

United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

ORDER NO. 3255

SIGNATURE DATE: June 30, 2004

Subject: Delegation of Authority for Certification and Accreditation of Information Technology Systems

Sec. 1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this Order is to delegate authority to bureaus and offices to carry out the necessary activities required for information technology (IT) system security certification and accreditation (C & A), including signing the accreditation decision letter accepting the residual risk to the bureau or office. The Chief Information Officer (CIO) was previously designated the Designated Approving Authority (DAA). This Order extends the DAA authority to bureaus and offices.

Sec. 2 **Authority.** This Order is issued in accordance with the authority provided by Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat.1262), as amended and the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1966.

Sec. 3 **Delegation of Authority.** The authority to carry out the responsibilities of the DAA is hereby delegated to the Inspector General, the Solicitor, and the Special Trustee for American Indians. This authority is also delegated to the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, the Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management, and the Assistant Secretary - Water and Science.

Sec. 4 **Limitations.** The authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, the Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management, and the Assistant Secretary - Water and Science may be further delegated to Deputy Assistant Secretaries and/or heads of bureaus/offices. This authority may not be further delegated.

Sec. 5 **Responsibilities.**

a. The DAA responsibilities include: planning and funding of certification and accreditation activities; acceptance of security plans; signing bureau or office accreditation documents; granting full accreditation to bureau or office IT systems based on an acceptable level of risk; and denying accreditation because risks to an IT system are not acceptable.

b. The CIO will continue to be responsible for overall management of the Department's IT resources and IT security programs.

Sec. 6 **Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first. In the absence of any of the foregoing actions, the provisions of this Order will expire and be considered obsolete on August 31, 2006.

/s/ Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior

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