



SPECIAL PURPOSE CHAMBERS

2025 Florida Industrial Security Working
Group / National Classification Management
Society

THOMAS KRELL
Sr. Manager, Industrial Security

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NON-EXPORT CONTROLLED INFORMATION

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Special Purpose Chamber (SPC) Definition



- SPCs are a unique type of container that is necessary to develop, test, and manufacture classified components required for Government programs and to support the testing and manufacturing of classified material (equipment, electronics, and components).
- SPCs are enclosures of various sizes and construction and used for a wide range of purposes where classified material requires testing in controlled environmental conditions to ensure their operation in extreme heat or cold, high or low humidity, or other conditions required during the manufacturing process.
- They include but are not limited to, those used during manufacturing or environmental testing, vibration, and ovens utilized to bake materials.
- SPCs shall not be approved for permanent storage of classified material.

SPC Guidance



- The following provides guidance for the safeguarding of SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL material in SPCs during testing and manufacturing.
- SPCs are not GSA approved security containers.
- Due to the lack of guidance in the 32 CFR Part 117 NISPOM on safeguarding SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL material in SPCs this training provides guidance on approving these chambers as open storage areas (OSA).
- Intent is to protect classified material (SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL) where the material requires safeguarding during testing and manufacturing and the chambers is not located in an existing approved “open storage area” or it is cost prohibitive to station guards.

SPC Approval



- SPCs may be approved by the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) Industrial Security Representative (ISR) as open storage areas.
- Contractor self-approval of SPCs is not authorized.
- Establishing SPCs requires a collaborative effort between the ISR and the Facility Security Officer (FSO), but the final decision regarding the SPC's safeguarding capabilities and construction requirements rests with the ISR.
- Where SPCs do not meet the criteria outlined in this training, the cleared contractor may submit documentation to DCSA for a waiver to 32 CFR Part 117 NISPOM requirements.

Requirements



- Where SPCs are used, the following requirements apply and must, where applicable, be reflected in the company's Standard Practices and Procedures (SPP) and in place prior to requesting approval by DCSA.
 - SPCs are used only for testing or manufacturing of classified material and not for permanent storage.
 - Access to the SPCs must be controlled to preclude unauthorized access.
 - SPCs storing SECRET material during testing shall be afforded supplemental protection during non-working hours. When used for CONFIDENTIAL material supplemental protection is not required. It is not necessary to activate the supplemental controls during working hours.
 - During non-working hours and during working hours when the area is unattended, access to the SPCs shall be controlled by locking the access ports and/or doors with a GSA approved changeable combination padlock or GSA-approved electromechanical combination lock.
 - Access points to the SPCs that are not used during testing or manufacturing shall be secured from the inside or with an approved lock outlined above on the enclosure's exterior.
 - If the size and weight of the SPC does not preclude removal, the SPCs will be fixed to the facility structure or floor in a manner to prevent removal.

Construction Requirements



- Hardware
 - Only heavy-gauge hardware shall be used in construction. Hardware accessible from outside the area shall be peened, pinned, brazed, or spot welded to preclude removal.
- Exterior (Top, Bottom, and Walls)
 - Construction shall be of material offering resistance to, and evidence of, unauthorized entry into the SPC.
 - If insert-type panels are used, a method shall be devised to prevent the removal of such panels without leaving visual evidence of tampering.
 - If visual access is a factor viewing ports shall be of opaque or translucent construction.
 - The exterior walls of the special purpose chamber shall be constructed or modified to prevent disassembly from the exterior.

Construction Requirements



- Windows or Viewing Ports

- Windows or viewing ports that are greater than 96" and can be opened shall be fitted with bars, expanded metal grills, commercial metal sound baffles, or an intrusion detection system.
- When visual access of classified information is a factor, the windows shall be covered by any practical method that covers the inside of the glass.
- During nonworking hours, the windows shall be closed and securely fastened to preclude surreptitious entry.

Note: Where the special purpose chamber is located within a controlled (inside of a building or structure) space, protection on viewing ports is not required if the viewing ports cannot be opened and are made of shatterproof material.

- Access Ports

- Access ports shall be constructed of material offering resistance to and detection of unauthorized entry.
- When windows, louvers, baffle plates, or similar openings are used, they shall be secured with bars, expanded metal grills, commercial metal sound baffles, or an intrusion detection system.
- If visual access is a factor, the windows shall be covered.

Construction Requirements



- Access Port Locking Devices

- Access ports shall be secured with either a GSA-approved electro-mechanical combination lock, or a GSA-approved changeable combination padlock.
- Other access ports shall be secured from the inside with a panic bolt (for example, actuated by a panic bar); a dead bolt; a rigid wood or metal bar (which shall preclude "springing") which extends across the width of the door and is held in position by solid clamps, preferably on the door casing; or by other means approved by the CSA consistent with relevant fire and safety codes.

- Miscellaneous Openings

- All vents, ducts and similar openings into the SPC that measure in excess of 96 square inches and over 6 inches in their smallest dimension must be protected with either bars, expanded metal grills, commercial metal sound baffles, or an intrusion detection system.
- The barriers must be secured to preclude removal from outside the area, and the method of installation must ensure that classified material cannot be removed through the openings with the aid of any type of instrument.
- A barrier will not be required if an approved IDS provides protection of the opening.

Supplemental Protection



- Supplemental Protection
 - SPCs approved for SECRET material shall be provided supplemental protection consisting of one of the following measures:
 - An approved alarm system as outlined 32 CFR Part 117 NISPOM
 - The use of security guard patrols previously approved as supplemental protection for the contractor's facility. The security guard patrols shall conduct checks of the SPCs at intervals not to exceed four hours.

SPC Approval



- SPCs approved as open storage areas will be documented on the DCSA Form 147.
- The DCSA Form 147 will have the block for “open storage area” checked on page 1, a description of the SPC and how it will be utilized under Section A, and Special Purpose Chamber checked in Section 5b.
- The description shall include the name of the manufacturer, serial numbers or unique identifier, and other information necessary to accurately identify the SPC and how the chamber will be protected.

SPC Approval – DCSA Form 147 example



UNCLASSIFIED

OMB No. 0705-0006
Approval Expires 20250331

Select Unclassified unless required by
contract or security classification guide

OPEN STORAGE AREA OR VAULT APPROVAL CHECKLIST

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

SELECT APPROVAL AREA TYPE, REASON FOR REQUEST, AND APPROVAL ACTION TYPE

Area Being Approved: ☒ Open Storage Area ☐ Vault (FED-STD 832 Construction Methods Apply)

Reason for Request: ☒ New area or area under construction ☐ Approved Closed Area update to Open Storage Area ☐ A Change to an Approved Open Storage Area

Approval Action: ☐ Interim Approval ☐ Final Approval

Refer to Section F for final approval status

List of Sections:

- Section A: Facility General Information
- Section B: Security-in-Depth
- Section C: Open Storage Area or Vault Security
- Section D: Open Storage Area or Vault Doors Section
- Section E: Intrusion Detection System (IDS)
- Section F: Acknowledgments and Approval Signatures

Check and attach the following documents that apply to the Open Storage Area or Vault:

- ☒ DD Form 254
- ☒ Security In Depth (SID) Plan & Approval Letter
- ☐ UL 2050 Certificate
- ☐ Alarm Description Worksheet
- ☒ Standard Practice Procedures (SPP) for protecting classified information in the Open Storage Area or Vault
- ☒ Waivers
- ☒ Floor Plan (showing IDS, doors/windows, HVAC duct work map, and controls associated with layers of security)

SPC Approval – DCSA Form 147 example



UNCLASSIFIED

OMB No. 0705-0006
Approval Expires 20250331

Section A: Facility General Information

Describe how the Open Storage Area or Vault (OSA/Vault) will be utilized to support classified work:

This is a special purpose chamber (Malabar RM1542, SPC 177025) used to perform environmental testing (humidity/temperature) of customer classified hardware. Classified hardware while under test will be securely stored inside the test chamber during non-working hours and unattended by cleared personnel. Four-hour checks by our cleared contracted guard service will be used as supplemental protection during non-working hour periods (5:30PM to 7:30AM on working days, 24/7 on non-working days including weekends and holidays).

1. OSA/Vault

Facility/Company Name:	
CAGE Code:	
FCL Level:	

5. Approval Data (Ref 32 CFR, Part 2001.53)

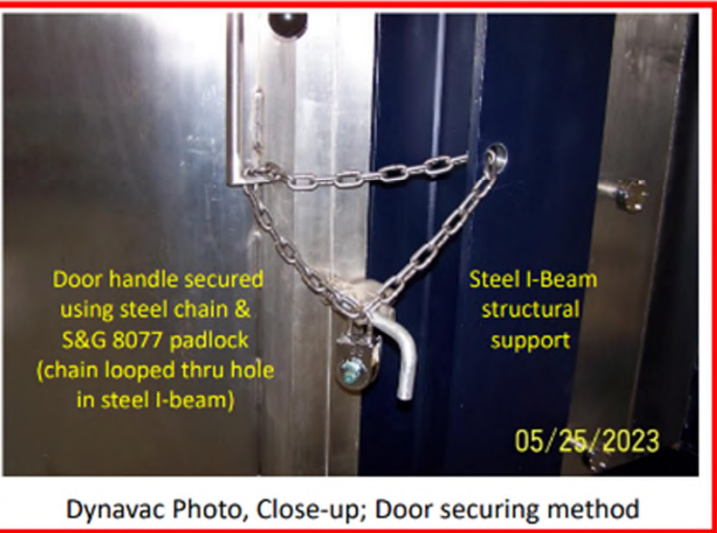
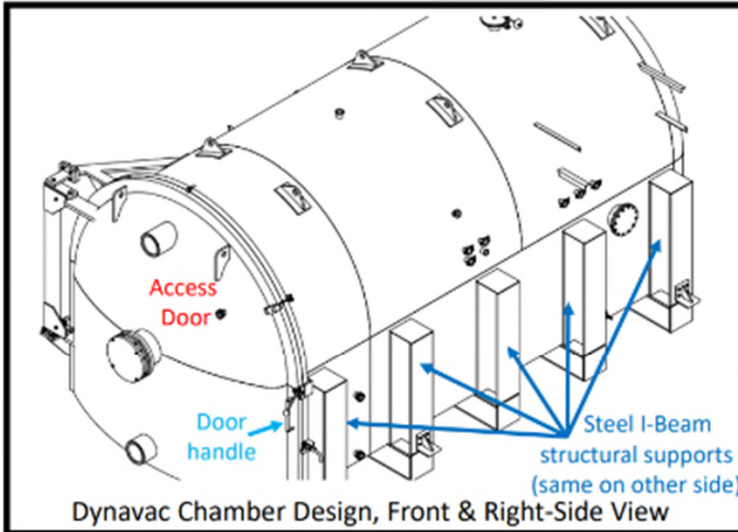
a. Indicate storage type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Open Storage Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Vault
b. Indicate the facility type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Purpose Chamber
c. Level of Classified to be Stored:	<input type="checkbox"/> Top Secret	<input type="checkbox"/> Secret <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential
d. Any Co-Use Agreements (answer for informational purposes only)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
e. Any other agencies or contractors operating within the OSA/Vault?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, identify classification level (check all that apply)		<input type="checkbox"/> Top Secret <input type="checkbox"/> Secret <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential
f. Duty Hours:	Days Per Week:	

DCSA FORM 147, JANUARY 2025
Previous versions remain valid

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SPC's (Vacuum)



SPC's (TEMPEST)



Entry Door – Inside View



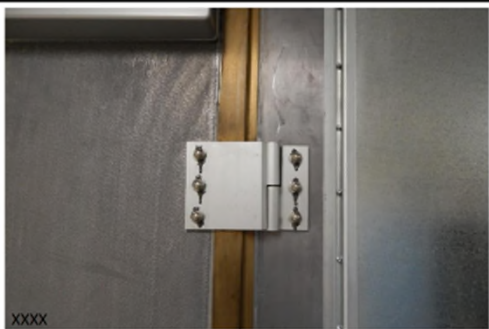
Return Air Ceiling Penetration; RF Vent & Security Bars



Supply Air Ceiling Penetration; RF Vent & Security Bars



Entry Door – Outside View



Entry Door – Top Hinge Epoxied



Entry Door – Bottom Hinge Epoxied



Entry Door – Steel Bar & Brackets



Entry Door – Steel Bar w/S&G 8077 Padlock

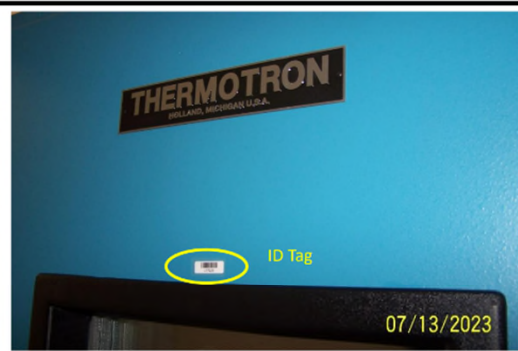
SPC (Electromagnetic Interference)



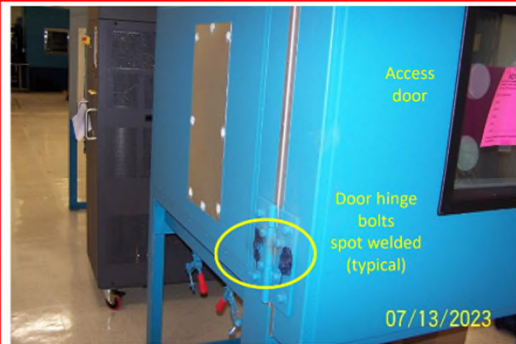
SPC's (Thermal)



SPC 177025, Front & Right Side



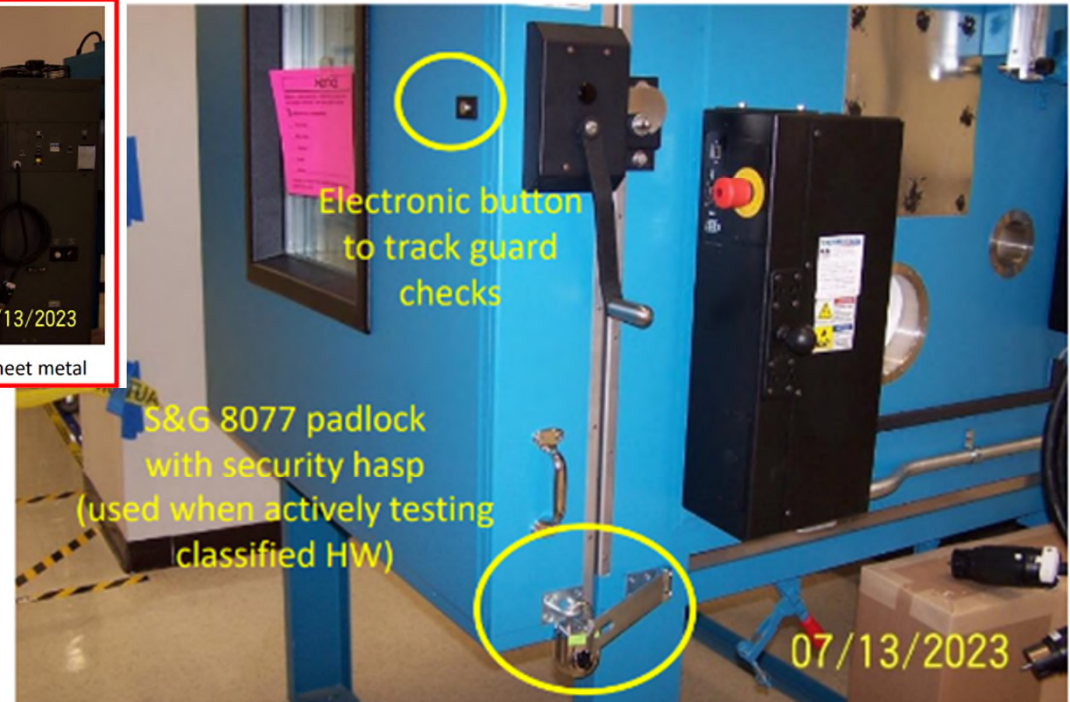
SPC 177025, ID Tag



SPC 177025, Door hinges, bolts spot welded



SPC 177025, Unused 6" opening covered w/sheet metal



SPC 177025, Chamber secured w/8077 padlock & hasp

Special Purpose Chambers



- Questions?