

OSD Declassification/Release Instructions on File

U. S. CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS
Edition of January 30, 1943

These regulations supersede U. S. Cable and Radio Censorship Regulations and U. S. Radiotelephone Censorship Regulations of February 19, 1942, and U. S. Postal Censorship Regulations of March 13, 1942, and April 15, 1942, all of which are hereby revoked.

Issued under the authority vested in the Director of Censorship pursuant to section 3 (c) of the Trading with the Enemy Act of October 6, 1917 (40 Stat. 412), as amended; section 306 of the First War Powers Act of December 18, 1941 (55 Stat. 838); Executive Order 9835 (6 F.R. 6625); Treasury Decision 50836 (6 F.R. 6907).

1. SCOPE OF REGULATIONS

These regulations pertain to all communications passing between the United States, its territories or possessions, and any foreign country, or which may be carried by any vessel or other means of transportation touching at any port, place, possession, or territory of the United States and bound to or from any foreign country.

2. DEFINITIONS

As used in these regulations,

(a) The term "communication" shall include any letter or other writing, book, map, plan, or other paper, picture, sound recording or other reproduction, telegram, cablegram, wireless message, telephone conversation either by landlines or radiotelephone circuits, or any message transmitted by any signaling device, carrier pigeon, by word of mouth, or by any other means.

(b) The term "enemy territory" shall include the territory of and the territory occupied or controlled by any nation with which the United States is or may hereafter be at war.

(c) The term "enemy national" shall mean -

(1) The Government of any country with which the United States is or may hereafter be at war, and any agent, instrumentality, or representative of such government, or other person acting therefor, wherever situated;

(2) The government of any other country having its seat within enemy territory to which the provisions of Executive Order No. 6399, as amended, have been extended, and any agent, instrumentality, or representative thereof, or other person acting therefor, actually situated within enemy territory;

(3) Any individual within enemy territory, or any partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, to the extent that it is actually situated within enemy territory;

(4) Any person whose name appears on the Proclaimed List of Certain Blocked Nationals, as revised and supplemented, promulgated pursuant to the President's Proclamation of July 11, 1941, and any other person acting therefor.

3. SUBMITTING COMMUNICATIONS TO CENSORSHIP

(a) Whoever takes or sends out of, or brings into, or attempts to take or send out of, or bring into the United States any communication, except in the regular course of the mail or through a communications company whose traffic normally passes through censorship or a communication examined and passed by the Bureau of Customs, shall submit such communication to the Director of Censorship, Washington, D. C., prior to transmission, or prior to the disclosure of the contents of such communication or any part thereof.

(b) Whoever either for himself or on behalf of another receives a communication, except an unaddressed regularly scheduled radio broadcast communication intended for reception by the general public or through a communications company whose traffic normally passes through censorship or a communication examined and passed by the Bureau of Customs or a communication received in the regular course of the mail, shall immediately submit such communication and all information relative thereto to the Director of Censorship, Washington, D.C., and shall not disclose the contents or any part thereof until authorized by him.

(c) The master of any vessel entering the territorial waters of, or any port, place, possession, or territory of the United States and having on board, carrying, conveying, or otherwise, transporting upon such vessel any communication, whether in a foreign postal service or otherwise, except communications in International Postal Service destined to enter United States Postal Service or communications examined and passed by the United States Bureau of Customs, shall immediately submit such communication to Censorship by delivering the same to the nearest United States Postmaster or to the Censorship officer boarding such vessel.

(d) Any person upon any vessel entering the territorial waters of, or any port, place, possession, or territory of the United States and having in his possession or custody any communication, except a communication examined and passed by United States Bureau of Customs, shall immediately submit such communication to Censorship by delivering the same to the nearest United States Postmaster, or to the Censorship officer boarding said vessel.

4. DISCRETION OF CENSOR

All communications shall be sent, filed or transmitted at the sender's risk and may be condemned, suppressed, delayed, or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the censor without notice.

5. COMMUNICATION WITH ENEMY TERRITORY OR ENEMY NATIONALS

No communication shall be sent or transmitted to enemy territory or to any enemy national except as specifically provided in these regulations, or as otherwise authorized by the Office of Censorship.

6. COMMUNICATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Communications to members of the United States Armed Forces located outside the United States, in addition to complying with these regulations, must bear the address officially designated by the military or Naval authorities.

7. SUBJECTS PROHIBITED

No reference, either open or hidden, shall be made to any of the following subjects in any communication unless officially disclosed by appropriate governmental authority:

(a) Troops.-The general character and movements of United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps units, within or without continental United States-their location, identity, or exact composition, equipment, or strength; destination, routes, and schedules; assembly for embarkation; similar information regarding the troops of United Nations. Possible future military operations should not be revealed by identifying an individual known for a specialized activity.

Note.- Names or numbers of troop units except unit designations of training camps within continental United States may be used only when required by the Military or Naval authorities for address purposes.

(b) Ships and Shipping.-Information regarding Naval or merchant vessels of the United States, other United Nations, or neutral nations, if it discloses-

(1) Identity, location, description, movement, or prospective movement, including assembly ports, anchorages, and methods of routing of convoys or transports;

(2) Time of departure or arrival of any ship more specific than one week's time; but approximate dates such as "next week", "soon", etc., are permissible;

(3) The identity or location of enemy naval or merchant vessels;

(4) Existence of mine fields or other harbor defenses, secret orders or other secret instructions regarding lights, buoys, and other guides to navigators;

(5) Number, size, character, and location of ships in construction, or advance information as to the date of launchings or commissionings; the physical setup or technical details of shipyards.

Communications pertaining to the shipment of material or movements of surface vessels must be so worded as not to associate any two of the following elements unless the communication is sent by secure channels approved by Censorship; (1) Name of the vessel; (2) nature of the cargo; (3) name of port of arrival or departure.

Information about the sinking or damaging of United States war or merchant vessels unless officially disclosed by appropriate authority. Information about the identity, location, sinking or damaging of Naval or merchant vessels of other nations, friendly or otherwise, unless disclosed by appropriate authority or made public outside continental United States and the origin stated.

(c) **Military Operations.**—The fact or effect of military or naval operations by the United States or the United Nations, until officially disclosed.

The fact or effect of enemy operations against the United States or the United Nations, including casualties and material damage, until officially disclosed.

Warnings or reports of impending air raids on continental United States, and the fact or effect of such attacks until the raid is ended and the all-clear has sounded; estimates of number of planes involved, their routes, defense measures, number of bombs dropped, damage to fortifications, docks, railroads, ships, airfields, public utilities, industrial plants engaged in war work, and all other military objectives.

(d) **Planes.**—The disposition, movements, missions, new characteristics, or strength of military air units of the United States or the United Nations; activities of commercial airlines and private pilots for the military services; activities, operations, and installations of the Air Forces Ferry Command of the United States or other United Nations; information about performance, construction, and armament of new or current military aircraft or related items of equipment; messages pertaining to international operations of commercial airlines unless sent by secure channels approved by Censorship.

(e) **Fortifications and Defenses.**—The location, description, and strength of forts and other fortifications, bases, and other installations of the United States or the United Nations; the location, nature and number of coast-defense emplacements, anti-aircraft guns, bomb shelters, and other defense installations; location of camouflaged objects; the identity, performance, movement or prospective movement of defensive or offensive weapons, supplies, material, or equipment of the United States or the United Nations.

(f) **Production.**—Of civic information from which the enemy could estimate the extent, tempo, progress, or location of our production for war, such as—

(1) Information which saboteurs could use to gain access to or damage war production plants;

(2) Contracts for the manufacture of war materials or for construction of bases, docks, depots, and yards; cost and nature of production involved in such contracts;

(3) Location, description, production, capacity, schedules, delivery dates, or specific output of war production plants or industries;

(4) Statistical information disclosing the amounts of strategic or critical materials produced, imported, or in reserve;

(5) Information about damage to production plants by sabotage or enemy action; information about new or secret military designs, formulas, experiments, manufacturing processes or factory designs;

(6) Information about production; amounts, dates, and method of delivery, destination or routes of lend-lease war material;

(7) Detailed reports of production and conditions in the mining, lumbering, fishing, livestock, and farming and other key American industries, and shortages or surpluses in connection therewith;

(8) Nation-wide or other round-ups of current war production or war contract procurement data.

(g) Weather.—Current weather conditions, weather forecasts, and all other current meteorological data.

Descriptions of past local weather conditions, obtainable from public observation or newspaper publication, may be transmitted at the discretion of the censor.

(h) General.—(1) Any data concerning military or naval communications or intelligence methods or results;

(2) Rumors which might render aid and comfort to the enemy;

(3) Information disclosing the new location of national archives, or of public or private art treasures;

(4) Names of persons arrested, questioned, or interned as enemy aliens, names of persons moved to resettlement centers; location and description of places of internment and resettlement;

(5) Premature disclosure of diplomatic negotiations or conversations;

(6) Information about the movements of the President of the United States or officials or agents of the United States or the United Nations, including high ranking Army or Naval officers and staffs and diplomatic missions;

(7) The number, description, location, or identity of prisoners of war;

(8) Propaganda detrimental to the war efforts of the United States or the United Nations, except official enemy communiques and claims;

(9) Information concerning the planning or effecting of any inter-governmental loans or financial or economic transactions or agreements between or among neutral and United Nations;

(10) Any sketch, photo, drawing, blueprint, map, or chart, of which the denominator of the representative fraction is less than 500,000, disclosing information prohibited by these regulations;

(11) Any other matter whose dissemination might directly or indirectly bring aid and comfort to the enemy, or interfere with the war effort, or disparage the foreign relations of the United States or the United Nations.

POSTAL CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS

In addition to the foregoing General Regulations, the following regulations apply in particular to those communications carried in the mails.

1. MAIL REQUIREMENTS

All mail directed to foreign countries shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) The full name and complete address of the sender must be shown both on the outside of the envelope and in the letter itself;

(b) Communications will be written in English, if possible. If English is not used, the name of the language used should be written in English on the face of the envelope.

2. CODES AND SECRET INKS

The use of codes or ciphers, unless authorized, secret inks, and other secret writings is prohibited.

3. MAIL TO ENEMY NATIONALS

The sending of any communication by mail to an enemy national, directly or indirectly, requires an individual license from the Office of Censorship, except as provided in (a), (b), and (c) below:

(a) The American Red Cross has been authorized to transmit, after censorship, short messages of a personal nature to residents in enemy territory. Letters, documents, and messages of a business nature cannot be sent by this means. Application should be made to any Red Cross chapter.

(b) If not otherwise objectionable to Censorship, and if authorized by a Treasury Department License, communications which relate to, or are a part of a commercial or financial transaction may be sent to persons or firms on The Proclaimed List of Certain Blocked Nationals without further authority from the Office of Censorship, provided that the communication is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Treasury license. In such case the original Treasury Department license, a duplicate original, or photostatic copy should be enclosed with each communication and the communication posted in the usual manner. In cases where a communication relating to a transaction with anyone in enemy territory has been authorized by a Treasury Department license, such communication must be submitted, properly addressed and bearing the required postage, to the Chief Postal Censor, Washington, D.C., for censorship action, together with the Treasury license, a duplicate original or photostatic copy.¹

(c) Mail may be sent to prisoners of war, internees, and detainees confined in the United States, in enemy countries, and in other foreign countries. Such communications should be addressed to the person concerned at the address furnished by such person or by the Government or other agency authorized to furnish the information. No postage is required unless the communications are sent by air, registered, or insured mail.

Note.—Licenses to send other communications by mail to enemy nationals will not be granted by the Office of Censorship except at the request of a Government agency, or where the communication would be of special advantage to the United States.

4. POSTAL CONFIRMATIONS OF CABLEGRAMS, ETC.

Postal confirmations of cable, landwire, radio, or radiotelephone messages will not be permitted in mails, except between the continental United States and Canada. Correspondents may refer to electrically transmitted messages by name, date, or number and may mention generally the subject matter if they do not use abbreviated or cryptic language or code.

¹ Application for a license to communicate as provided in 3b above, may be made at the Federal Reserve Bank in the applicant's district.

5. FILMS, PRINTS, AND PLATES

(a) Films, prints, and photographic plates will not be exported or imported unless they have been examined and approved by the Office of Censorship, except to and from Canada. After approval, material of this type may be mailed in the usual manner.

(b) Incoming exposed and undeveloped film, except from Canada, will be developed at the expense of the correspondent in the United States prior to release.

(c) Importation of unexposed film, except from Canada, United States territories and possession, and from members of the United States Armed Forces or other persons sending mail through military Post Offices, is prohibited unless authority is granted by the Office of Censorship.

(d) Exportation of unexposed film, except to Canada and to members of the United States armed forces or other persons receiving mail through military Post Office, is prohibited unless a license is obtained in advance from the Board of Economic Warfare.

6. SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, OR PROFESSIONAL DATA

(a) Publications devoted in whole or in part to scientific, technical, or professional data containing information whose transmission to foreign countries might be inimical to the interests of the United States must be licensed prior to export, except to Canada.

(b) Applications for licenses shall be made to the Technical Data License Division, Office of Exports, Board of Economic Warfare, on forms provided by that Agency. Applications may be sent either to the Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, or New York City office. A separate application must be made for each license, and a separate license will be required for each issue of each publication.

(c) On receipt of each application the Technical Data License Division will review the proofs or copies of the publication submitted, for objectionable subject matter. On final approval of the material, the Technical Data License Division will recommend to the Office of Censorship that a license be granted.

(d) The license from the Office of Censorship will authorize the publisher to export the particular issue of the publication, including the non-technical as well as the technical material, the foreign countries specified therein. The license will not be transferable, will be subject to revocation without notice, and will be granted on the express condition that each copy of the publication mailed thereunder corresponds in every respect to the copy submitted to and approved by the Technical Data License Division, and that the wrapping of all copies for export will be under the supervision of employees specifically designated by the publisher for this purpose.

7. PRINTED MATTER

The sending to neutral countries in Europe of other printed matter such as books, booklets, pamphlets, magazines, circulars, catalogues, newsletters, newspapers, and advertising material, either printed, mimeographed or otherwise mechanically reproduced, and clippings therefrom, will not be permitted unless sent by the publisher, a publications distributing agency, or the organization or firm for which the material is published.

8. POSTAGE STAMPS

Postage stamps, either cancelled or uncanceled, will not be permitted as an enclosure in mail to points outside of the United States, other than mail addressed to the United States armed forces, through the Army Post Offices, Naval or other service mails, except by license or permit granted by the Office of Censorship.

CABLE AND RADIO REGULATIONS

In addition to the General Regulations, the following regulations apply in particular to all wire and radio traffic.

1. WIRE AND RADIO TRAFFIC

Wire and radio traffic includes (a) radio traffic, (b) wire traffic originating in the United States and destined outside the United States, or originating outside the United States and destined to a point in the United States or originating and terminating outside the United States, but handled in transit within the United States, and (c) that wire traffic purporting to be confined to a domestic address but in fact intended for destination beyond the United States. These regulations govern telephone communications only insofar as applicable thereto. For the purpose of these regulations the word "message" shall mean only communications by wire or radio, and the word "patron" shall include both the sender and the addressee of a message.

2. INFORMATION REGARDING MESSAGES

Reports of delivery, sender's corrections and all other services by a communication company at the request of a patron and the giving of any information to a patron concerning Censorship's action on any message are prohibited unless permission is obtained from the Office of Censorship. This regulation does not apply to money orders, cancellations, or press dispatches.

Patrons filing "reply prepaid" messages do so at their own risk.

With the exception of money orders, confirmations of postal, cable, radio or radiotelephone messages are prohibited, subject, in unusual cases, to the discretion of the Censor.

3. PROPER ADDRESS

Every message must be so addressed that it will clearly identify the addressee for whom the message is intended.

Except where a registered address is permitted under these regulations, the address must be in plain language. The use of an abbreviation of the entire address, provided such abbreviation is sufficient in itself to insure the identification of the addressee by the Censor, is not prohibited, but all such abbreviations are used at the risk of the sender.

The names of large or well-known buildings, banks, and hotels may be sufficient without street addresses.

A combination of two names written as one word is prohibited.

4. REGISTERED ADDRESSES

Registered addresses may be used only when authorized by the Director of Censorship.

Note.-In order to expedite the assembly of a complete file of registered addresses being used in other countries, persons or firms who are usual patrons of the cable and radio are requested to inform the Chief Cable Censor, Washington, D.C., by letter of the names, addresses, and corresponding registered addresses of the foreign persons or firms with whom they normally correspond. Unless addresses registered in the United States, its territories or possessions, are renewed as they expire, there may be a great delay in authorizing their use.

5. SIGNATURE

All messages except Government messages of the United States and the United Nations, must be signed.

The signature transmitted should, when considered in connection with the text and addressee, be such as to identify the sender clearly, and distinguish him from any other individual, firm or organization with a similar name. A surname is rarely considered sufficient identification.

The transmitted signature of a firm or organization must be sufficiently complete to identify it clearly. The name of a responsible member of the firm or officer of the organization may be used, provided satisfactory information regarding him is made available to the censor. A combination of two names written as one word is prohibited.

6. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The following supplementary information need not be transmitted as a part of the message, but may, by direction of the sender and on payment by him of the landline toll, be transmitted as far as the station of the Cable Censor having jurisdiction:

(a) Addresses.-When any registered address or any abbreviation of a plain language address is used in a message, the full name and full address of the addressee must also be recorded on the form on which such message is filed with the communication company.

If the message is addressed to an individual acting on behalf of a firm, organization or individual the name and address of such firm, organization or individual, and the addressee's connection with it, must appear

on the form as well as the name and address of the addressee.

(b) **Sender.**—In addition to the signature required on the message, the full name and full address of the sender must be recorded, as supplementary information, on the form on which each message is filed with the communication company.

If the message is signed by an individual acting in behalf of a firm, organization or individual, or by an abbreviated form of the name of that organization, or is charged to an individual or organization other than the signer, the full name and full address of that individual or organization must also be given on the form.

(c) The name of the commodity, if any, involved in the message, must be stated on the form, and should, except as provided in the general regulations, be stated in the text of the message.

7. TEXT

Messages will not be passed unless the meaning of the text is clear to the Censor. Messages consisting of address and signature only, with no text, are not permitted.

8. LANGUAGES PERMITTED

All language messages must be in English, French, Portuguese, or Spanish, except messages to Alaska, which must be in English. All press dispatches should be filed in English; if in any of the other authorized languages, they may be subject to delay.

Any word, term, phraseology or language having a double meaning as used is prohibited. Terms or words common in any profession or trade may be used if intelligible to the Censor and not susceptible to double meaning as used.

9. COMMERCIAL CODES

Use of only the following commercial codes is permitted:

| Name of Code | Indicating Symbol |
|--|-------------------|
| ABC Sixth Edition | ABC |
| ACME Code and Supplement | ACME |
| Bentley's Complete Phrase Code | BENCOM |
| Bentley's Second Phrase Code | BENSEC |
| Lombard General Code | LONCOM |
| Lombard Shipping Code and Appendix | LONSHIP |
| New Standard Half Word Code | STANHALF |
| New Standard Three Letter Code | STANTHRE |
| Peterson's Third Edition | PET |

The code used must be indicated by placing the appropriate indicating symbol in the preamble of the message.

Patrons should ascertain from the communication companies whether the code used is acceptable by the Censorship authorities, if any, in the country of destination of the message.

The use of private codes is not permitted except by special license granted by the Director of Censorship. Such licenses will not be granted unless the applicant furnishes 15 copies of the code book for the use of Censors.

The use of code words to express prices is forbidden. Code words from catalogues or price lists may be used to designate commodities when accompanied in each case by an identifying word, if the meaning is clear to the Censor.

10. TEST WORDS

Banks and business institutions which have previously used test words in the conduct of their business are privileged to continue to use test words in transmitting messages.

Any other bank or other business institution desiring to use test words in transmitting its messages may apply to the Office of Censorship for permission, but before the privilege is granted, and at any time thereafter, must furnish such information as may be required.

A test word must normally be the first or last word in the text of a message. If several transactions are combined in any one message, a test word for each transaction is permitted.

The test word privilege may be withdrawn at any time.

11. INFORMATION FROM SENDER

Information required by the Censor from the sender in the United States in regard to a specific message may be requested by a collect telegram from the Censor to the sender.

In connection with any message relating to a financial or commercial transaction, the Censor may require complete information relative to the identity of all parties involved, the ultimate purpose of the transaction, and all facts deemed necessary by the Censor.

Any information which the sender may consider necessary to make the meaning of his message clear to the Censor may be imparted in a prepaid domestic telegram addressed to the Censor having jurisdiction. This telegram (Memorandum Message) should be filed with the message to which it refers.

12. NUMBERS IN TEXT

Numbers that are unrelated to the text and not readily understandable to the Censor are not permitted.

Serial numbers in messages are subject to deletion, but may, at the sender's risk, be included as the first word in the message when they can be readily understood by the Censor and plainly do not convey a hidden meaning.

13. MARKET REPORTS

Routine daily market reports will be expedited by the Censor when received from recognized news agencies.

14. PRESS MESSAGES

No person engaged in transmitting press material shall accept or transmit as press messages any message intended for personal use unless such message is designated as personal and relates only to the personnel employed by such person. The word "person" as used in this regulation means an individual, corporation, partnership, society, or association.

15. PERSONAL MESSAGES IN COMMERCIAL CABLES

The sending of personal messages, in behalf of others, either in the text of financial cables, or as separate messages, by banks, brokers, corporations, or any individual who transfers funds or handles financial transactions on behalf of others, is hereby prohibited. This regulation shall not apply to communication companies. For the purpose of this regulation, a personal message is a message which is personal in nature and is not essential to the transfer of funds or the commercial transaction involved in the message.

TELEPHONE CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS

In addition to the General Regulations, the following regulations apply in particular to all telephone calls.

1. CALL REQUIREMENTS

Before an outgoing telephone call will be completed, the patron must furnish the telephone operator with his full name, the number and address of the telephone from which the call is put through, his occupation and business address (if he does not have a business address, his home address), his proposed topic of conversation, namely, (a) Government, (b) business (exact business subject, e.g., oil, coffee, etc.) or (c) social, and the full name and address of the person called. This information must be furnished on both person-to-person and station-to-station calls.

If other than immediate service is desired, the patron may state the time at which he desires his call completed. Patrons will not be permitted to "hold the 'phone" while calls are being completed. It is permissible, if the censor is notified beforehand of the names and addresses of all persons participating, for personal conversations to be shared by various persons at either end of the line.

2. CALLS FROM HOTELS

Patrons calling from hotels must be identified by the hotel management or other known authority. They may call from any instrument in the hotel.

3. CALLS FROM PUBLIC PAY STATIONS

Calls will not be completed from public pay stations or from other telephone stations where the person calling cannot subsequently be identified.

4. LANGUAGES PERMITTED

The English and Spanish languages will be permitted on calls between the United States and Mexico, and the English and French languages on calls between the United States and Canada. On radiotelephone circuits, in addition to English, the French, Spanish, and Portuguese languages will be permitted except in the event that translators are not available at the censorship point.

5. EXEMPTIONS

The Office of Censorship may in its discretion allow exemptions to Telephone Censorship Regulations 1 to 4, inclusive, on certain specially designated landline telephone traffic by informing the telephone company of exemptions to be permitted.

6. APPLICATION TO INCOMING CALLS

Where any of the foregoing regulations apply specifically to outgoing calls, the general principles apply as well to incoming calls.

BYRON PRICE,
DIRECTOR

THE WHITE HOUSE
January 30, 1943.

APPROVED:
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.