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A newsletter for GSA Certified Safe and Vault Technicians and GSA Approved Inspectors.

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Continued usage of Black Label Containers after the phase out (in certain circumstances).

A memorandum from the Office of the Under Secretary of War has been going around recently and seems to be causing a little confusion. I will cautiously interpret it here. Keep in mind the disclaimer above says I do not intend to represent the government or any part of it.

The memo, dated September 29, 2026, explains the black label container phaseout then notes an exception. The exception is that in spaces accredited as Open Storage and/or Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities using black label containers within may continue to do so after they are phased out. The reason for this is, "In these open storage situations the safe serves simply as an administrative control for need-to know or access separation, not as physical protection for the classified materials they contain." Please read that carefully, it is a direct quote from the memo.

The memo continues to explain that entities continuing to use black label GSA containers, " . . . must implement procedures to ensure such safes used in open storage areas under this exception are not relocated to closed storage areas." It also notes that this exception does not apply to closed storage areas.

I will also point out that this memo applies to the DoW and DoW cleared industry partners. Other departments may have differing rules.

A link to a pdf copy of the memo can be found below.

Regards,

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