INFORMATION SECURITY OVERSIGHT OFFICE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES and RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
700 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW, ROOM 100 WASHINGTON, DC 20408-0001
www.archives.gov/isoo

ISOO Notice 2026-06: Standards for GSA Approved Security Equipment

August 31, 2026

Purpose and Background

1. The Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) is responsible for overseeing the classified national security information system established by Executive Order 13526, "Classified National Security Information," and 32 CFR 2001, which implements safeguarding requirements for classified national security information. The General Services Administration (GSA) establishes standards and specifications for security equipment used to protect classified national security information pursuant to its authority under 32 CFR 2001.42(a).

2. GSA conducts its coordination with agency heads originating classified information via the Interagency Advisory Committee on Security Equipment (IACSE), which is chaired and administered by GSA. The IACSE develops and maintains security equipment standards, qualified products lists (QPL), and procurement guidance.

3. This Notice rescinds and replaces ISOO Notices 2022-03, 2021-01, 2014-02, 2012-04, and 2012-03. While much of the guidance from those Notices remains consistent in this Notice, this Notice consolidates and clarifies ongoing guidance on standards for GSA approved security equipment, including procurement requirements, the black label phase-out plan, supplemental controls, and disposal procedures.

Responsibilities

4. Pursuant to Executive Order 13526, sections 5.1(a)(1) and (2), and 5.2(b)(1) and (2), the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) is responsible for establishing standards for classification, declassification, and marking principles; safeguarding classified information; developing directives for the implementation of the order; and for overseeing agency actions to ensure compliance with the executive order and its implementing directives.

Guidance

General Procurement of GSA Approved Security Equipment

5. This section addresses requirements previously found in ISOO Notices 2014-02 and 2012-04. GSA Approved security containers and vault doors must be procured through GSA Global Supply utilizing the appropriate National Stock Number (NSN).

For information on ordering security equipment, visit:

https://www.gsa.gov/buy-through-us/purchasing-programs/requisition-programs/gsa-global-supply/national-stock-numbers/security-containers/ordering-security-containers

GSA Approved Information Processing System (IPS) containers must be procured through GSA Global Supply utilizing the appropriate NSN or, when an NSN is not assigned, purchased directly from the approved manufacturer. See QPL-AA-C-2786 for NSNs and approved model numbers.

All security storage equipment used for securing classified information shall have the GSA approval label.

Classified information may not be stored in security containers that have been reconditioned, refurbished, or remanufactured and obtained outside of the authorized GSA procurement processes. GSA security containers sold to private parties through government reutilization processes may not be refurbished, reconditioned, recertified, and purchased as a GSA approved security container intended for storage of classified information.

A "GSA approval label" cannot be reproduced and can only be procured by Original Equipment Manufacturers or GSA approved Training Institutions authorized by GSA. This does not preclude the opening and repair of existing GSA approved security containers in accordance with Federal Standard 809, "Federal Standard: Neutralization and Repair of GSA Approved Containers and Vault Doors."

Since October 1, 2012, classified national security information cannot be stored in non-GSA approved security containers, per 32 CFR 2001.43(b), unless otherwise authorized pursuant to 32 CFR 2001.40(b).

6. Brand Name Procurement

The protection of classified information is the responsibility of each agency head or senior agency official; it is the responsibility of GSA to coordinate with agencies and department officials who originate classified information to support this requirement from a procurement perspective.

Agencies may require GSA approved security equipment procurement by brand name for reasons such as:

- It supports classified programs that have requirements for specific dimensions to include specific size and shape of a brand name security equipment product.

- It supports security programs in high-risk facilities and locations where equipment is required to operate in a specific way to meet program and national security

directives.

- It limits the scope of training and spare parts storage for the support of programmatic maintenance and repair in remote locations.

- It supports the customers' ability to choose a manufacturer based on their warranty and ability to support CONUS and OCONUS customers.

7. GSA Approved Security Equipment

   The following categories of GSA approved security equipment and their associated Federal Specifications and Qualified Products Lists are currently in effect:

Equipment Type	Federal Specification	Qualified Products List
Electromechanical Combination Locks	FF-L-2740	QPL-FF-L-2740-10
Electromechanical Combination Locks	FF-L-2938	N/A
Lock Extensions (for use on Pedestrian Doors)	FF-L-2890	QPL-FF-L-2890-5
Filing Cabinets	AA-F-358	QPL-AA-F-358-22
Cabinet, Security Information Processing	AA-C-2786	QPL-AA-C-2786-6
Cabinet, Map & Plan	AA-C-363	QPL-AA-C-363-23
Vault Doors (Class 5V & 5B)	AA-D-600	QPL-AA-D-600-12

   For a list of GSA approved manufacturers' products and model numbers, go to the "DoW Lock Program" website and access the QPL document under the appropriate Federal Specification:

   https://exwc.navfac.navy.mil/DoD-Lock-Program/Documents/Federal-Specifications

8. Phase-Out of Pre-1989 GSA Approved Black Label Equipment

   This section reiterates the requirements that were included in ISOO Notices 2022-03 and 2021-01. GSA approved containers and vault doors have been in use since 1954. Containers manufactured prior to 1989 are past their expected lifetime and many are showing signs of wear and breakage that can cause failure. These failures can result in life safety issues, security issues, expensive neutralization/repairs, and impede government operations. Many of the original manufacturers are no longer in business and proper repair parts are often unavailable.

   GSA removed Fedsafes GSA approved Class 5 security cabinets from the GSA QPL through QPL-AA-F-358-16 on September 9, 2017. Although Fedsafes were removed from the QPL, the original GSA approval of the existing Class 5 cabinets was not rescinded and they are permitted to remain in the field until the end-of-service date applicable to their class.

GSA has determined that agencies must phase out use of all GSA approved security containers and vault doors manufactured from 1954 through 1989 (black labels) to store classified information and materials.

Agencies can identify GSA approved cabinets and vault doors produced prior to 1989 by the silver and black GSA approval label on the outside of the cabinet or vault door and by the certification labels and manufacturing dates located on the control drawer body or on the inside of the vault door.

GSA/IACSE categorizes all GSA approved security containers with a black GSA approval label as a black label container, regardless of the date of manufacture. Some containers with black labels were manufactured after the dates listed in the phase-out plan below. While some of these containers have features that meet certain requirements of later Federal Specifications, they do not necessarily meet all requirements that would allow them to be recertified with a red GSA approval label. All black label containers are subject to the phase-out plan, which rescinds approval over a period beginning on October 1, 2024, starting with the oldest cabinets and proceeding to the last of the black labels, as outlined in the chart below. Before the dates listed in the chart, agencies must take actions to replace the relevant cabinets and vault doors. If replacement containers are needed, visit the GSA ordering website listed earlier in this notice.

GSA approved security containers that are classes 2-4, should have been removed from service as protecting classified information and have been removed from the below table.

GSA CLASS	FED SPEC	REV.	YEARS PRODUCED	END OF SERVICE
1	AA-F-357	A – F	1968 – 1982	1 October 2028
5	AA-F-358	A – F	1968 – 1989	1 October 2028
5	AA-F-363	A – B	1963 – 1989	1 October 2028
5	AA-D-600	A – B	1963 – 1989	1 October 2035
6	AA-D-600	A – C	1963 – 1989	1 October 2035
6	AA-F-358	A – F	1968 – 1989	1 October 2028

9. Disposal of Black Label Security Equipment

As black label security equipment reaches its end of service date, the classified material stored therein should be appropriately destroyed or removed and restored as required by the appropriate accreditation authority. Black label security equipment shall be rendered as follows to prevent future use in the protection of classified information:

- Black label security equipment shall be thoroughly searched to ensure all classified materials have been removed.

- Remove the exterior GSA-approval label and interior certification and identification labels.

- Remove "limited-use" electromechanical combination locks and destroyed or returned to the U.S. Government (FF-L-2740B).

- Do not send to any government reutilization program, however, once the above steps are taken, it can be repurposed as a general-purpose filing cabinet.

- At the end of service, equipment shall be directly rendered to a steel recycling facility for destruction and reclamation to prevent any reutilization for sale.

10. Supplemental Controls for Safeguarding Classified Information

    This section reiterates the requirements that were included in ISOO Notice 2012-03. The supplemental controls specified in 32 CFR 2001.43(b)(i) apply to both GSA-approved security containers and vaults built to FED-STD 832.

    Regarding the acceptability of Intrusion Detection Equipment (IDE) under 32 CFR 2001.43(b)(i)(B), ISOO approves the use of IDE products tested and labeled by an Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) designated Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) in accordance with IDE standards issued by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Underwriter Laboratory (UL). Designated NRTLs may certify installed systems and central monitoring stations in accordance with established ANSI/UL standards for installation and operation of alarm systems. Established NRTL alarm system certification programs shall ensure continuous compliance with ANSI/UL standards for IDE installation, maintenance, and monitoring. A list of OSHA-recognized NRTLs for IDE equipment can be found at: http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/

Authorities

Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information

32 CFR 2001, Classified National Security Information (specifically, 32 CFR 2001.42(a); 2001.43; 2001.45; and 2001.50)

Federal Specification AA-D-600, Door, Vault, Security

Federal Specification AA-F-357, Filing Cabinet, Steel, Legal and Letter Size, Insulated, Security

Federal Specification AA-F-358, Filing Cabinet, Steel, Legal and Letter Size, Uninsulated, Security

Federal Specification AA-F-363, Filing Cabinet, Security, Maps and Plans, General Filing, and Storage

Federal Standard 809, Neutralization and Repair of GSA Approved Containers and Vault Doors

Please direct any questions regarding this ISOO Notice to: isoo@nara.gov.



MICHAEL D. THOMAS

Director