

**NATO UNCLASSIFIED**  
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# **NATO STANDARD**

## **AVPP-02**

### **SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OR MARKING GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF STANAG 4569**

**Edition A Version 1**  
**FEBRUARY 2022**



**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**  
**ALLIED VEHICLE PROTECTION PUBLICATION**

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**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)**

**NATO STANDARDIZATION OFFICE (NSO)**

**NATO LETTER OF PROMULGATION**

15 February 2022

1. The enclosed Allied Vehicle Protection Publication AVPP-02, Edition A, Version 1, SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OR MARKING GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF STANAG 4569, which has been approved by the nations in the NATO ARMY ARMAMENTS GROUP, is promulgated herewith. The agreement of nations to use this publication is recorded in STANAG 4569.
2. AVPP-02, Edition A, Version 1, is effective upon receipt.
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4. This publication shall be handled in accordance with C-M(2002)60.

  
Dimitrios SIGOULAKIS  
Major General, GRC (A)  
Director, NATO Standardization Office

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<b>CHAPTER 1    SCOPE</b>
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The scope of this Security Classification or Marking Guide (SCMG) is to:

- Help users of STANAG 4569 to identify the correct security classification of classified information related to the STANAG and subordinate documents
- Help users of the STANAG to portion mark products that are NATO CONFIDENTIAL and higher (e.g. reports from test of systems or threats)
- Help users of the STANAG to collect and protect data appropriately at the test range
- Help users of the STANAG to produce publicly releasable presentations, bearing in mind that items made publicly releasable will be available to all
- Help users of the STANAG as part of procurement, when determining what can be put in a public tender
- Provide NATO members with guidance on how to handle cases where industry has violated the SCMG

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<b>CHAPTER 2    SIGNIFICANCE OF USE</b>
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NATO information is all information, classified and non-classified, circulated within NATO.

NATO classified information refers to information or material determined to require protection against unauthorized disclosure, which has been so designated by security classification. The handling of NATO classified information is governed by C-M(2002)49, see Chapter 6. NATO security classifications include NATO RESTRICTED [NR], NATO CONFIDENTIAL [NC], NATO SECRET [NS] and COSMIC TOP SECRET [CTS].

NATO information which does not require a security classification is known as non-classified NATO information. It is governed by C-M(2002)60, see Chapter 6 and falls into two categories:

- a) NATO UNCLASSIFIED [NU] is information which does not carry a security classification but will be marked NATO UNCLASSIFIED. Such information:
  - May have additional administrative or dissemination limitation markings
  - Shall only be used for official NATO purposes
  
- b) Information Releasable to the Public:
  - Such information has been reviewed in accordance with NATO or national procedures and is determined to be released to public: it shall carry no markings of any sort.

The NA may, at its own discretion, classify data at a higher level than the minimum recommended guidelines. Deviations shall not fall below the minimum guidelines. Exceptions to this require documented justification and approval by the Team-of-Experts (TOE) 4569.

Information generated by TOE 4569 (classified or non-classified) is NATO information and to be marked as described in Chapter 3, in accordance with the regulations in C-M(2002)49 and/or C-M(2002)60.

- Example: NATO SECRET [NS]
- Example: NATO RESTRICTED [NR]
- Example: NATO UNCLASSIFIED [NU]

Information contributed to the TOE 4569 by members retains the contributor's security classification.

- Example: Danish data – HEMMELIG//REL NATO
- Example: Canadian data – PROTECTED A//REL NATO

Disclosure of NATO classified information to non-NATO countries and industry should consider the following:

- Disclosures governed by C-M(2002)49, Encl. E
- Classified disclosures approved by North Atlantic Council (NAC)
- Proper Security clearance held or authorization by information recipient

Disclosure of contributing members' information to non-NATO countries should consider the following:

- Release by NAC subject to consent of originator

The National Authority (NA) should ensure to obtain relevant SCMG for previous component or system development.

In case of violation, in addition to reporting through national security channels, the NA is encouraged to report the violation to TOE 4569.



<b>CHAPTER 3    MARKING</b>
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Each page of a document shall be marked top and bottom with the full wording of the highest security classification level or marking of any paragraph in the document.

### **3.1.    PORTION MARKING OF DOCUMENTS**

Technical reports and briefings with a content higher than NATO RESTRICTED shall be portion marked in accordance with the SCMG.

Portion marking involves marking each header, paragraph, as well as titles of figures and tables of the document with the correct abbreviated NATO security classification level or marking in brackets, e.g. [NU], see Table 1.

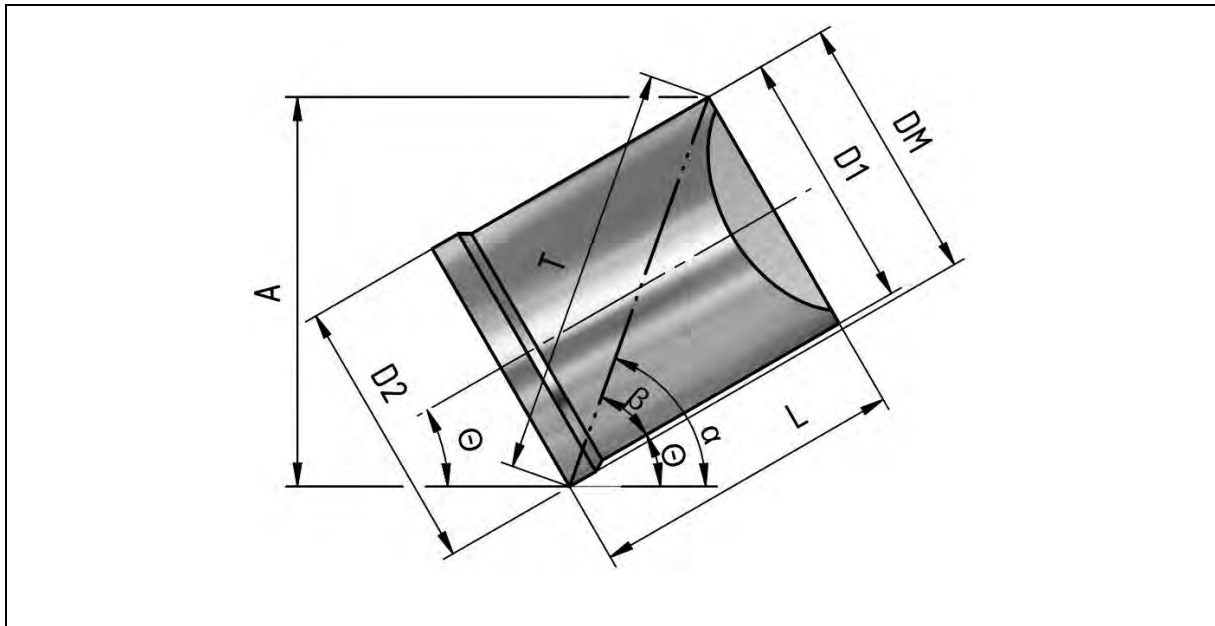
Full wording	Abbreviation
NATO SECRET	NS
NATO CONFIDENTIAL	NC
NATO RESTRICTED	NR
NATO UNCLASSIFIED	NU

**Table 1:    Designation of NATO security classification levels or marking  
applicable to STANAG 4569**

The portion marking of titles of figures and tables shall reflect at least the security classification level or marking of the content of the related figure or table. This means, as long as there is no direct reference to STANAG 4569 or AEP-55, the security classification level or marking of a figure or table may be lower than the title, in order to allow use of technical drawings or tables, e.g. for manufacturing purposes. For further information, see Chapters 1 of AEP-55, Volumes III (Part 2) and IV (Part 2).

In addition, each figure and table in the document shall be marked top left and bottom right with the full wording of the security classification level or marking of any information in the figure and table. Figure 1 provides an example for the marking of a figure and the related title.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED



NATO UNCLASSIFIED

[NU] Figure 1: Technical design of Protection Level n surrogate

### 3.2. VIDEO MARKING

Videos shall be marked in accordance with the SCMG. The files should be named with the security classification level or marking in the file name.

The actual video (footage) should include a 'credits frame' in the beginning describing the security classification level or marking and when it was marked.

- For example:  
"The video you are about to see is classified NATO SECRET in accordance with AEP-55 Volume X by country X. Date of determination 2015-10-20. Review security classification or marking on 2045-10-20."

The complete footage should be marked top and bottom with the security classification level or marking.

### 3.3. DISSEMINATION LIMITATION MARKINGS (DISTRIBUTION STATEMENTS)

The purpose of these statements is to provide guidance to NA and relevant stakeholders on the releasability of TOE 4569 documents and products; to provide

guidance on the releasability of reports generated by the use of promulgated STANAG 4569 documents; and to provide clear guidance on the public releasability of statements and presentations that are intended for release.

**One of the following distribution statements should be placed on the front page of the document:**

**a) Releasable to TOE 4569 only:** The information is only to be distributed to the Head of Delegation (HOD) of the member countries of the TOE 4569 and to those that the HOD deems having a need to know. It is assumed that those accompanying the HOD have a need to know. It is not approved for public release.

- This can include non-government personnel acting on behalf of the TOE. It is assumed that the files will be available to all current and future TOE members (documents stored on a safe exchange server)
- The purpose of this distribution statement is to mark applicable working papers, drafts, presentations.

**b) Releasable to NATO and Government Contractors:** Government contractors are those acting on behalf of the NA and not Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) of material solutions (e.g. vehicle, add on armour). It is not approved for public release.

- The purpose of this distribution statement is to mark applicable working papers, drafts, presentations and reports, such that proprietary armoured vehicle protection information is protected.

**c) Releasable to NATO, Government Contractors and OEM:** Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) are those companies under contract, or pursuing contract, to supply material solutions to NA. Approved by (Country, organization) for (company) to be used for internal research and development activities (date of release). It is not approved for public release.

- For example, this applies to the use for projects under procurement or pre-contract activities, where typically a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) is also in place.
- The purpose of this distribution statement is to allow NA to engage with industry to supply or develop an armoured vehicle protection-related technology.

**d) Approved for Public Release (APR):** Information marked with this distribution statement is suitable for sending via unencrypted email and available for discussions with system developers not under contract as well as the general public.

- The purpose of this distribution statement is to clearly document information intended to be in the public domain, for example press releases, websites and journals.

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<b>CHAPTER 4    SECURITY CLASSIFICATION LEVEL OR MARKING GUIDE MATRIX</b>
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Refer to the TOE 4569 for clarification.

The NA may decide to upgrade the security classification level or marking of any information at a higher level than stated below.

Topic	Minimum security classification level or marking	Rationale (see page 4-4)	Remarks
<b>1) Protection level information</b>			
a) Identification of protection levels for occupants of armoured vehicles in connection to specific threats as described in AEP-55 Volumes I & II	NR	4.1	
b) Identification of protection levels for occupants of armoured vehicles in connection to specific threats as described in AEP-55 Volumes III & IV	NS	4.2	
c) Use of protection level identifiers for occupants of armoured vehicles without connection to specific threats as described in AEP-55 Volumes	NU	4.3	This information is APR
<b>2) System Acceptance Information</b>			
a) Procedures for determining system acceptance that do not reveal any information regarding the components or functioning of the protection technology	NU	4.9	
b) Procedures for determining system acceptance that reveal information regarding the components or functioning of the protection technology	NS	4.10	

<b>3) Information disclosing testing techniques &amp; procedures</b>			
a) Information disclosing techniques & procedures excluding statistical armour	NR		
b) Information disclosing techniques & procedures regarding statistical armour	NS	4.2 & 4.4	
<b>4) Threat information</b>			
a) General information regarding threat description	NU	4.5	
b) Threat performance information	NS	4.2	
c) Technical information required to produce the individual components of the threat without connection to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP-55, excluding RF3b and RF4b	NU	4.8	Examples include technical drawings, material composition, dimensions, etc.
d) Technical information required to assemble the components of the threat without connection to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP-55, excluding RF3b and RF4b	NR	4.7	Example: Assembly drawings
e) Technical information required to produce the threat RF3b and RF4b	NC	4.4	Examples include technical drawings, material composition, dimensions, assembly drawings, etc.
f) Any information mentioned in pt. 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e in connection with STANAG 4569 and/or AEP-55 Volume III and/or AEP-55 Volume IV	NS	4.6	

g) Any information mentioned in pt. 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d in connection with STANAG 4569 and/or AEP-55 Volume I and/or AEP-55 Volume II	NR	4.6	
<b>5) Threat Hardware</b>			
a) Individual subcomponents of a threat	NU	4.8	
b) Assembled threats with connection with STANAG 4569 and/or AEP-55 Volume I and/or AEP-55 Volume II	NR	4.6	
c) Assembled threats with connection with STANAG 4569 and/or AEP-55 Volume III and/or AEP-55 Volume IV	NS	4.6	
<b>6) Test plans &amp; reports</b>			
a) With connection to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP's but without reference to specific threats	NU	4.3	
b) With connection to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP-55 Volume I and/or AEP-55 Volume II and with specific threat	NR	4.7	
c) With connection to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP-55 Volume III and/or AEP-55 Volume IV and with specific threat	NS	4.2	

**Rationale:**

- 4.1 NATO UNCLASSIFIED is often mistaken as “For Public Release” and treated as such, so for the purpose of limiting access to information to unauthorised people NATO RESTRICTED marking shall be applied.
- 4.2 Knowledge of specific threat information will enable an enemy to potentially exploit or overcome the protection afforded by the protection system. Therefore, this data must be protected as NATO SECRET [NS].
- 4.3 Protection level without connection to specific threat information does not give an enemy necessary detail to exploit or overcome the protection system.
- 4.4 Information of national origin without connection (link) to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP's can be disclosed as considered appropriate by decision of that same originating nation.
- 4.5 Information without connection (link) to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP's can be disclosed as considered appropriate by NA decision, but not lower than NU.
- 4.6 Information with connection (link) to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP's is classified at the same level as the corresponding volume.
- 4.7 Knowledge of specific threat information will enable an enemy to potentially exploit or overcome the protection afforded by the protection system. Therefore, this data must be protected as NATO RESTRICTED [NR].
- 4.8 Individual subcomponents of a threat device without connection to STANAG 4569 and/or AEP's does not give the enemy the necessary detail to exploit or overcome the protection system and enable the practical manufacturing and handling of the threat.
- 4.9 General procedures related to the determination of system acceptance do not pose a threat to the exploitation of the protection technology by an enemy.
- 4.10 Technology-specific procedures related to the determination of system acceptance may pose a threat to the exploitation of the protection technology. Therefore, this data must be protected as NATO SECRET [NS].



<b>CHAPTER 5    SUMMARY</b>
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As indicated at the beginning of this document: The NA is free to generate a project- or test-specific SCMG. Furthermore, the NA has the option to mark information with a higher security classification level or marking than indicated in this SCMG.

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<b>CHAPTER 6    REFERENCES / RELATED DOCUMENTS</b>
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- 1) Directive on security of information AC/35-D/2002-REV3, Paragraph 2
- 2) Guidelines on security of information AC/35-D/1032, Appendix 1
- 3) C-M(2002)49, "Security within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)"
- 4) C-M(2002)60, "The Management of Non-Classified NATO Information"

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