

52.204-21 Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems.

As prescribed in 4.1903 , insert the following clause:

Basic *Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems* (Nov 2021)

(a) *Definitions*. As used in this clause—

Covered contractor information system means an *information system* that is owned or operated by a *contractor* that processes, stores, or transmits *Federal contract information*.

Federal contract information means *information*, not intended for public release, that is provided by or generated for the Government under a *contract* to develop or deliver a product or service to the Government, but not including *information* provided by the Government to the public (such as on public websites) or simple transactional *information*, such as necessary to process payments.

Information means any communication or representation of knowledge such as facts, *data*, or opinions, in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual (Committee on National Security Systems Instruction (CNSSI) 4009).

Information system means a discrete set of *information* resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of *information* (44 U.S.C. 3502).

Safeguarding means measures or controls that are prescribed to protect *information* systems.

(b) *Safeguarding* requirements and procedures.

(1) The *Contractor* shall apply the following basic *safeguarding* requirements and procedures to protect covered *contractor information* systems. Requirements and procedures for basic *safeguarding* of covered *contractor information* systems shall include, at a minimum, the following security controls:

(i) Limit *information system* access to authorized users, processes acting on behalf of authorized users, or devices (including other *information* systems).

(ii) Limit *information system* access to the types of transactions and functions that authorized users are permitted to execute.

(iii) Verify and control/limit connections to and use of external *information* systems.

(iv) Control *information* posted or processed on publicly accessible *information* systems.

(v) Identify *information system* users, processes acting on behalf of users, or devices.

(vi) Authenticate (or verify) the identities of those users, processes, or devices, as a prerequisite to allowing access to organizational *information* systems.

(vii) Sanitize or destroy *information system* media containing *Federal Contract Information*

before disposal or release for reuse.

(viii) Limit physical access to organizational *information* systems, *equipment*, and the respective operating environments to authorized individuals.

(ix) Escort visitors and monitor visitor activity; maintain audit logs of physical access; and control and manage physical access devices.

(x) Monitor, control, and protect organizational communications (*i.e.*, *information* transmitted or received by organizational *information* systems) at the external boundaries and key internal boundaries of the *information* systems.

(xi) Implement subnetworks for publicly accessible system components that are physically or logically separated from internal networks.

(xii) Identify, report, and correct *information* and *information system* flaws in a timely manner.

(xiii) *Provide* protection from malicious code at appropriate locations within organizational *information* systems.

(xiv) Update malicious code protection mechanisms when *new* releases are available.

(xv) Perform periodic scans of the *information system* and real-time scans of files from external sources as files are downloaded, opened, or executed.

(2) *Other requirements.* This clause does not relieve the *Contractor* of any other specific *safeguarding* requirements specified by Federal agencies and departments relating to covered *contractor information* systems generally or other Federal *safeguarding* requirements for controlled unclassified *information* (CUI) as established by *Executive Order* 13556.

(c) *Subcontracts.* The *Contractor* shall include the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (c), in subcontracts under this *contract* (including subcontracts for the *acquisition* of commercial *products* or commercial services, other than commercially available off-the-shelf items), in which the *subcontractor* may have *Federal contract information* residing in or transiting through its *information system*.

(End of clause)

Parent topic: [52.204 \[Reserved\]](#)