



Interagency Security Committee

What We Do

The Interagency Security Committee (ISC) is a collaborative body dedicated to the protection of non-military Federal facilities in the United States.

The full Interagency Security Committee meets quarterly and is chaired by the Department of Homeland Security. ISC members represent 41 Federal agencies and departments and participate in working groups to:

- Develop physical security policies and standards
- Promote key management practices and
- Facilitate the mitigation of threats to the workplace, employees and the visiting public

In addition, the ISC engages with industry and stakeholders to continually assess risk and share best practices.

ISC Working Groups

ISC members participate in various working groups to develop and publish Federal security standards and best practices that address a wide range of current and potential risks. Working groups focus on priority risk-based physical security programs, including:

Standards

- Develop, update and consolidate physical security criteria for Federal buildings including existing, leased, and new buildings
- Establish minimum standards for:
 - Armed contract guards
 - Protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Best Practices

- Evaluate best practices and distribute policy guidance for:
 - Performance measures for security programs
 - Strategic human capital management
 - HSPD-12 implementation: common identification standard for Federal employees and contractors
 - Facilities Security Committee (FSC)
 - Prevention of Workplace Violence – in collaboration with the Chief Human Capital Officers Council (CHCOC) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)



ISC Policies

Since its creation in 1995, the ISC has published key documents including:

NEW! **Facility Security Level Determinations (FOUO):** Defines the criteria and process to be used in determining the facility security level of a Federal facility, a categorization that then serves as the basis for implementing protective measures under other ISC standards.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. General Services Administration

This photo of the Oklahoma City Federal Building was selected for the cover of the FSL in tribute to the people of Oklahoma City, whose tragedy precipitated the creation of the Interagency Security Committee in 1995.

Security Standards for Leased Spaces (FOUO): Reflects background information on why standards expressly for leased locations are needed and identifies the framework of considerations upon which the standards were developed to close the security double standard for leased and owned buildings.

Security Design Criteria for New Federal Office Buildings and Major Modernization Projects (FOUO): Developed to ensure that security becomes an integral part of the planning, design and construction of all new Federal courthouses, new Federal office buildings and major modernization projects, the criteria consider security in all building systems and elements.

ISC Guidance on Escape Hoods: Provides guidance to Federal agencies that are considering whether to provide escape hoods to employees for use in the event of chemical, biological or other emergencies.

ISC Best Practices for Safe Mail Handling: Identifies best mail room operations practices used by Federal agencies and assists security managers to implement safe mail handling practices at their facilities.



Pictured from left to right: Austin Smith, Bob Shaw, Gwainever Hess, Mark Strickland, Joe Gerber, Tom Wood, Jeff Barnhart, Calvin Byrd, and Reid Hilliard

Austin Smith, ISC Executive Director, presented Certificates of Appreciation to the authors of the new ISC Standard, Facility Security Level Determinations (FSL).