



PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION OF CLASSIFIED MATERIALS RELATED TO A GAO PROTEST

DO NOT FILE CLASSIFIED MATERIALS IN THE ELECTRONIC PROTEST DOCKETING SYSTEM (EPDS).

Protesters and Intervenors

- To file a protest involving classified materials (at any classification level), contact the procuring agency for filing instructions and file the protest with the agency, **NOT in EPDS**. After filing with the agency, immediately notify GAO's Procurement Law Control Group (at 202-512-5436 or protests@gao.gov) of the classified protest filed with the agency. Upon notification, GAO will provide additional instructions concerning how to open a protest docket in EPDS. **Once the protest is docketed, the assigned GAO attorney will provide additional instructions concerning subsequent filings and submissions.** Never file any classified material in EPDS.
- For any other filings potentially involving classified material, or where directed by the GAO attorney, parties must submit documents first to the agency for security review, unless prior approval from GAO for physical delivery to GAO has been obtained. Where documents have been filed with the agency for security review, no party other than the agency may file an unclassified version of those document(s) in EPDS, unless prior approval from GAO has been obtained.
- The date a classified protest (or other classified filing) is filed with the agency will be deemed the date filed with GAO, for timeliness purposes.

Agency Counsel

- Agency counsel should notify the Procurement Law Control Group immediately upon receipt of a GAO protest containing classified material. Counsel must coordinate with GAO concerning the manner in which classified materials will be made available to GAO. Where hand delivery of classified materials to GAO is requested, agency counsel should coordinate with GAO's Security Office at 202-512-4700.
- When appropriate and upon direction from the GAO attorney, agency counsel will, following the security review of a filing, submit an unclassified version of that filing in EPDS.
- Where a party files a classified protest or other classified submission with the agency for security review, the date on which it is filed with the agency will be deemed the date filed with GAO, for timeliness purposes.