

HSPD-12 FAQs – October 1, 2009

SECURITY

1. How is security being improved by HSPD-12?

The standardization of identity proofing and vetting, and the implementation of a standardized identity credential that is tamper-resistant and can be rapidly verified electronically across Federal agencies will improve access control to Federal facilities and IT systems by providing a means to identify fraudulent or expired credentials and ensure the holder of the credential is the individual to whom it was issued. In addition, the PIV Card provides three factor authentication capability: something you have (the card with a PIV authentication certificate); something you know (the personal identification number or PIN); and something you are (the biometric).

2. What is a concise security policy statement that can be used for implementing and operating a PIV system?

One sample might be: "It is the policy of this organization to enhance security, increase government efficiency, reduce identity fraud, and protect personal privacy by adopting and using procedures, components, and systems for secure and reliable identification and authentication of federal government employees and contractors (including contractor employees and authorized affiliates) as specified in FIPS 201 and its supporting documents."