




# Homeland Security

February 12, 2025

Policy Statement 121-20

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** DHS Component and Office Heads

**FROM:** Kristi Noem  
Secretary 

**SUBJECT:** Use of Polygraph Examinations in Support of Personnel Security  
Determinations for Initial or Continued Eligibility for Access to  
Classified Information or Eligibility to Hold a Sensitive Position

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## Purpose

Pursuant to the Secretary's authority under Title 6, United States Code, Section 112 and Title 8, United States Code, Section 1103; Executive Order (E.O.) 12968, as amended; and the Director of National Intelligence Security Executive Agent Directive (SEAD) 2 and Intelligence Community Directive 704; this policy establishes that the Secretary or her delegate may, at the Secretary or her delegate's discretion, require the use of polygraph examinations in support of personnel security determinations for initial or continued eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position. The Secretary may determine which DHS organizational units or group of employees are subject to a polygraph examination in support of personnel security vetting, or individuals subject to a polygraph examination for specific issues of adjudicative concern in accordance with this policy.

The DHS Chief Security Officer (CSO) is the Department's Cognizant Security Authority under DHS Delegations 12001 and 12003 and Senior Agency Official under E.O. 13526 and 6 C.F.R. § 7.10. In these roles, the DHS CSO is designated to serve as the responsible official for all aspects of security program management for the Department. The DHS CSO is hereby directed to, in coordination with the Office of the General Counsel, establish and maintain an effective Department-wide polygraph program for personnel security vetting, per my instructions, to ensure that access to classified information or placement in a sensitive position within the Department is clearly consistent with the interests of the national security. Because of the unique nature of our department and the deleterious effect of leaks of both border and interior immigration enforcement activities, any polygraph administered must also ask about unauthorized communications with organizations, media or nonprofit or otherwise.

DHS Components that have established polygraph programs where polygraphs are actually administered as part of personnel security vetting, may, to the extent they do not conflict with the Department's policy or its intent, consistent with their authorities and mission requirements, as a

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**Use of Polygraph Examinations in Support of Personnel Security Determinations for Initial or Continued Eligibility for Access to Classified Information or Eligibility to Hold a Sensitive Position**

Page 2

matter of policy continue to use polygraph examinations without new determinations from the Secretary to require the use of polygraph examinations in support of personnel security determinations for initial or continued eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position.

**Standards**

This policy is implemented in accordance with all applicable legal requirements and subject to guidance and instruction from the DHS Chief Security Officer and the Office of the General Counsel.

**Distribution**

All DHS Component Heads and DHS Office Heads.

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