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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
Washington 25, D. C.

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NSA REGULATION
NUMBER 90-2

24 November 1954

EFFECTIVE UNTIL 1 DECEMBER 1955 UNLESS SOONER
RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED

NOMENCLATURE FOR COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY MATERIALS

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SECTION I - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Regulation is to establish and describe a system for the assignment of nomenclature to U.S. communications security materials produced by, for, or under the authority of the Director, National Security Agency, as established by National Security Council Directive on Communications Security (NSC 168), 20 October 1953, and Department of Defense Directive on Communications Security (DOD C-5200.5), 24 April 1954.

SECTION II - GENERAL

1. Communications Security Materials: Communications Security materials (hereinafter referred to as COMSEC materials) covered by this Regulation include the equipments, devices and documents described below. For the purpose of this Regulation they are classified and defined according to their basic operational functions.

a. Crypto-equipments: Equipments, and components thereof, that perform, or assist in the performance of cryptographic functions in cryptosystems designed to provide security to telecommunications.

b. Crypto-Ancillary Equipments: Equipments, and components thereof, that are required and specifically designed for use with crypto-equipments as an integral part of cryptosystems, but which, in themselves, do not perform cryptographic functions or have a cryptographic connotation.

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c. Crypto-Manufacturing Equipments: Equipments, and components thereof, that are specifically designed for, and used in the manufacture and associated testing of COMSEC materials.

d. Special Purpose Equipments: Equipments, and components thereof, that are specifically designed to perform functions related to telecommunications security but which, in themselves, are not an integral part of any cryptosystem or manufacturing process.

e. COMSEC Aids: All materials other than equipments that perform or assist in the performance of cryptographic functions, or relate to associated functions and equipments, and are required in the operation and maintenance of cryptosystems and components thereof.

2. Nomenclature System:

a. The nomenclature system established by, and described in this Regulation will be known by the long title of "Nomenclature System for U.S. COMSEC Materials"; and by the short title of "TSEC System".

b. The term "TSEC" (abbreviation for "Telecommunications Security") will be the "system designator". In order to distinguish this system from all other nomenclature systems, the term will always appear in the official short titles of all materials subject to this Regulation.

c. "TSEC" nomenclature will consist of a long title (name) and a short title (type number and the system designator); and will be assigned to each equipment, major component or item of COMSEC materials defined in paragraph 1, above.

- (1) Long titles will be determined by individual consideration of the basic function and type of each item of material to be titled; they will not be assigned in accordance with a system or format. As a rule, they will be as short and as general as possible or appropriate. (Examples: Literal Cipher Machine, Speech Security Equipment, DAPHNE Key List, Synchronizing Unit, Translator.)
- (2) Short titles will be based on the "Table of Indicators" shown in Appendix.
 - (a) Short titles for equipments will be derived as explained in SECTION III.

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- (b) Short titles for COMSEC aids will be derived as explained in SECTION IV.

d. "TSEC" nomenclature will not be assigned to parts, sub-assemblies, sub-units or similar items that will otherwise be subject to parts cataloging under other systems.

SECTION III - SHORT TITLES FOR COMSEC EQUIPMENT

1. Definitions: For the purpose of assignment of short titles to equipments and components, the following definitions will apply:

a. Equipment: A single equipment, or a group of two (2) or more components which is capable of operating independently to perform all the functions required to fulfill an intended COMSEC purpose. (Examples: literal cipher machine, teletypewriter security equipment, key tape production equipment, tape checker.)

b. Component:

- (1) A group of parts assembled together as a unit to perform a definite and complete function necessary to the operation of the equipment of which it is a part. (Examples: cipher unit, key generator, alarm unit, stepping unit), or
- (2) A group of parts assembled together as a separately removable and replaceable (and accountable, as appropriate) unit, although the group may not, in itself, perform a complete function necessary to the operation of the equipment of which it is a part. (Examples: drawer, cabinet, keyer assembly, tube chassis.)

2. Equipment Short Titles: Equipment short titles will contain the following elements, arranged in the order listed:

- a. The system designator "TSEC", followed by a slant line.
- b. A type number consisting of a descriptive digraph, a dash and an equipment number.
- (1) Descriptive digraphs will be selected from the Table of Indicators: each will include:
- (a) A "Function" indicator, to indicate the basic, or general function which the equipment performs.

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(b) A "Type" indicator, to indicate the general type of the equipment.

(2) Equipment numbers will be selected consecutively beginning with 1 for the first of each series of identical descriptive digraphs.

c. Examples: TSEC/KW-1, TSEC/HY-3, TSEC/MP-7.

3. Component Short Titles: Component short titles will contain the following elements, arranged in the order listed:

a. A type number consisting of a descriptive trigraph, a dash and a component number.

(1) Descriptive trigraphs will be selected from the Table of Indicators; each will include:

(a) The "Function" and "Type" indicators of the equipment of which the component is a part.

(b) A "Component" indicator, to indicate the specific type or function of the component.

(2) Component numbers will be selected consecutively beginning with 1 for the first of each series of identical trigraphs.

b. The system designator "TSEC" preceded by a slant line.

c. The equipment number of the basic equipment. (This number will be used only when the component is an integral part of, and can be used only with a specific equipment; it will not be used when a component can be used with more than one type of equipment.)

d. Examples: KYC-3/TSEC2, HWH-3/TSEC, MTE-7/TSEC6.

4. Development Model Identification: An equipment or component that is in research or development will be designated by the addition to its basic short title of the letter "D" inclosed in parentheses. (Example: TSEC/KI-4(D); KYG-3(D)/TSEC.)

4. Modification Identification:

a. Each significant modification to an equipment or component that results in the loss of interchangeability of its

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component parts, but does not affect the cryptographic intercommunicability or interchangeability of the equipment or component as a whole, with the unmodified version, will be identified by the addition of a modification suffix letter to the short title of the unmodified version.

- (1) Modification suffix letters will be selected from the normal alphabet beginning with "A" for the first modified equipment or component, and will appear in the short title immediately following the equipment or component number. (Example: TSEC/KX-4A; KLB-3C/TSEC2.)

- (a) Because of possible confusion with figures, the letters "O" and "I" will not be used as modification suffix letters.

b. Each minor modification to an equipment or component (minor wiring changes, parts additions or deletions, or other similar modifications) that does not, in any way, affect the cryptographic intercommunicability or the interchangeability of parts and assemblies, will be identified by an appropriate marking placed on the equipment or component so modified. The short title of the modified version will remain the same as that of the unmodified equipment or component.

- (1) Marking will indicate that equipment or component has been modified in accordance with the appropriate Modification Instruction (see SECTION IV), (Example: MOD. KAB-1).
- (2) Marking will be placed on the equipment as near as possible to the nameplate and will be made by means of stencil, decal or metal plate. Exact location and type of marking will be dependent upon the size, mechanical construction, finish and other physical characteristics of the equipment or component concerned, and will be separately determined in each case.

c. When an equipment or component is modified to the extent that it is no longer cryptographically intercommunicable with the unmodified version, the equipment or component will be assigned a new short title.

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SECTION IV - SHORT TITLES FOR COMSEC AIDS

1. COMSEC aids include, but are not necessarily limited to, general instructional publications, operation and maintenance manuals, rotors, key disks, key lists, codes and ciphers, strips, and one-time tapes and pads.

2. For the purpose of short title assignment, COMSEC aids are considered to be components of cryptosystems and will be assigned short titles in the same manner as equipment components.

3. Short titles assigned to each item, set or series of COMSEC aids will consist of a descriptive trigraph, a dash, an item number, a slant line and the system designator, in that order.

a. Descriptive trigraphs will be selected from the Table of Indicators; each will include:

- (1) The "Function" indicator "K", to indicate that the aid performs, or aids in the performance of a cryptographic or related function.
- (2) The "Type" indicator "A", to indicate a COMSEC aid.
- (3) A "Component" indicator, to indicate the specific type of aid.

b. Item numbers of all aids, except one-time keying materials, will consist only of a number. Individual item numbers will be assigned consecutively beginning with one for the first of each series of identical trigraphs.

c. Item numbers of one-time pads will consist of a trigraph series designator followed by a number. Trigraph series designators will be assigned consecutively beginning with AAA; individual items within each series will be designated by a number assigned consecutively from 1 to 9999.

d. Item numbers of one-time tapes will consist of a digraph series designator followed by a number. Digraph series designators will be assigned consecutively beginning with AA; individual items within each series will be designated by a number assigned consecutively from 1 to 99990.

e. Examples: KAM-1/TSEC, KAB-5/TSEC, KAP-AAC1224/TSEC, KAT-AZ3333/TSEC.

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4. A later edition of a particular item will be indicated by a letter placed after the item number. The letters of the alphabet will be used consecutively, beginning with A for the second edition of an item. (Example: KAM-3A/TSEC.)

a. Because of possible confusion with figures, the letters "O" and "I" will not be used as edition indicators.

5. A supplement to an item will be identified by a dash (-) and a number placed after the title of the item to which the supplement applies. Where more than one supplement is applicable to a single item, the supplement numbers will be assigned consecutively, beginning with 1 for the first supplement. (Example: KAG-3-1/TSEC.)

SECTION V - CLASSIFICATION

1. Long titles, or names, of COMSEC materials will be classified according to their individual content and need not, necessarily, conform to the classification of the named item itself. Every effort should be made to select long titles in such a manner that they can be unclassified.

2. Individual short titles are unclassified. When compiled into lists of holdings, a minimum classification of CONFIDENTIAL will apply.

SECTION VI - APPLICATION

1. Short titles derived in accordance with this Regulation will be assigned to all COMSEC equipments, and components thereof, that are developed, placed in production or modified on and after 1 December 1954; and to all COMSEC aids beginning, insofar as possible and practicable, with the first editions, series or items published or produced on and after that date.

2. Short titles derived under other nomenclature systems and presently assigned to the following types of COMSEC materials will be changed to conform to this Regulation:

a. New types of equipments, and components thereof, that are in development or production on 1 December 1954.

b. All types of equipments and devices used in the manufacture and associated testing of COMSEC materials.

c. Equipments and devices now in the hands of the users that have a planned combined operational and war reserve life of three (3) or more years.

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3. Short titles derived under other nomenclature systems and assigned to the following types of COMSEC materials, will not be changed to conform to this Regulation:

a. COMSEC aids that are in distribution, or that are produced or published prior to 1 December 1954.

b. Equipments and devices now in the hands of the users that have a planned effective operational life of less than three (3) years and are expected to be declared obsolete when withdrawn from use.

SECTION VII - IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Deputy Director, Communications Security, is directly responsible for the following functions in implementation of this Regulation:

a. Determination and assignment of all new short titles; and determination of changes to be made in assigned short titles as the result of equipment modifications.

b. Publication and dissemination to the military services and other interested government agencies of all information pertaining to the assignment of new, or changes in existing short titles.

c. Procurement and distribution of all nameplates required as the result of modification or redesignation of equipments in the hands of the using services and agencies.

d. All action required to effect nameplate changes on equipments and devices used in the manufacture and associated testing of COMSEC materials; and for the initiation of action to effect nameplate changes on equipments and devices in development and procurement.

2. Nameplate changes on equipments and devices described in paragraph 1d above will be accomplished at the earliest practicable date.

3. Nameplate changes on equipments and devices in the hands of the users will be made in the most economical and practicable manner in accordance with schedules to be established by the using services and agencies concerned. Target date for completion of all required changes is 1 July 1957.

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SECTION VIII - SUPERVISION

Supervision for the implementation of the policy established herein is the responsibility of the Deputy Director, Communications Security.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CANINE:

L. H. FROST
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


GEO. E. CAMPBELL
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Adjutant General

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Appendix

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~NOMENCLATURE SYSTEM FOR U.S. COMSEC MATERIALS
("TSEC" SYSTEM)TABLE OF INDICATORS

EQUIPMENT INDICATORS		COMPONENT INDICATORS	
FUNCTION	TYPE	EQUIPMENT COMPONENTS	COMSEC AIDS
K - Cryptographic H - Ancillary M - Manufacturing S - Special purpose	A - COMSEC aid G - Key generation I - Data transmission (Citrol) L - Literal conversion (Cipher) O - Multi-purpose P - Materials production S - Special purpose T - Testing, checking U - Television (Civision) W - Teletypewriter (Cipher) X - Facsimile (Cifax) Y - Speech (Ciphony)	A - Keying element advancing unit B - Basic unit, base, cabinet C - Combining unit D - Drawer, panel E - Strip, chassis F - Frame, rack G - Key generator H - Keyboard I - Translator, reader K - Keying element or unit L - Repeater M - Memory or storage unit O - Observation unit P - Power supply or unit R - Receiver S - Synchronizing unit T - Transmitter U - Printer X - Special purpose unit	A - Authentication system B - Modification instructions C - Code system D - Keying disk G - General publication I - Recognition and/or identification system K - Key list M - Maintenance manual O - Operating manual R - Rotor S - Strip P - One-time pad T - One-time tape
<u>Examples:</u> TSEC/KY-1 - Speech security equipment, No. 1 TSEC/EL-3 - Teletype ancillary equipment, No. 3 TSEC/AT-5 - Production testing equipment, No. 5 TSEC/KL-4A - First modification of literal cipher machine, No. 4 TSEC/KX-2(D) - Facsimile security equipment, No. 2, in development KYC-4/TSEC - Combining unit, No. 4 (KY series), for general use with speech security equipments KXD-7/TSEC2 - Drawer, No. 7 (KX series), part of facsimile security equipment, No. 2 HWR-3(D)/TSEC - Receive terminal, No. 3 (HW series), for general use with teletype ancillary equipments, in development MPK-4A/TSEC3 - First modification of keying unit, No. 4 (MP series), part of production equipment, No. 3		<u>Note:</u> The table of equipment component indicators may be expanded, as required, to include a complete alphabet for each Function or for each Category.	

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