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# PROTECTING THE NATION'S NUCLEAR INFORMATION

## An Overview of the ... Restricted Data and Formerly Restricted Data Classification System

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Table of Contents

[Where It All Began](#)

[Restricted Data](#)

[Formerly Restricted Data](#)

[How RD/FRD Differ From Other Classified Information](#)

[Declassification](#)

[Markings](#)

[Additional Markings](#)

### *Where It All Began*

With the advent of nuclear weapons and their enormous destructive capability, the United States recognized the need to establish a special classification system to ensure that its nuclear secrets were well protected. On August 1, 1946, President Truman signed the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 which established the category of classified information known as "**Restricted Data**" (**RD**). This Act gave the Atomic Energy Commission (now the Department of Energy (DOE)) unilateral authority over this information. The 1946 Act was superseded by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 which established another category of classified information known as "**Formerly Restricted Data**" (**FRD**) for which DOE and the Department of Defense have joint responsibility. This pamphlet provides a brief orientation to the RD and FRD classification system.

## ***Restricted Data***

**R restricted Data is defined by the Atomic Energy Act as all data concerning:**

- Design, Manufacture, or Utilization of Atomic Weapons
- Production of Special Nuclear Material (Uranium and Plutonium)
- Use of Special Nuclear Material (SNM) in the Production of Energy

**A Few Examples of RD are:**

- **Nuclear Weapons Design Information**

- ▶ Specification and Amount of Nuclear Material
- ▶ Dimensions, Sketches, Drawings, and Blueprints
- ▶ Materials or Weapon Parts
- ▶ Detonation Systems (Amount of High Explosives, Number of Detonators)
- ▶ Safing, Arming, Fuzing, and Firing Systems
- ▶ Nuclear Testing Information

- **Production of SNM**

- ▶ Uranium Enrichment Technology
  - Gaseous Diffusion
  - Gas Centrifuge
  - Laser Isotope Separation

▶ Production Reactors and Related Technologies

- Fuel and Target Technology
- Chemical Processing of Tritium and Plutonium

▶ Allocations to Weapons Programs

● **Use of SNM in the Production of Energy**

- ▶ Naval Reactors
- ▶ Military Reactors
- ▶ Space Reactor Power Systems

## ***Formerly Restricted Data***

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 recognized the need to make certain atomic energy information more accessible to the United States military. It provided for the transfer of information primarily dealing with the military utilization of atomic weapons from the RD category to another category of classified information. This category of information became known as "**Formerly Restricted Data.**" Although the word "formerly" implies the information may no longer be classified, it should be noted that Formerly Restricted Data ***remains classified.***

### ***Formerly Restricted Data* is defined by the Atomic Energy Act as:**

- Classified information which has been removed from the Restricted Data category after DOE and the Department of Defense have jointly determined that it relates primarily to the **military utilization of atomic weapons**, and can be adequately safeguarded as national security information.

### **A Few Examples of FRD are:**

● **Nuclear Weapon**

- ▶ Stockpile Quantities
- ▶ Safety and Storage Information
- ▶ Yields and Effects
- ▶ Storage and Deployment Locations (Foreign and Domestic, Past and Present)

# ***How RD/FRD Differ From Other Classified Information***

(i.e., National Security Information (NSI) as defined in Executive Order 12958) . . .

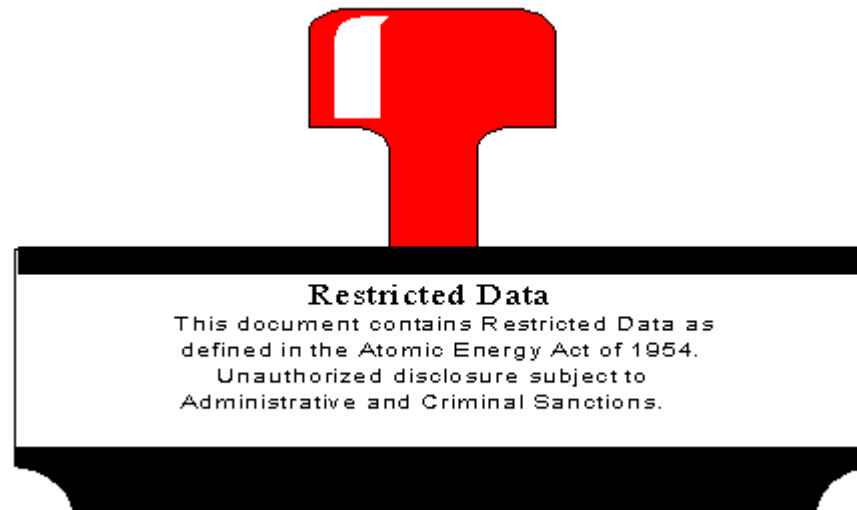
- **RD/FRD** is classified under the Atomic Energy Act -- **NSI** is classified under Executive order.
- **RD/FRD** is not subject to automatic declassification and requires review prior to declassification -- **NSI** is automatically declassified on occurrence of an event or date unless specifically exempted or the duration is extended.

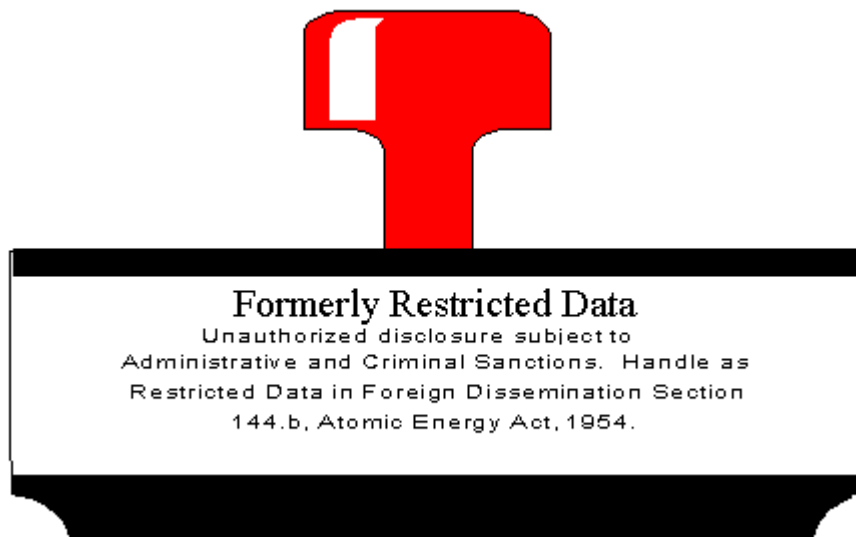
## ***Declassification***

**Documents containing RD/FRD are exempt from automatic declassification and must be reviewed by DOE prior to release.**

## ***Markings***

All RD/FRD documents should be marked with one of the three classification levels --**Top Secret, Secret, or Confidential**. They should also contain one of the following warning notices:





## ***Additional Markings***

Some documents may have special markings that indicate they probably or potentially contain RD/FRD such as:

- **ATOMAL** (NATO)
- **ATOMIC** (UK)
- **CNWDI** (Critical Nuclear Weapons Design Information)
- **COSMIC**
- **NOFORN** (No Foreign Dissemination)
- **Sigma Category**
- **Weapon Data**

Warning: The absence of RD/FRD markings, particularly on historical documents, does not ensure that RD/FRD is not present. Much RD/FRD information is found in documents without the RD/FRD warning notice or any additional markings to indicate the presence of RD/FRD.

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**We have tried to provide you with a brief description of the RD/FRD classification system. Hopefully, this information will assist you in recognizing potential RD or FRD information present in documents you may be reviewing for classification or declassification. If you**

**have documents that contain information concerning areas discussed in this pamphlet and you are unsure of their classification status, please contact DOE for assistance.**

**Additional information and/or training may be obtained by contacting:**

Office of Declassification Outreach Coordinator  
(301) 903-7567

**or**

Office of Declassification Training Coordinator  
(301) 903-7566

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