SmartSuite

Framework / Cybersecurity / Other

OPNAVINST N9210.3, Safeguarding of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information (NNPI), Unclassified Portion

OPNAVINST N9210.3 (2010) defines Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information and sets the marking, access, disclosure, contract, visit, IT and disposal rules for Navy activities and contractors.



What it is

Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information (NNPI) is classified or unclassified information concerning the design, arrangement, development, manufacture, testing, operation, administration, training, maintenance and repair of the propulsion plants of naval nuclear-powered ships and prototypes and their support facilities, and OPNAVINST N9210.3, Safeguarding of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information, issued by the Chief of Naval Operations on 7 June 2010, is the instruction that defines it and sets the safeguarding requirements for Navy commands, Navy personnel and the contractors whose systems or facilities process NNPI under Navy contracts. This page describes the unclassified portion of the instruction, which the Navy publishes without its Table 2 list of systems and components.

At a glance

PUBLISHER U.S. Navy, Chief of Naval Operations; Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (CNO N00N / Naval Reactors)	TYPE Regulation	VERSION OPNAVINST N9210.3 (7 June 2010), unclassified portion
EFFECTIVE June 7, 2010	DOMAIN Cybersecurity	FAMILY Other
REGION United States	INDUSTRY Aerospace & Defense	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance
IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY High		

Source: secnav.navy.mil/doni/Directives/09000%20General%20Ship%20Design%20and%20Support/09-200%20Propulsion%20Plants%20Support/N9210.3%20%28Unclas%20Portion%29.pdf

Why it matters

- **A written test for what is NNPI** Chapter 1, paragraph 3 makes an item NNPI when it associates a naval nuclear propulsion plant or support facility reference, a Table 2 system or component, and technical parameters or operational conditions, with exemptions for commercial off-the-shelf items, piece parts and military-qualified parts used in non-nuclear applications.
- **A named control officer** Chapter 2, paragraph 2 requires each activity that routinely deals with NNPI to designate an NNPI Control Officer (NNPICO) with written authority to decide whether documents are correctly marked.
- **Need to know for unclassified material** Chapter 4, paragraph 1 limits access to U-NNPI to those with a need to know for assigned work, and classified NNPI that is Restricted Data requires a final Government clearance.
- **Foreign access controlled at the top** Foreign disclosure is prohibited except under an approved government-to-government agreement with CNO approval in each instance; dual citizens needing U-NNPI are reported to CNO (N00N) before access; foreign national visits need CNO (N00N) approval (chapters 4 and 8).

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How SmartSuite supports NNPI

NNPI Determination Register

Record each chapter 1, paragraph 3 evaluation: the propulsion plant reference, the Table 2 system, the technical parameters, any exemption claimed and the resulting marking (classified, U-NNPI or unrestricted), with the NNPICO's decision.

Access and Need-to-Know Control

Keep the roster of people authorized for U-NNPI and classified NNPI with their need-to-know basis, dual-citizenship reports to CNO (N00N) and executive branch or outside-program disclosure approvals under chapter 4.

Contract Clause and DD 254 Tracking

Track which contracts and subcontracts carry NNPI protection requirements, the bidder stipulations issued, the NN-801, NN-802 or NN-817 guideline each contractor follows and the DD 254 for classified NNPI (chapter 7).

Facility Visit Approvals

Manage visit requests for U.S. citizens and nationals and for foreign nationals or representatives of a foreign interest, with the CNO (N00N) approval obtained before an invitation is issued (chapter 8).

OPNAV 9210/1 IT Checklist

Run the chapter 9 operational, managerial and technical controls as a checklist per IT system, including the authorization of systems located outside the United States, in Cyber & IT Risk.

Disposal and Unauthorized Release

Log disposal of NNPI documents, media and equipment under chapter 6, and route any release in violation of chapter 4 to the NNPICO for the report to CNO (N00N) that paragraph 8 requires.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1 · COBIT 2019 · DFARS 252.204-7012 · NIST 800-171 Rev. 3 · FedRAMP Rev. 5 · ISO 27001:2022 · NIST CSF 2.0 · NIST 800-53 Rev.5 · SOC 2 · CMMC 2.0

Official resources

Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information Protection Requirements

Defines requirements for safeguarding unclassified Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information.

secnav.navy.mil/doni/Directives/09000%20General%20Ship%20Design%20and%20Support/09-200%20Propulsion%20Plants%20Support/N9210.3%20%28Unclas%20Portion%29.pdf

CUI Registry: Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information (NNPI)

The National Archives CUI Registry entry for the NNPI category, with its marking and the statutory authorities (42 U.S.C. 2013, 42 U.S.C. 2168 and 50 U.S.C. 2511).

archives.gov/cui/registry/category-detail/naval-nuclear-propulsion-info

Frequently asked questions

What is Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information, and how is it identified?

Chapter 1 of OPNAVINST N9210.3 defines NNPI as classified or unclassified information concerning the design, arrangement, development, manufacture, testing, operation, administration, training, maintenance and repair of the propulsion plants of naval nuclear-powered ships and prototypes and their support facilities. Paragraph 3 makes an item NNPI when it associates a propulsion plant or support facility reference (such as a hull number or component nameplate data), a system or component listed in Table 2, and technical parameters or operational conditions, subject to exemptions for commercial off-the-shelf items, piece parts and military-qualified parts used in non-nuclear applications.

What is U-NNPI, and how is it marked?

U-NNPI is unclassified NNPI. Chapter 1, paragraph 4 provides that information found to be NNPI but given no classification or other handling control by the instruction's references is marked and handled as U-NNPI. Chapter 2 requires documents issued after the instruction to carry its markings and distribution warning statements, IT media to be marked NOFORN (U-NNPI) and IT equipment to be labeled; paragraph or portion markings are not required. In the federal CUI system the category carries the marking NNPI and the banner CUI//SP-NNPI.

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Who may access NNPI, and who approves disclosure?

Chapter 4 limits classified NNPI to people with an appropriate clearance and a need to know, with a final Government clearance required where the information is also Restricted Data, and limits U-NNPI to people with a need to know for assigned work. Disclosure to executive branch personnel outside the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, or to anyone outside the U.S. Government except in performance of program tasks, requires CNO (N00N) approval in each instance; dual citizens needing U-NNPI are reported to CNO (N00N) before access; foreign disclosure is prohibited except under an approved government-to-government agreement with CNO approval each time.

What does the instruction require of contractors and subcontractors?

Chapter 7 confines NNPI protection requirements to contracts with a direct naval nuclear propulsion plant association and requires procuring activities to include control and protection requirements in those contracts and subcontracts. Bidders receiving U-NNPI with a solicitation sign a stipulation to protect it; contracts involving classified NNPI incorporate the handling requirements into the DD 254; and contractors already bound by NN-801, NN-802 or NN-817 continue to use those guidelines. Chapter 8 adds CNO (N00N) approval for visits by foreign nationals to facilities performing naval nuclear propulsion work.

Which IT systems may process NNPI, and how is NNPI disposed of?

Chapter 9 allows NNPI only on IT systems owned or operated by, for or on behalf of a Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program activity, requires specific CNO (N00N) approval for systems outside the United States, and requires access by authorized individuals only, on authorized systems, in authorized workspaces, for authorized purposes, with the controls on OPNAV 9210/1, the IT Checklist for NNPI. Chapter 6 requires NNPI documents to be disposed of as classified material, permits recycling of U-NNPI documents shredded to half an inch or less under controlled collection, and requires CNO (N00N) approval of any other method.

License included / downloadable: Yes The unclassified portion of OPNAVINST N9210.3 is a U.S. Navy issuance published free of charge on the Department of the Navy Issuances site; the platform links to that PDF. The complete instruction, including Table 2, is distributed only on the Navy's classified issuances site.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/us-nnpi-unclassified-naval-nuclear-propulsion-information-protection

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