MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

SUBJECT: Changes to the HUMINT Control System (HCS)

REFERENCE: Intelligence Community Markings System Register and Manual, 31 December 2013

On 31 December 2013, the reference was updated to modify the rules for applying the HCS marking to HCS-P based on information provided by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the designated Executive Agent for HCS.

HCS-P (Product) is an HCS compartment used to protect intelligence information disseminated to IC consumers. HCS-P subcompartments are used to further protect sensitive intelligence information, access to which requires a formal indoctrination. The HSC-O compartment (Operations) is used to protect exceptionally fragile and unique IC clandestine HUMINT operations and methods that are not intended for dissemination outside of the originating agency. HUMINT collectors and HSC-originating agencies will use the HCS-O compartment to protect HUMINT operational information prior to evaluation or sanitization for intelligence reporting. There are no programmatic, administrative, or marking changes to HCS-P or HCS-O subcompartments.

Personnel with access to HCS operational data must exercise deliberative caution in re-marking legacy HCS to ensure it appropriately protects HCS-O information. Further guidance concerning the administration and implementation of HCS-O changes will be provided in a separate memorandum.

A separate indoctrination briefing for HCS-P is not required. Current policies and procedures for processing HCS information on accredited classified networks will apply to HCS-P information, as will existing facility accreditations. IC element Cognizant Security Authorities (CSA) will ensure individuals identified in the IC’s Scattered Castles database are updated to reflect HCS-P access. Additionally, legacy information marked HCS will only require re-marking to HCS-P upon its re-use.

IC elements have up to 12 months from the date of Reference A to incorporate this change into IC automated systems. IC elements unable to meet this timeline should request a waiver from the IC Chief Information Office (IC CIO) consistent with ICS 500-20, Intelligence Community Enterprise Standards Compliance.
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All IC elements are expected to implement these changes by 2 January 2015. After implementation, though HCS will continue to be a valid control system, documents will no longer be marked with only the control system HCS by itself, but must include the compartment reference of HCS-P or HCS-O and any appropriate subcompartments to ensure maximum protection of source sensitive intelligence information. Additional marking guidance is available in the Intelligence Community Markings System Register and Manual, which can be accessed at:


Questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to my Director of Information Management, Ms. Jennifer Hudson, at [redacted].

Stephanie L. O'Sullivan

Date: 20 May 2014
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