This guidance document does not have the force and effect of law and is not meant to bind the public, except as authorized by law or regulation or as incorporated into a contract. Accordingly, with regard to the public, this document only provides clarity regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. This guidance document is binding on agency actions as authorized under applicable statute, executive order, regulation, or similar authority.



Information Security Oversight Office

National Archives and Records Administration



700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20408

ISOO Notice 2009-16: Prohibited Use of Electronic Signatures on the Standard Form 312, "Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement"

September 17, 2009

While the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), Public Law 105-277 (1998) allows federal agencies to use electronic signatures, GPEA's Implementation Guidance¹ from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) acknowledged that electronic signatures may not be suitable for all purposes. The OMB guidance also encouraged agencies to undertake a risk analysis for each particular circumstance.

Based on guidance from the Department of Justice, we have determined that agencies should not use electronic signature technology to execute the Standard Form 312, "Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement." We will reevaluate this position at a later date to consider whether changes in electronic signature technology have advanced to support their use with the Standard Form 312.

Please direct any questions regarding this ISOO notice to: isoo@nara.gov.

Date of last review: August 26, 2010

¹ See http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/gpea2.html