

# **NRC INSPECTION MANUAL**

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## **MANUAL CHAPTER 0620**

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### **INSPECTION DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS**

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## 0620-01 PURPOSE

01.01 To provide general guidance for requesting, controlling, and dispositioning U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspection documents and records during all phases of the inspection program including construction, fuel cycle facilities, mining facilities, repository facilities, vendor inspections, operating facilities, power reactors, research reactors, license renewal, and materials inspections. This is not intended to replace guidance in relevant agency manual chapters identified in the reference section which serve as the final authority.

## 0620-02 DEFINITIONS

02.01 Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). A document management and recordkeeping system that maintains the official records of the agency and manages their disposition.

02.02 Classified Information. Records that (1) are specifically authorized, under criteria established by an Executive Order (E.O.) or by statute, to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (2) are, in fact, properly classified pursuant to such authority. These records normally include information in a document or correspondence that is designated National Security Information, Restricted Data, or Formerly Restricted Data. Such classifications may include, but are not limited to, Top Secret, Secret, and Confidential and are consistent with NRC Management Directive (MD) 12.2, "NRC Classified Information Security Program."

- a. Classified National Security Information. Information that has been determined pursuant to E.O. 13526, "Classified National Security Information," as amended, or any predecessor order or successor order, to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and that is so designated.
- b. Restricted Data. All data concerning the design, manufacture or utilization of atomic weapons, the production of special nuclear material, or the use of special nuclear material in the production of energy, but not data declassified or removed from the category pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), Section 142, "Classification and Declassification of Restricted Data."

02.03 Sensitive, Unclassified Information. Safeguards Information (SGI), Safeguards Information-Modified Handling (SGI-M), and Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI). Refer to [www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html](http://www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html) for more information on SUNSI including Personal Identifiable Information (PII) and pre-decisional enforcement information.

- a. Safeguards Information (SGI). Information not classified as National Security Information or Restricted Data which specifically identifies a licensee's or applicant's detailed control and accounting procedures for the physical protection of special nuclear material in quantities determined by the Commission through order or regulation to be significant to the public health and

safety or the common defense and security; detailed security measures (including security plans, procedures, and equipment) for the physical protection of source, byproduct, or special nuclear material in quantities determined by the Commission through order or regulation to be significant to the public health and safety or the common defense and security; security measures for the physical protection of and location of certain plant or facility equipment vital to the safety of production or utilization facilities; and any other information within the scope of Section 147 of the AEA, the unauthorized disclosure of which, as determined by the Commission through order or regulation, could reasonably be expected to have a significant adverse effect on the health and safety of the public or the common defense and security by significantly increasing the likelihood of sabotage or theft or diversion of source, byproduct, or special nuclear material.

An individual's access to SGI requires both a valid "need to know" for the information and an authorization based on an appropriate background check.

- b. Safeguards Information—Modified Handling (SGI-M). The designation or marking applied to Safeguards Information which the Commission has determined warrants handling requirements modified from the specific Safeguards Information handling requirements that are applicable to Safeguards Information needing a higher level of protection.

The SGI-M designation allows certain licensees, vendors, or applicants to have access to certain Safeguards Information without completing a full background investigation. Within the NRC, SGI-M is handled and stored the same as SGI.

- c. 10 CFR 2.390 Non-public Information. Information below the level of SGI that relates to the security measures for the physical protection of special nuclear material, or security measures for the physical protection of a facility, including inspection reports, findings, and potential vulnerabilities that can be identified with a specific site. Refer to [www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html](http://www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html) for more information.

## 02.04 Document Types

- a. Licensee, Vendor, or Applicant Controlled Document. Any document, correspondence, e-mail, or information that is in the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's document control or file system such as original, inventoried records, or database files (e.g., **surveillance tests**, operator logs, quality assurance records, cause evaluations, operability evaluations, issue reports, work orders, action requests, procedures, or calculations). These documents are generally required to be retained by the licensee, vendor, or applicant to meet regulatory requirements.

Note: When an inspector creates a copy (e.g., prints, photocopies, or transcribes into notes) of a licensee, vendor, or applicant controlled document, that document copy would be considered NRC property under NRC possession and control and would therefore be subject to the FOIA.

- b. NRC Controlled Document. Any document, correspondence, e-mail, or information that requires special handling to restrict access or disclosure. These include documents that contain classified, SGI, and SUNSI.
- c. Licensee, Vendor, or Applicant Draft Document. A preliminary written document, preliminary sketch, or drawing. A document is considered to be a draft while it is being developed and reviewed. It ceases to be a draft only when it has been approved by responsible management and issued as a final document for implementation (Refer to Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0330, "Guidance for NRC Review of Licensee Draft Documents" for additional guidance).
- d. Inspection Document. Any material that is obtained or developed in preparation for, during, or resulting from the inspection of a licensee, vendor, or applicant such as inspector notes.

02.05 Docket File. Records (typically stored in ADAMS) or other information related to a specific NRC docket number that provide a complete record of the transactions between the licensee, vendor, or applicant and the NRC, regardless if the information has been made publicly available.

02.06 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Prescribes the procedures for making agency records available and copying when a member of the public requests them (see MD 3.1, "Freedom of Information Act").

Documents or notes under the possession and control of the NRC are subject to the FOIA and may be released to the public, except as they qualify for withholding under applicable FOIA exemptions.

- a. Possession. The agency's physical custody of records
- b. Control. The agency's legal authority for disposition of records in the context of FOIA

Documents, including copies of licensee, vendor, or applicant documents are considered to be in the possession and control of the NRC when they are removed from licensee, vendor, or applicant controlled space or property, and taken into NRC custody, such as when copies or digital media containing licensee documents are taken into the resident inspector's office or off site by an inspector. However, such documents reviewed electronically on a licensee, vendor, or applicant-controlled network or web site, if not downloaded to an NRC controlled network or printed, are not considered to be in the possession and control of the inspector, unless the licensee, vendor, or applicant has either relinquished control over the document or given NRC authority to use the document as it sees fit. Also, whenever NRC personnel have relied on a document in making a decision or taking action on behalf of the agency, that document is part of the official agency record.

02.07 Handwritten Note. An informal method of communicating information to individual members of the licensee, vendor, or applicant staff during the performance of

an inspection (while onsite). Examples include leaving a note on a licensee, vendor, or applicant staff member's desk indicating the inspector had stopped by, or writing down a procedure (e.g., drawing, record) number for a licensee, vendor, or applicant document control clerk to retrieve.

02.08 Inspection. The examination, review, or assessment of any program or activity of a licensee, vendor, or applicant to determine the effectiveness of the program or activity, to ensure that the health and safety of the public and plant or facility personnel are adequately protected, to ensure that the facility is operated safely, and to determine compliance with any established standards, applicable rule, order, regulation, or license condition pursuant to the AEA, the National Environmental Policy Act or other statutory requirement.

02.09 Finding. Refer to IMC 0610, "Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Inspection Reports", IMC 0612, "Power Reactor Inspection Reports", IMC 0613, "Documenting 10 CFR Part 52 Construction and Test Inspections", IMC 0615, "Research and Test Reactor Inspection Reports", IMC 0616, "Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards Inspection Reports", and IMC 0617, "Vendor and Quality Assurance Implementation Inspection Reports" for the appropriate definition and context.

02.10 Working Files. (see 36 CFR 1222, "Creation and Maintenance of Federal Records").

Working files, such as preliminary drafts and rough notes, and other similar materials, are generally temporary records that are maintained to ensure adequate and proper documentation until used to create a longer-term record, or superseded by development of another record, or no longer needed, such as to preserve a complete understanding or explanation of an agency action or decision. Examples are inspector notes, inspector notes taken on copies of licensee, vendor, or applicant documents, calculations, or drafts assembled or created and used to prepare or analyze other documents such as an inspection report that were obtained in accordance with established inspection practices. Note that most inspection related working file records are short lived and do not ultimately go into ADAMS (Refer to Section 04.04a for additional guidance).

02.11 Personal Files. Personal files (also called personal papers) are documentary materials belonging to an individual that are not used to conduct agency business and are not needed to properly document agency actions or decisions. Examples include documents such as personal correspondence related to private business, or notes about agency business that someone makes solely for that person's own use, such as memory refreshers. Personal files are excluded from the definition of Federal records and are not covered by agency records retention schedules.

Personal files should be maintained separately from agency records. Information about private matters and agency business should not be mixed with official business. If information about private matters and agency business appears in a single document, the personal information may be deleted or redacted, and the redacted version treated as a Federal record. The use of a label such as "personal" does not control the status of documentary materials in a Federal agency.

Although personal files are typically not considered agency records subject to a FOIA request, if an employee has responsive records that he or she believes to be personal records, these records are reviewed by the employee using the personal record consideration checklist (Exhibit 2 of MD 3.1) to determine if the records are personal or agency records. If the employee determines that the records are personal, the checklist and the page count of personal records are provided to the FOIA/PA (Privacy Act) staff. The FOIA/PA staff will inform the requester in writing of this determination. The personal records must be maintained for 6 years from NRC's response to the requester either by the employee, the office FOIA coordinator, or the FOIA/PA staff. For detailed information on FOIA procedures and definitions see MD 3.1, "Freedom of Information Act".

02.12 Proprietary Information. Records that (1) contain trade secrets and commercial or financial information, obtained from a person or entity as privileged or confidential, the disclosure of which would result in substantial harm to the competitive position of the owner, as supported by an accompanying affidavit signed and notarized by the owner of the information, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, (2) contain voluntarily provided information that the submitter would not normally release to the public, or (3) the release of which would harm the Government's ability to obtain information in the future. Refer to [www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html](http://www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html) for more information.

02.13 Records:

- a. Disposition. Those actions taken regarding records no longer needed for the conduct of the regular current business of the agency. (36 CFR 1220.18)
- b. Official Records. All books, papers, maps, photographs, and machine-readable documentary materials regardless of form or physical characteristics created or received by any agency of the United States Government under Federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business and that are preserved or appropriate for preservation by that agency or its legitimate successor as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the Government or because of the informational value of the data contained in these materials (see 44 U.S.C. 3301, "Definition of Records" also 36 CFR 1220.18).

Records created (e.g., copying or printing licensee documents) by the NRC inspector, whether through printing, copying, or reproduction by any means (e.g., inspector notes), are considered records in the possession and under the control of the NRC.

- c. Privacy Act Records. Any item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by the NRC in a Privacy Act system of records, including but not limited to the individual's education, financial transactions, medical history, employment history, or criminal history, that contains the individual's name, or the identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual, such as a fingerprint, a voice print, or a photograph and is retrieved by the individual's identifier. (see MD 3.2, "Privacy Act")

- d. Retention Period. The length of time that records must be kept. (36 CFR 1220.18)

02.14 Regulatory Requirement. A legally binding obligation such as a statute, regulation, license condition, technical specification, or order.

02.15 Unfettered Inspector Access. Access equivalent to access provided regular plant or facility employees, following proper identification and compliance with applicable access control measures for security, radiological protection and personal safety (See 10 CFR 50.70, 10 CFR 70.55, and [10 CFR 30.52](#)). Typically, regular plant or facility employees can copy, print, download, or email licensee, vendor, or applicant documents with few restrictions and review such documents. Unfettered access applies only to regulated activities. Refer to Section 04.01b.

## 0620-03 RESPONSIBILITIES

03.01 Executive Director for Operations (EDO). Approves the release of all inspection documents that have not been officially issued unless specifically authorized under Office Instructions or Management Directives, or any information contained therein, except in cases where release authority for significant safety or safeguards issues has been granted to the office directors or regional administrators.

### 03.02 Office Directors and Regional Administrators

- a. Implement existing policies, guidance, and regulatory requirements for the acquisition, control, and disposition of documentation used in preparing for inspections, gained during the conduct of inspections, and resulting from inspections.
- b. Obtain EDO approval before releasing a draft inspection document not specifically authorized by Office Instructions or Management Directives and before discussing the document in a way that is contrary to established NRC policies, procedures, and regulatory requirements for such occasions as exit meetings and inspector discussions with licensees, vendors, or applicants during inspections.
- c. Notify the EDO immediately if substantive documents (i.e., allegations, investigations, safeguards, proprietary information, or personal identifiable information) are inadvertently released or discussed.
- d. Take required corrective action when inspection documents are released contrary to NRC policies, procedures, regulations, and legal requirements.
- e. Ensure that subordinate managers and staff are cognizant of, and adhere to, the policies and guidance in this IMC.

### 03.03 Inspector Supervisors



- a. Ensure that their staff is cognizant of, adheres to, and implements the policies and guidance contained in this IMC.
  - b. In accordance with this IMC and established policies, procedures, and regulatory requirements, provide for reviews, approvals, or denials of all inspection documentation before release to a licensee, vendor, applicant, ADAMS, or in response to a FOIA request.
  - c. As appropriate, immediately inform the respective division, staff, or project director when draft inspection documents (i.e., pre-decisional) or substantive documents (i.e., allegations, investigations, safeguards, proprietary information, or personal identifiable information) are inadvertently released to a licensee, vendor, applicant, or the public, contrary to NRC policies, procedures and regulatory requirements, and report the facts concerning the release.
  - d. Review and approve docketed notification of inspection and request for information correspondence letters.
- 03.04 Inspectors Follow regulatory requirements, policies, and guidance for the acquisition, control, and disposition of inspection documentation.
- 03.05 Program Office. Interprets, and provides guidance on this IMC with assistance from the **Office of Enforcement (OE)**, Office of General Council (OGC), and the Office of Information Services (OIS).

## 0620-04 BASIC REQUIREMENTS

### 04.01 Requesting and Obtaining Documents

- a. Requesting Documents for Inspection Preparation.
  - 1. Requests for documents or information needed either to prepare for an inspection or during an inspection are to be reasonable and should not unnecessarily burden on the licensee, vendor, or applicant.
  - 2. Inspectors should not normally request documents that already exist as NRC official records in ADAMS.
  - 3. Inspectors should not normally request draft licensee, vendor, or applicant documents or analyses that do not exist **in final, approved form** in the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's document control system. However, on occasion inspectors will need to request and review draft information to verify the adequacy of taken or planned corrective actions as they related to immediate safety concerns or issues, such as compensatory measures taken to address equipment operability for an example. The licensee, vendor, or applicant may choose to provide draft information to the Senior Reactor Analyst (SRA) to support timely and accurate significance

determinations or risk assessments (See IMC 0330 for additional details). Inspectors should not act as a consultant with licensees during the course of reviewing draft documents.

4. Inspectors should not request that a licensee, vendor, or applicant generate documents such as analyses, position papers, or calculations, that are not needed to meet a regulatory requirement or demonstrate compliance. Requests to generate non-existent analyses, position papers, or calculations related to regulatory requirements or compliance issues can be addressed using 10 CFR 50.54(f) as appropriate. Inspectors can request from the licensee, vendor, or applicant specific records in the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's document control system such as lists of modifications or corrective action program documents sorted by date, subject, status, or other attribute.
5. For team inspections, the lead inspector or team leader should prepare a list of documents that are needed for the inspection or that the inspector would like to have available upon arrival at the site. One accepted practice would be for the lead inspector or team leader to e-mail the notification of inspection and request for information to the licensee, vendor, or applicant far enough in advance to allow for adequate preparations. However, if desired, a letter on the docket can be drafted. The purpose of this is to provide advance notification and avoid placing unnecessary burden on the licensee, vendor, or applicant. Inspectors should communicate lengthy requests for documents to the licensee, vendor, or applicant at least 30 days before the documents are needed when inspection lead time permits. The licensee should be made aware that the documents received through this process may become part of the working file or inspection record which would be subject to the FOIA.

Resident and senior resident inspectors should periodically communicate to appropriate licensee staff the types of documents they will be routinely inspecting and which may be routinely be under NRC possession and control and subject to the FOIA.

6. Corresponding with the licensee, vendor, or applicant via e-mail or phone is appropriate to request additional documents.
7. Documents that contain classified information (i.e. National Security Information and Restricted Data) may not be transmitted via e-mail. SGI may not be e-mailed over an unprotected network unless the files are encrypted on an SGI system using a FIPS 140-02 compliant version of PGP (Pretty Good Protection) software that is compliant with Federal Information Processing Standard 140-02, "Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules," then transferred via diskette (in encrypted form) to the local area network (LAN) for e-mail transmission. (Refer to MD 12.2, MD 12.4, "NRC Telecommunications Systems Security Program", and MD 12.7 "NRC Safeguards Information Security Program" for the current policy). SGI and Confidential may be mailed, if properly packaged

(mailing of classified information isn't limited to SGI and Confidential). The approved NRC classified mailing address shall be used for classified information. SGI and Confidential data can also be transferred using a secure fax machine with appropriate controls established in agency guidance. SUNSI encompasses a wide variety of categories (e.g., personal privacy, allegations, pre-decisional, proprietary etc.) handled according to the requirements found on the SUNSI Web site at <http://www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/>.

8. E-mail may also be used for exchanges of general information on administrative activities such as schedules, meeting preparations, and travel plans. Administrative e-mails should not be placed in ADAMS.
  9. Some inspections or site visits may require requests for the same information from each of a selected sample of licensees, vendors, or applicants. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, if the same information is requested from 10 or more licensees, vendors, or applicants during a 1-year period, a review should be conducted to approve the information collection. Refer to MD 3.54, "NRC Collections of Information and Reports Management" for additional information.
  10. Letters or e-mails requesting inspection information from the licensee, vendor, or applicant should include a Paper Work Reduction Act Statement which includes a valid OMB control number. Refer to Exhibit 2 for a sample Paper Work Reduction Act Statement and refer to the appropriate section of the CFR to find the applicable OMB control number for your activity (e.g., 10 CFR 30.8, 10 CFR 50.8, 10 CFR 70.8).
- b. Obtaining Documents.

The licensee, vendor, or applicant is obligated to provide unfettered access to all licensee documents related to regulated activities and the NRC has the authority to inspect and create inspection records to effectuate the purposes of the AEA, as amended.

Inspectors should become familiar with and observe the established licensee, vendor, or applicant document control practices applied to regular plant employees. Inspectors should also openly communicate with the licensee about ongoing inspection activities and should be sensitive to protecting sensitive licensee information such as, personal privacy information or proprietary information from improper disclosure. If not done when the documents were obtained, inspectors should inform the licensee when copies of licensee, vendor, or applicant documents will be removed from the site unless it is believed that informing the licensee, vendor, or applicant would compromise the identity of an allegor or other type of investigation, in which case regional management should be consulted prior to removal. Generally, the licensee, vendor, or applicant should be afforded the opportunity to identify any material it considers sensitive under 10 CFR 2.390, such as, personal privacy information,

or proprietary information, to request withholding from public disclosure prior to site removal.

Licensee, vendor, or applicant objections over the NRC's handling of documents should be promptly shared with management. Inspectors should also inform management when they have indications that a licensee, vendor, or applicant could be impeding or interfering with inspections or could be fettering inspector access to determine if a violation of 10 CFR 30.52, 10 CFR 50.70, and/or 10 CFR 70.55 exists or if actions should be taken under Article 235 of the AEA.

Acceptable practices for obtaining licensee, vendor, or applicant documents include but are not limited to the following:

1. Requesting the licensee, vendor, or applicant to send the documents to the regional office addressed to the individual inspector assuming the request does not place unnecessary burden on the licensee, vendor, or applicant.
2. Requesting that the documents be sent electronically to the team leader or lead inspector.
3. Sending a designated inspector to the site to obtain the needed documents from the licensee, vendor, or applicant.
4. Requesting the resident inspector's office staff to retrieve the needed documents from the licensee, vendor, or applicant.
5. Using the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's computer in accordance with the approved NRC memorandum of understanding between both parties.
6. Using the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's copy machine to make copies of materials relevant to the inspection.
7. Using the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's intranet or equivalent to view or download files that the licensee, vendor, or applicant has uploaded. The inspector should inform the licensee that files downloaded by NRC staff will be in the agency's possession and control and as such may be subject to FOIA requests.

Note: If a licensee, vendor, or applicant asserts that any of the documents or document excerpts to be retained by an inspector as an NRC official record contain proprietary or company classified information, the NRC should advise the licensee, vendor, or applicant to submit an application for withholding pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1) with the required affidavit before any of the documents are placed in ADAMS in accordance with Section 04.04a. The licensee, vendor, or applicant must provide the affidavit to the lead inspector or team leader at the exit meeting or within 10 working days after the exit meeting.

Issuance of a suspension order may be appropriate when a licensee is not reasonably cooperating with legitimate NRC requests for documents. It would not typically be expected that the NRC would need to resort to a subpoena for licensee documents that are required to support regulatory oversight.

#### 04.02 Controlling Documents and Records

- a. **Use of Cameras and Recording Devices.** Inspectors and inspection team leaders should ensure that the licensee, vendor, or applicant is made aware that inspectors may be taking photographs or recordings during the course of their normal inspection activities. Inspectors are expected to openly communicate and observe all established licensee, vendor, or applicant procedures for photography or recording, including the prohibition of flash photography in areas of sensitive equipment. The licensee, vendor, or applicant is may not impede or interfere with inspections by limiting the use of NRC cameras or recording devices (See Article 235 of the AEA). Sensitive photographs or recordings requiring protection under 10 CFR 2.390 should be appropriately marked. Photographs or recordings should be properly classified by inspectors prior to e-mailing or transmitting off site. Refer to Exhibit 1 for further guidance on the use of photographs during the inspection process.
- b. **Written Notes and Electronic Correspondence**
  - 1. Inspectors and SRAs should be aware that written notes or e-mails provided to a member of the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's staff or received by NRC staff in the transaction of Government business may need to be preserved as records in the working file to either be ultimately retained in ADAMS or disposed of in accordance with Section 04.04a, "Record Retention and Disposition." Inspectors should be aware that working files and licensee, vendor, or applicant responses may be publically released in response to a FOIA request.
  - 2. Handwritten notes should not be used to request a response to a specific question from licensee, vendor, or applicant but may be used to request a reasonable number of specific documents during the course of an inspection. Reviewed documents should be listed in the inspection report in accordance with IMC 0610 and IMC 0612 requirements. It is also acceptable for an inspector to leave a brief handwritten note on the desk or at the work station of a licensee, vendor, or applicant employee indicating that the inspector had stopped by while the employee was out of the office. This handwritten note should be limited to the inspector's name, the date and time of the visit, a brief description of the topic to be discussed, and information related to how or when the inspector would like to be contacted in the future.
- c. **Inspector Notes (Working Files).** Inspectors notes are working files as defined in Section 02.10, and are generally discarded after the inspection report is finalized, since the information deemed relevant to any inspection issue has been captured in the final inspection report.

- d. Team Meetings and Licensee, Vendor, or Applicant Debrief. The team leader normally makes an integrated list of the significant inspection observations identified at team meetings; the observations are considered inspector's notes. As a courtesy, the team leader or lead inspector discusses them daily with licensee, vendor, or applicant management **to ensure effective and efficient communications** at the exit meeting. It is acceptable to use a dry erase white board during the licensee, vendor, or applicant debrief as a discussion aid. However, a written list of preliminary inspection findings is not to be given to licensee, vendor, or applicant management. If it is given to the licensee, vendor, or applicant, it is to be declared as a record and placed in ADAMS and may be requested under FOIA.
- e. Storage and Disposal of Inspector Notes and Materials
  - 1. Working files and records should be organized, for ease of incorporation into longer-term records. Working files may be discarded once superseded or when no longer needed.
  - 2. While onsite, inspectors shall ensure that draft material or notes developed at licensee, vendor, or applicant facilities are appropriately disposed of when no longer needed. This precaution is to ensure that the licensee does not inadvertently review pre-decisional or draft information.
  - 3. Before using licensee, vendor, or applicant facilities for the disposal of an inspector's documents or notes, the inspector should determine whether the information, if made available to the licensee, vendor, or applicant, would interfere with the NRC's ability to effectively regulate.
  - 4. Inspectors shall continually assess the need to maintain copies of licensee, vendor, or applicant documents and working file documents. Inspectors should limit documents to only those which provide information of significance for the NRC's oversight or will be retained as NRC official records. This policy reduces the administrative burdens associated with retaining unnecessary records.
  - 5. Inspection teams should make arrangements with the licensee, vendor, or applicant to store inspection-related copies of licensee, vendor, or applicant documents not actively being reviewed outside the resident inspector's office, especially when the team is off site. Inspectors should not lock licensee, vendor, or applicant documents in an NRC controlled locker outside of the residence inspector's office.
- f. Licensee, Vendor, or Applicant Controlled Information and Space
  - 1. Inspectors should inform licensee, vendor, or applicant management before the inspection that they might request documents from the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's document control staff.

2. When the licensee, vendor, or applicant uses a form to request controlled documents from its storage facility or document control clerks, the inspector may fill out this form following the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's procedures.
3. Inspectors may review licensee, vendor, or applicant controlled documents and records at any time during the inspection on licensee, vendor, or applicant owned property. This also includes any licensee controlled documents maintained by the licensee in the resident inspector's office. Inspectors should not remove controlled documents from the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's property or resident inspector's office, or dispose of it without informing the licensee. Confidential commercial information (e.g., third party accreditation reports) should be reviewed on licensee-owned property outside of the Resident Inspector's Office to the extent possible and generally should not be reproduced by NRC inspectors unless required to support regulatory oversight.
4. Office space provided on site and outside of the residence inspector's office for inspections or record reviews is not considered NRC office space. In this space, licensee, vendor, or applicant documents reviewed by inspectors are considered to be in the possession of licensee unless added to the NRC working file by the inspector. Inspectors should be aware that if they take notes on licensee, vendor, or applicant documents, the documents become part of the working file record which shall ultimately be disposed of or retained in accordance with Section 04.04a. Licensee, vendor, or applicant documents reproduced by the NRC or given to the NRC by licensee staff may be added to the NRC working file by the inspector. While in the NRC's possession, these documents are subject to FOIA.

g. Licensee, Vendor, or Applicant Forms and Written Documentation

1. Some licensees, vendors, or applicants supply forms for inspectors to use during inspections, for written questions or to request information and documents that are needed to continue the inspection. Inspectors shall only use licensee, vendor, or applicant-generated forms to request records and documents. All other information (e.g., questions) should be requested verbally. Some licensees, vendors, or applicants may document and track an inspector's questions and then generate written interim and final answers to these questions. These written licensee, vendor, or applicant generated responses can be reviewed by the inspector during the on-site inspection.
2. Written answers by licensee, vendor, or applicant personnel on a licensee, vendor, or applicant form, in response to verbal questions by an inspector, which the inspector retains after leaving the site as the basis of an inspection finding, are also NRC official records subject to public disclosure. The inspector shall notify the licensee, vendor, or applicant

that the retained form will be considered an NRC official record subject to potential public disclosure and provide the licensee, vendor, or applicant the opportunity to request that the information be withheld pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1).

3. Written answers provided in response to inspector questions are considered working files and managed according to the instructions in Section 04.04a. Written answers provided on licensee, vendor, or applicant forms that do not provide the basis for a substantiated inspection conclusion (i.e., finding) generally are not ultimately retained by the NRC as official records in ADAMS. The licensee, vendor, or applicant may decide the disposition of licensee, vendor, or applicant forms not retained by the inspector that do not otherwise need to be maintained under regulatory requirement.

h. Release of Information before Inspection Report Issuance

1. Discussions with licensees, vendors, or applicants related to information contained in the inspection report should be limited to the observations made by the inspector during the inspection and the inspector's preliminary assessment of the observation.
2. Consistent with NRC policies, procedures and regulatory requirements, no portion of any inspection report or draft inspection documents shall be shown to or given to licensees, vendors, or applicants, or to any other group or person external to the NRC before formal issuance of the inspection report, without the explicit permission of the EDO. If inspection documentation is inadvertently or improperly released, the affected Office Director or Regional Administrator shall inform the EDO in writing as to the facts concerning the release within 30 days or sooner if reporting to U.S. CERT (Computer Emergency Readiness Team) in response to a data spill. The responsible office or region should take corrective action to retrieve the documentation and prevent recurrence of such a release.
3. If inspection documents or inspection-generated information are inadvertently left unattended for a period of time in a non-NRC controlled area or public space, it should be determined whether the subject matter was reviewed in detail by third parties or if a substantive release of information occurred. If release of information is evident, the division director should be notified for further discussion and any security related aspects of the release should be address in accordance with MD 12.2.
4. Significant safety or security-related information shall be promptly and clearly communicated to responsible licensee, vendor, or applicant management to obtain prompt evaluation and corrective action. There are few circumstances where this information cannot be relayed orally. Therefore, no draft inspection documents shall be given to the licensee, vendor, or applicant unless the issue is so time-critical that oral communication will not suffice to prevent or mitigate an emergency or



significant safety or safeguards event (e.g., accidental criticality, core damage). Under these circumstances prior EDO approval would not be required.

- i. Additional Controls and Marking Requirements. Sensitive unclassified information shall be marked and controlled in accordance with MD 12.2, 12.7, and the SUNSI Handling Requirements (<http://www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html>).

#### 04.03 FOIA Requirements

- a. Records that are in the possession and control of the NRC are subject to the FOIA. Examples of such records include but are not limited to, the following:
  1. Memoranda, facsimile transmissions (faxes), and electronic files, such as Word files, e-mail, and databases.
  2. Licensee, vendor, or applicant documents, including but not limited to photographs, diagrams, and video recordings, which may be controlled, uncontrolled, or in draft form which are in the possession and under the control of an NRC inspector such as those files or records maintained in the working file.
  3. NRC-originated photographs, videos, or sound recordings that are in the possession of the NRC staff.
  4. Documented or transcribed conversations.
  5. Inspector notes, that have been shared with others or commingled with NRC official records.
  6. Background material in the possession and control of the NRC staff.
  7. Preliminary inspection findings.
- b. Documents may be withheld in part or in their entirety for information that falls within one or more of the FOIA exemptions defined in 10 CFR Part 9 (see MD 3.1 for more detailed explanations of FOIA exemptions).

Note: A copy of all records that are within the scope of the FOIA request must be provided. Any record to be withheld in part or in its entirety must be bracketed with the appropriate FOIA exemption noted.

#### 04.04 Record Retention and Disposition

- a. Retaining Records. All Federal agencies must make and preserve records containing adequate and proper documentation of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, and essential transactions of the agency. Inspectors and SRAs are to retain the essential information necessary to

document the formulation of inspection and licensing conclusions and inspection-related agency decisions and actions (i.e., documents, records, and correspondences including e-mail that provide the basis for an inspection finding, significance determination, or licensing action). If the information would be needed to explain or support the actions of decisions of the NRC the documents should be preserved in the official file. Working file records can be destroyed after they are incorporated into a final product such as an issued inspection report provided that they are not needed to fully document the agency's actions or decisions. Supporting or supplemental inspection documentation related to inspection findings or violations would not normally be maintained after the issuance of the final inspection report or beyond the time period afforded for any licensee appeals. Supporting or supplemental inspection documentation should normally only be referenced in the inspection report when it can be readily retrieved from the licensee document control system or files.

- b. The documents listed below, with the notable exceptions of those including SGI which is typically stored in the SGI LAN Electronic Safe (SLES), **predecisional enforcement documents**, and allegations files are required to be declared as records and placed in ADAMS:
  - 1. Written correspondence, including e-mails and faxes, to the licensee, vendor, or applicant that were required to substantiate regulatory conclusions (i.e., findings, significance determination, or licensing action).
  - 2. Team inspection notification and document request letters generated per Section 04.01a.5.
  - 3. Inspection reports.
  - 4. Photographs, videos, or recordings that do not contain personal privacy, classified, proprietary, or safeguards information, that were required to substantiate regulatory conclusions (i.e., findings, significance determination, or licensing action).
  - 5. Documents or excerpts of documents retained by an inspector that were used to substantiate regulatory conclusions (i.e., findings, significance determination, or licensing action).
  - 6. Where approved by the EDO, written lists of significant inspection issues requiring prompt corrective action that have been provided to the licensee, vendor, or applicant. This list should be attached to the inspection report or meeting summary when issued.
  - 7. Any documentary information related to inspection activities that an NRC inspector distributes or presents (e.g., PowerPoint presentation) at a management meeting with the licensee, vendor, or applicant. Such written material must be placed in ADAMS and attached to or referenced in the inspection report or meeting summary.

Note: Documents or portions of documents that meet the requirements of 10 CFR 2.390(b), the exceptions to the definition of “agency record” found at and 10 CFR 9.13, “Definitions,” and 10 CFR 9.17, “Agency records exempt from public disclosure,” generally would not be made publicly available, subject to applicable FOIA law and policy.

- c. Destruction. Documents and records which are not retained and contain sensitive unclassified information must be destroyed in a manner which prevents reconstruction of the information (e.g., shredded). Sensitive unclassified information may also be placed in receptacles designated for classified waste or approved for sensitive unclassified. For further information on document destruction, see the SUNSI Handling Requirements (<http://www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html>). For information on handling classified information or SGI, see MD 12.2 or MD 12.7.

## 0620.05 REFERENCES

42 U.S.C. 2011 et Seq., “Atomic Energy Act of 1954”

10 CFR 2.390, “Public Inspection Exemptions, Requests for Withholding”

10 CFR Part 9, “Public Records” (FOIA’s, Privacy Act Information)

10 CFR 30.8, “Information collection requirements: OMB approval” (Materials)

10 CFR 50.8, “Information collection requirements: OMB approval” (Power Reactors)

10 CFR 70.8, “Information collection requirements: OMB approval” (Special Nuclear Material)

10 CFR 30.52, “Inspections” (Materials)

10 CFR 50.70, “Inspections” (Power Reactors)

10 CFR 70.55, “Inspections” (Special Nuclear Material)

[MD 3.1](#), “Freedom of Information Act”

[MD 3.2](#), “Privacy Act”

[MD 3.23](#), “Mail Management”

[MD 3.53](#), “NRC Records and Document Management Program”

[MD 3.54](#), “NRC Collections of Information and Reports Management”

[MD 12.1](#), “NRC Facility Security Program”

[MD 12.2](#), “NRC Classified Information Security Program”

[MD 12.4](#), “NRC Telecommunications Systems Security Program”

[MD 12.7](#), “NRC Safeguards Information Security Program”

[IMC 0330](#), “Guidance for NRC Review of Licensee Draft Documents”

[IMC 0610](#), “Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Inspection Reports”

[IMC 0612](#), “Power Reactor Inspection Reports”

[IMC 613](#), “Documenting 10 CFR Part 52 Construction and Test Inspections”

[IMC 0615](#), “Research and Test Reactor Inspection Reports”

[IMC 0616](#), “Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards Inspection Reports”

[IMC 0617](#), “Vendor and Quality Assurance Implementation Inspection Reports”

[NRR Office Instruction COM-203](#), “Informal Interfacing and Exchange of Information with Licensees and Applicants”

Exhibit 1 – Use of Photos during the Inspection Process or for Informal Training

USE OF PHOTOS DURING THE INSPECTION PROCESS		
QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
1. Should I inform the licensee, vendor, or applicant prior to taking photographs?	<p>The licensee, vendor, or applicant should be made aware that the NRC may be taking photographs during all inspection activities.</p> <p>Requests by the licensee, vendor, or applicant to review photographs for personal privacy, classified, proprietary, or safeguards information should normally be honored.</p> <p>Use common sense in taking photographs as part of your routine inspection activities. Avoid taking photographs of personnel or plant or facility features related to security when irrelevant to the inspection. Follow the licensee's policy on the use of photographic equipment, including the prohibition of flash photography in areas of sensitive equipment.</p>	IMC 0620, "Inspection Documents and Records"
2. What if the licensee, vendor, or applicant objects to taking photographs?	All licensee objections should be considered seriously. If photographs require protection under 10 CFR 2.390, they should be appropriately marked and controlled. Inspectors will often need to use photography to effectively document inspection-related agency decisions and actions. Objections to photography based on actual safety or security concerns should be evaluated, but the licensee, vendor, or applicant should not impede or interfere with NRC inspections by limiting the use of NRC cameras. Inspectors should share any licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's concerns with their regional management when objections are raised.	

USE OF PHOTOS DURING THE INSPECTION PROCESS		
QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
3. Can I forward photographs to my management electronically without the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's review?	Yes, after the photograph is classified and appropriately controlled it can be electronically forwarded to management (Refer to Question 5 for additional guidance). The inspector should consider obtaining the licensee, vendor, or applicant review to ensure an accurate classification when deemed appropriate. Inspection related photographs should be controlled to prevent public disclosure except as allowed by established Government processes (e.g., EDO's permission, inspection report issuance, or FOIA).	IMC 0620, "Inspection Documents and Records"
4. Do I need something in writing from the licensee, vendor, or applicant that says it has reviewed the pictures for classified, safeguards, SUNSI?	No. However, requests by the licensee, vendor, or applicant to review photographs for classified, safeguards, or SUNSI (personal privacy or proprietary information) information should normally be honored so as to ensure proper classification. Appropriate steps should be taken to protect photographs when sensitive information is discovered.	
5. Is there agency guidance on how to forward photographs that contain classified or sensitive unclassified information?	<p>Yes. Photographs that contain proprietary information or are SUNSI can be forwarded electronically (via email or fax). Photographs that contain unencrypted classified or SGI cannot be forwarded via email over an unapproved network or unsecured fax (Refer to Section 04.01a7 for additional guidance).</p> <p>Also, all photographs believed to contain classified information, SGI, or SUNSI must be marked in accordance with applicable requirements. Camera film, digital memory, and the recording media used to take the classified photographs must be appropriately protected and secured when unattended.</p>	<p>MD 12.2, "NRC Classified Information Security Program"</p> <p>MD 12.4, "NRC Telecommunications Systems Security Program"</p> <p>SUNSI Handling Requirements  <a href="http://www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html">http://www.internal.nrc.gov/sunsi/index.html</a>)</p>



USE OF PHOTOS DURING THE INSPECTION PROCESS		
QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
7. What if the licensee, vendor, or applicant requests that a photograph be withheld from public disclosure because it contains personal privacy or proprietary information?	<p>When the licensee, vendor, or applicant seeks to withhold from public disclosure a photograph containing SUNSI (proprietary or privacy information), the NRC should advise the licensee, vendor, or applicant to submit an application for withholding pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1). If the information is proprietary the request must be accompanied by an affidavit.</p> <p>If the photograph is the basis for a finding, it may be edited by the licensee, vendor, or applicant to delete the sensitive information unless that information is necessary to support the finding.</p> <p>REMINDER, See IMC 0620</p>	<p>10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)</p> <p>MD 12.1, "NRC Facility Security Program"</p>



USING PHOTOS FOR INFORMAL TRAINING		
QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
8. If photographs are not used to support inspection findings can they be retained for training purposes?	<p>If the photographs do not contain classified, safeguards information, or SUNSI (personal privacy or proprietary), they may be retained for informal training purposes.</p> <p>If the photographs contain classified, safeguards information, or SUNSI (personal privacy or proprietary), then they should be destroyed unless such information is absolutely necessary to support formal training objectives.</p>	<p>NRC authority under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954</p> <p>IMC 0620, "Inspection Documents and Records"</p>
9. Do I need the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's permission to keep these photographs?	<p>You do not need the licensee's, vendor's, or applicant's permission to retain these photographs for training purposes if you believe these photographs would be helpful in carrying out NRC's regulatory responsibilities.</p> <p>Requests by the licensee, vendor, or applicant to review photographs for classified, safeguards, or SUNSI (personal privacy or proprietary information) information should normally be honored to ensure proper classification.</p>	NRC authority under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954
10. Are training photographs subject to FOIA?	Yes.	MD 3.1, "Freedom of Information Act"
11. How should the photographs be identified?	<p>Photographs that contain proprietary information must be labeled as such in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b) and should include the date and name of the facility or facility owner.</p> <p>Photographs should be documented and classified as they are produced.</p>	10 CFR 2.390 36 CFR 1237.28(h).

USING PHOTOS FOR INFORMAL TRAINING		
QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
12. If the photographs contain classified and safeguards information can they still be used for training purposes?	Yes, but only if absolutely necessary and only if the photographs support an inspection finding (REMINDER, Staff reviewing such photographs must possess the appropriate clearance levels and have a “need to know”). If this is the case, such photographs and or digital cameras that contain classified and safeguards information must be secured and agency guidance followed. Follow guidance in IMC 0620 regarding licensee, vendor, or applicant review of such photographs.	IMC 0620, “Inspection Documents and Records”  MD 12.1, “NRC Facility Security Plan”  MD 12.2, “NRC Classified Information Security Program”
13. Are photographs used for training purposes required to go in ADAMS?	No, if the photographs are used for informal training (on the job training (OJT) and learning opportunities). Yes, if the photographs are used for formal training (e.g., Technical Training Center). Note: SGI photographs would be stored on the SLES or on another approved storage location for training.	MD 3.53, “NRC Records Management Program”
14. How long should photographs used for informal training (OJT and learning opportunities) be retained?  How long should photographs used for formal training be retained?	Photographs should be destroyed when they are no longer needed.  Currently, the only formal training is through the Human Resources/Technical Training Division, and retention schedules exist for them. Regional offices typically provide only informal training.	

## Exhibit 2 – Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

### **“PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT**

This letter does not contain new or amended information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). Existing information collection requirements were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, control number 3150-0011.

### **PUBLIC PROTECTION NOTIFICATION**

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.”

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Note: Refer to the appropriate section of the CFR to find the applicable OMB control number for your activity (e.g., 10 CFR 30.8, 10 CFR 50.8, 10 CFR 70.8)



Attachment 1 – Revision History for IMC 0620

Commitment Tracking Number	Issue Date	Description of Change	Training Required	Training Completion Date	Comment Resolution Accession Number
N/A	07/08/96 <a href="#">CN 96-015</a>	Revised to ensure compliance with the National Archive and Records Administration (NARA) regulations relating to the creation and retention of federal agency records.	No	N/A	
N/A	01/27/06 <a href="#">CN 06-002</a> <a href="#">ML053330558</a>	Completed 4-year review for commitments. Eliminated the requirement to list all documents reviewed as an attachment to the inspection report and the requirement to place all documents reviewed in ADAMS. Updated and added security documents that contain classified information. Added guidance on the use of e-mail during the inspection process.	No	N/A	
N/A	05/15/09 <a href="#">CN 09-013</a> <a href="#">ML083540780</a>	Added amplifying information on written requests for information, updated definitions and references.	No	N/A	<a href="#">ML083540770</a>

Commitment Tracking Number	Issue Date	Description of Change	Training Required	Training Completion Date	Comment Resolution Accession Number
N/A	09/12/11 CN 11-015 ML093270149	Improve guidance on unfettered access, possession, and control. Added policy to inform licensee prior to removing copies of licensee controlled documents from the site and for inspectors to purge unnecessary licensee documents when no longer reasonably needed (FF 0620-1484). Revised the record retention guidance to conform to 36 CFR. Added guidance on information requests including the required Paperwork Reduction Act Statement.	No	N/A	<a href="#">ML100332132</a>