



Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence (FOCI)

What is FOCI?

Foreign ownership control or influence (FOCI) is an evaluation of the degree of potential control, or influence that foreign interests can have over Canadian private organizations.

Why is a FOCI required?

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) conducts FOCI evaluations to ensure the protection of sensitive information from unauthorized access which could compromise national security.

Canada's obligations and commitments to conduct FOCI assessments are referred to in the *IT Security Directive for the Control of COMSEC Material in the Canadian Private Sector (ITSD-6A)*, the *North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Directive*, and various International bilateral industrial security instruments between Canada and its foreign partners.

When is a FOCI required?

A FOCI evaluation is necessary when the contracted work requires access to: NATO or foreign classified information, assets, or sites; or to COMSEC information and assets. A FOCI evaluation may also be required as an additional measure, when requested by the client department.

A FOCI determination is contract specific and remains valid for the duration of the contract as long as the degree of potential foreign control or influence of the private organization remains unchanged. Re-evaluations will be conducted when a new FOCI requirement is identified.

What are the steps?

- PSPC reviews the Security Requirement Checklist (SRCL) to determine if a FOCI evaluation is required.
- PSPC sends the FOCI guidelines and questionnaire to the identified supplier.
- The supplier provides detailed information to the FOCI Office.
- PSPC consults with its security partners, determines the level of risk of FOCI and whether mitigation measures are necessary.
- Once the evaluation process is completed, the FOCI evaluation office advises the supplier, the client and the contracting authority of the determination.
- The supplier must report to PSPC any changes which could affect their FOCI status.

How long is the process?

The process can take from **2 to 6 months or more** depending on the level of foreign involvement in the private organization and the complexity of the organizations' corporate/ownership structure. The response time of the organization in providing the required information is the driving factor in determining the timelines associated with the process.

Contact us

If you have questions, concerns or you would like more information, you can contact us at the following email address:

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