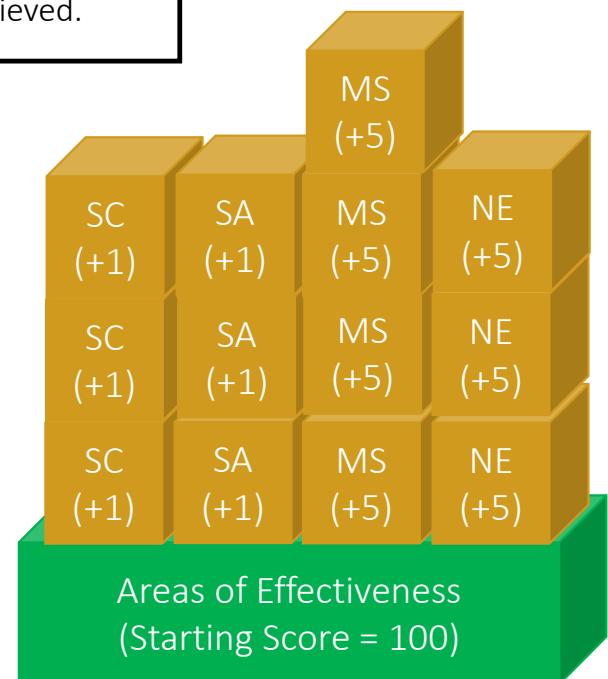


REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT (GENERAL CONFORMITY)



Once all criteria decisions are made, DCSA adds your achieved points to the starting score of 100 resulting in your provisional score.

No points are added or removed for criterion not achieved.



Industrial Security Representative



REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT

In your example, is the security rating score a 141?



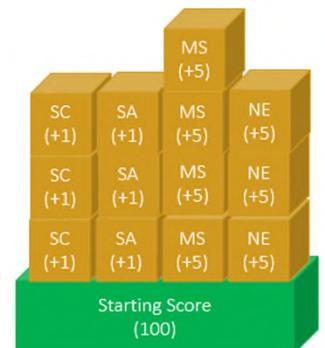
Facility Security Officer



Industrial Security Representative

Yes, great job!
141 is the provisional score.

$$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ + 41 \\ \hline 141 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Starting Score} \\ \text{Achieved Points} \\ \text{Provisional Score} \end{array}$$





REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT

What would be the final security rating score?



Facility Security Officer

It's simple.



Industrial Security Representative

The provisional score is the final score if the maximum allowed score is 160. For example:

Provisional score = 141

Maximum allowed score = 160

Final score = 141

However, if the maximum allowed score is 130, the final score will be 130 or less. For example:

Provisional score = 141

Maximum allowed score = 130

Final score = 130



REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT

If the final security rating score is 141, what is the rating?

Easy. Check the security rating score range.



Facility Security Officer

Industrial Security Representative

Security Rating Score Range

Superior

Score: 151 – 160

Commendable

Score: 131 – 150

Satisfactory

Score: 100 – 130

A final security rating score of 141 corresponds to a **Commendable** rating. Also, the DCSA security rating score tool calculates the security rating score and final rating to foster consistency.



REFINEMENT #2: ADDED SCORING COMPONENT

Can I use the tool to calculate my facility's score and rating?



Yes, absolutely.

DCSA encourages you to use the Security Rating Score tool to calculate an unofficial score and rating as part of your self-inspection process. The tool and all resources are located on the DCSA security review and rating process website.

Facility Security Officer

Industrial Security Representative

REFINEMENT #3: CREATED TOOL AND SCORECARD



Crabtree, Misty L CIV DCSA IS (USA)

File Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer Help Acrobat

Security Review Rating Scorecard

Facility Information

Legal Name:	Crabtree, Misty L CIV DCSA IS (USA)						
CAGE Code:							
Complexity Tier:	Select One						
Security Review Results							
Critical Vulnerabilities 0							
Serious Vulnerabilities (Systemic) 0							
Serious Vulnerabilities (Isolated) 0							
Serious Security Issues 0							
Administrative Findings 0							
General Conformity: Yes (Calculate Rating)							
Criteria Review Results							
NISPO Effectiveness (5 points each)							
NE-1	0	Management Support (5 points each)	0	Security Awareness (1 point each)	0	Security Community (1 point each)	0
NE-2	0	MS-1	0	SA-1	0	SC-1	0
NE-3	0	MS-2	0	SA-2	0	SC-2	0
NE-4	0	MS-3	0	SA-3	0	SC-3	0
NE-5	0	MS-4	0	SA-4	0	SC-4	0
Points	0	Points	0	Points	0	Points	0
Starting Score 100							
Criteria Review Points 0							
Provisional Security Rating Score 100							
Maximum Allowed Score 160							
Coordinated Security Rating (Non-Conformity): Not Applicable							
Final Security Rating: Satisfactory							
Final Security Rating Score: 100							
NE = NISPO Effectiveness MS = Management Support SA = Security Awareness SC = Security Community							
Security Rating Score Range							
Exemplary		Marginal		Satisfactory		Commodable	
50		70		90 - 130		131 - 150	
Superior						151 - 160	
TERMS AND DEFINITIONS							
A vulnerability is an identified weakness in a contractor's security program indicating NISPO non-compliance that, based on collected evidence and supplementary controls, could be exploited to gain unauthorized access to classified information.							
A serious security issue is an FCL relevant vulnerability that without mitigation affects a facility's ability to maintain an FCL. Serious security issues may result in an invalidation or revocation.							
An administrative finding is an identified weakness in a contractor's security program indicating NISPO non-compliance that, based on collected evidence and compensatory measures, could not be exploited to gain unauthorized access to classified information.							
General conformity is a determination that a facility is in general compliance with the basic terms of the NISPO indicating the facility had no critical vulnerabilities, systemic vulnerabilities, or serious security issues identified during the security review.							
A provisional security rating score is the raw score prior to considering minor administrative results. If any facility has more than minor administrative results based on their complexity tier, the final security rating cannot be higher than a satisfactory with a high score of 130, the maximum allowed score.							
Scorecard Criteria - General Conformity							

Tab 1: Security Rating Scorecard

Security Rating Score Tool is a fully automated excel workbook consisting of two tabs:

- Tab 1: Used for all security reviews (scorecard).
- Tab 2: Used for facilities in general conformity.

Pending

Scorecard Criteria - General Conformity

REQUIREMENT: The contractor must meet **all elements** below to achieve this criterion.

1. Security Incidents/Visits:

- ☐ Security staff explained the facility's security incident procedures and the requirement to report security violations to DCSA within timelines listed below. See [Compliance](#)

Also, if the contractor had any **recent incidents** during the security review cycle, the facility:

- ☐ Immediately isolated and safeguarded affected material.
- ☐ Conducted a preliminary inquiry within 1 calendar day.
- ☐ If the inquiry resulted in an infraction:
 - ☐ Maintained a copy for review by DCSA upon request through the security review cycle.
- ☐ If the inquiry could not immediately isolate and safeguard affected material, maintained a copy for review by DCSA within 3 calendar days for violations involving Top Secret information, and within 3 calendar days for violations involving Secret or Confidential information.
- ☐ Conducted an internal investigation to make a final determination of fact, compromised or unmitigated.
- ☐ If the inquiry could not immediately isolate and safeguard affected material, maintained a copy for review by DCSA within 15 calendar days for violations involving Top Secret information, and within 30 calendar days for violations involving Secret or Confidential information.
- ☐ When needed as a result of lessons learned or after action report, updated documented procedures or provided additional training to individuals or all cleared employees to minimize the possibility of security incident recurrence. See [Compliance](#)

2. NISPO Non-Compliance Mitigation:

- ☐ Security staff explained the requirement to mitigate identified NISPO non-compliances within the established timelines (i.e., 15-calendar days for vulnerabilities, 30-calendar days for administrative findings).
- ☐ Documented procedures related to mitigating NISPO non-compliances within the established timelines identified above.

Also, if the contractor or DCSA identified any **vulnerabilities** or **administrative findings** during the security review cycle, the facility:

- ☐ Mitigated vulnerabilities within 15-calendar days. See [Compliance](#)
- ☐ Mitigated administrative findings within 30-calendar days. See [Compliance](#)
- ☐ Developed and maintained a documented plan to track and monitor mitigation of identified non-compliances. Communicated the plan and associated milestones to DCSA. See [Compliance](#)

COMPLIANCE:

- ☐ Documented plans or procedures can be written be within a standalone document or maintained within the facility's standard practice and procedure (SPP).

Tab 2: Security Rating Criteria (General Conformity)

REFINEMENT #3: CREATED TOOL AND SCORECARD



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Facility Information				
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	Administrative Findings 0			
	General Conformity: Yes (Calculate Rating)			
Criteria Review Results	NISPOM Effectiveness (5 points each)	Management Support (5 points each)	Security Awareness (1 point each)	Security Community (1 point each)
	NE-1 0	MS-1 0	SA-1 0	SC-1 0
	NE-2 0	MS-2 0	SA-2 0	SC-2 0
	NE-3 0	MS-3 0	SA-3 0	SC-3 0
	NE-4 0	MS-4 0	SA-4 0	SC-4 0
	NE-5 0	MS-5 0	SA-5 0	SC-5 0
Points 0	Points 0	Points 0	Points 0	
Security Rating Results	Starting Score 100			
	Criteria Review Points 0			
	Provisional Security Rating Score 100			
	Maximum Allowed Score 160			
	Coordinated Security Rating (Non-Conformity): Not Applicable			
	Final Security Rating: Satisfactory			
Final Security Rating Score: 100				
NE = NISPOM Effectiveness MS = Management Support SA = Security Awareness SC = Security Community				
Security Rating Score Range				
Exemplary	Marginal	Satisfactory	Commodable	Superior
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- Tool automatically calculates general conformity and the maximum allowed score based on information entered in the facility and security review results sections.
- Criteria Review Results section displays which criterion was and was not achieved, increasing transparency in how DCSA calculated the security rating score.
- Security Rating Score Tool is available to download on the DCSA SRRP website.

Tab 1: Security Rating Scorecard

RESOURCES: WHERE TO FIND SECURITY RATING REQUIREMENTS



Where can I find the security rating requirements?



Great question!

- Minimum rating requirements for all levels are outlined in DODM 5220.32, Volume 1, Section 14.
- DCSA criteria further defines the minimum rating requirements for facilities in general conformity.
- Supporting guidance provides a common interpretation for how to achieve each criterion.
- Refer to the DCSA Security Rating Criteria Reference Card.

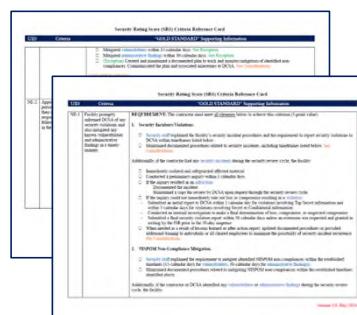
RESOURCES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!



Security Rating Process
Slick Sheet



Security Rating Gold
Standard Criteria



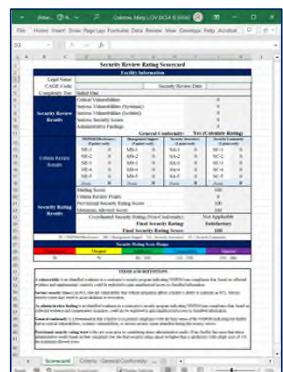
Security Rating Criteria
Reference Card



Appointed Personnel Duties
Job Aid



Terms and Definitions
Job Aid



Security Rating Score Tool



Categorizing NISPOM Non-
Compliances Job Aid



DCSA SRRP
Website

DEFENSE
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
AND SECURITY AGENCY



- Understand why DCSA refined the security rating process
- Understand the top 3 security rating process refinements
- Understand the process used to calculate a score and assign a security rating
- Understand where to find security rating requirements and resources

QUESTIONS



Thank you for your participation.
Please direct additional questions to your assigned
DCSA Industrial Security Representative.