

DCSA SECURITY REVIEW & RATING PROCESS UPDATES

The DCSA conducts regular security reviews of NISP contractors to ensure classified information is protected and in compliance with NISPOM standards. The aim: help contractors strengthen their security program.

Recently, DCSA revamped its Security Review and Rating Process to standardize and objectify evaluations. Previously reliant on individual judgment, the new system uses numerical values to better pinpoint gaps and strengths, ensuring fair, consistent audits and clearer insights into compliance.



DCSA's Security Review evaluates contractors' compliance with NISPOM, focusing on these key areas:

- Proper implementation
- Senior leadership support
- Employee security awareness
- Engagement with the broader security community

SECURITY RATINGS

After the review, contractors are rated on a scale of five levels:



Superior: Demonstrates best-in-class security practices, proactive measures, and minimal vulnerabilities



Commendable: Above-average compliance with room for improvement in certain areas



Satisfactory: Meets the necessary security standards



Marginal: Significant gaps in security that need immediate improvement



Unsatisfactory: Critical failures in compliance, putting classified information at risk

PATH TO A HIGHER RATING

1

Identification and mitigation of any vulnerabilities 7

Foster a strong security culture with management's full support K

Implement robust security education programs and communicate with employees regarding security requirements Δ

Actively participate and engage in reviews to help advance the security community

This process change aligns with evolving security demands, ensuring national security remains the priority.

For more details, visit DCSA's official page on the **Security Review and Rating Process**