

CONTINUOUS EVALUATION

Top 15 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

WHAT IS CE?		
1.	What is Continuous Evaluation (CE)?	<i>CE is a personnel security investigative process to review the background of individuals who have been determined to be eligible for access to classified information or to hold a sensitive position. CE will leverage technology to perform automated records checks for personnel security on a more frequent basis.</i>
2.	How does CE work? What information does CE query?	<i>CE uses automated records checks of commercial databases, US Government databases and other information lawfully available to security officials - information that is already reviewed during background or periodic investigations. Information from CE will supplement traditional initial and periodic background investigations, not replace them. The same privacy protections that apply to personnel security investigations apply to CE.</i>
3.	What was the impetus for CE?	<i>Implementing CE is part of overarching personnel security clearance reform efforts. CE is mandated by Executive Order (EO) 12968, as amended, which requires that individuals with eligibility for, or access to, classified information be subject to continuous evaluation under standards determined by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI). CE is further defined in EO 13467, as amended.</i>
4.	Who is subject to CE?	<i>Current Executive Branch personnel (including employees, detailees, and contractors) who have been determined to be eligible for access to classified information or to hold a sensitive position are subject to CE.</i>
5.	Did I authorize my participation in CE?	<i>In signing the Standard Form 86 (or equivalent form) for release of information and submission to either an initial or periodic background investigation for the purpose of attaining a security clearance, you have authorized the U.S. Government to conduct background investigations, reinvestigations, and continuous evaluation.</i>
6.	Will CE involve review of individuals' social media activities?	<i>CE includes review of Publically Available Electronic Information (PAEI); however, our reviews do not include social media at this time.</i>
HOW WILL CE IMPACT ME?		
7.	Do CE credit checks affect my credit score? I received a credit bureau notification letter stating the US government had checked my credit.	<i>CE credit checks are categorized as employment "soft inquiries" and soft inquiries do not affect a person's credit score. The "hard inquiries" that negatively affect credit scores are conducted by retailers, financial institutions and other lenders. Credit checks conducted for CE purposes are not hard inquiries.</i>
8.	Will CE require that I give up significant private information about myself and family?	<i>CE will review the same type of information that has been previously reviewed during initial and periodic background investigations.</i>

9.	What safeguards are in place to protect against the potential abuse of CE information?	<i>Any personnel who handle CE information will be required to complete training prior to accessing CE information. This training, the same taken by personnel security professionals, will include significant instruction on how to protect civil liberties and privacy in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1947 and with the Office of Management and Budget directives on protecting Personally Identifiable Information.</i>
10.	Will there be additional personnel security and/or counterintelligence reporting requirements as a result of CE?	<i>No, CE does not affect security and counterintelligence reporting requirements. These requirements are determined by an enrollee's department or agency in accordance with DNI policy and will remain the same. Reporting requirements for individuals are identified in Security Executive Agent Directive 3, "Reporting Requirements for Personnel with Access to Classified Information or Who Hold a Sensitive Position," and Intelligence Community Standard 703-02, "Reporting Requirements for Individuals with Access to Sensitive Compartmented Information," depending on the individual's level of access.</i>
WHY IS CE IMPORTANT?		
11.	Will CE prevent the insider threat?	<i>While there is no guarantee that any single method will prevent potential bad actors, CE is one of many initiatives that will further enhance existing personnel security investigation processes to maintain a strong and trusted workforce. CE may assist in earlier identification of potential security concerns through the use of automated records checks on a more frequent basis. CE supplements, but does not replace, insider threat and personnel security programs.</i>
12.	Why doesn't CE only focus on personnel in high risk positions with privileged access?	<i>History indicates that anyone can pose a threat to national security. CE is only one of many ongoing personnel security clearance reform and insider threat initiatives.</i>
13.	What happens if derogatory information is identified during CE records checks?	<i>Any derogatory information identified during CE automated records check will be used for investigative lead purposes only. This information will subsequently be investigated according to existing personnel security processes. No action will be taken based solely on the derogatory information identified during the CE process without follow-up and review by the adjudicating agency against established national security adjudicative guidelines.</i>
14.	What happens if CE identifies inaccurate information?	<i>If inaccurate information is identified during CE records checks, subsequent records corrections will be handled in the same manner as it is today by the personnel security investigative processes.</i>
LEARN MORE ABOUT CE		
15.	Where can I go for more information about CE?	<i>You can learn more about the CE Program by visiting https://www.ncsc.ic.gov/issues/ce.html on JWICs or https://www.ncsc.gov on the UNCLASSIFIED network. You can contact the CE Program directly for more information via UNCLASSIFIED e-mail at DNI-NCSC-CE@dni.gov.</i>