

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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Memorandum

This document consists of 2 pages,
No. 4 of 360 Copies, Series A.

DP32FR89010654

DATE: August ²¹~~7~~, 1964

TO : Those Listed Below

FROM : C. L. Marshall, Director *CLM*
Division of Classification, HQ

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN NO. 71

C:CFK

pls file for

The following classification guidance on lasers and laser applications, developed jointly by the AEC and the DOD, has been approved for immediate implementation:

1. Research and development on lasers and laser systems shall be classified if the maximum power output is 10^{11} watts or greater and the total energy output is 10^3 joules or greater. (Note: in order to avoid unnecessary classification, these numbers will be re-examined annually by a joint AEC/DOD group to determine if they are still appropriate);
2. Regardless of maximum power output or total energy output, any application of lasers (government or private) will be classified as Restricted Data if it will produce an ignition of DD mixtures or DT mixtures. (Note for the Commission, if such a laser application is not primarily intended for atomic weapon purposes, classification as Restricted Data would depend on passage into law of the proposed definition of a "nuclear explosive device".) Note: Ignition is defined as occurring when there is a 1% rise in temperature or a 1% rise in the mean kinetic energy of the charged particles of the gas at any point in the gas mixture as a result of thermonuclear reactions.

Addressees:
 Classification Officers
 Headquarters Division Directors
 Operations Office Managers
 Senior Reviewers
 Coordinating Organization Directors
 Responsible Reviewers

GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification.

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

This document contains restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Its transmittal or the disclosure of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited.

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CLASSIFICATION	RESTRICTED DATA
DATE	10-31-67
BY	<i>R.P. [unclear]</i>
REASON	1. CLASSIFICATION DATA CHANGED
	2. CLASSIFICATION DATA DELETED
	3. CLASSIFICATION DATA ADDED
	4. CLASSIFICATION DATA RECLASSIFIED
	5. CLASSIFICATION DATA REVERSED
	6. CLASSIFICATION DATA DECLASSIFIED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY) <i>May [unclear]</i>



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3. Work on or with lasers directed toward a classified goal (e.g., pure fusion weapons or anti-ICBM devices) will be conducted on a classified basis.

Information classified under the above principles will be categorized as Restricted Data if it falls within the definition of Restricted Data as set forth in the Atomic Energy Act. It is expected that most of the information classified under principle (1) will be Defense Information and that most, if not all, of the information classified under principle (2) will be Restricted Data. The classification of the work covered by principle (3) would depend upon the classification of the goal toward which the work is directed.

It should be noted that since Restricted Data is not involved principle (1) above can be applied only to government and government contract work with assurance that it will be effective since it is doubtful that DI classification can be placed on private work under existing laws unless a patent is applied for in which case a Secrecy Order may be placed on the invention.

Principle (2) can be applied to both government and government contractor and to private research on the theory that Restricted Data will be involved. This principle is intended to classify applications of lasers with lower energies or power outputs which by causing ignition might result in the design of a pure fusion weapon. Its application is intended to prevent the inadvertent release of information which might constitute a "break-through" in the use of lasers for pure fusion weapons. It is understood, of course, that applications of lasers with peak power less than 10^{11} watts and total energy output of less than 10^3 joules would be unclassified unless they produced the ignition effect described in principle (2), or unless the work was being directed toward a classified goal as provided for in principle (3).

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