



Office of Safeguards

Looking Forward: Hybrid Reviews

July 2021 Office Hour Call



Agenda

- **Background**
- **Purpose**
- **Pre-Review Activities**
- **Review Activities**
- **Next Steps**
- **Questions and Answers**



Background

IRS Office of Safeguards has seen many areas expand and evolve in terms of technologies requiring review, the depth of each review, and the volume of test cases within each assessment, resulting in the following challenges:

- On-Site Schedule
- Review Scope
- Limited Technology Products for Testing and Managing Risk



Purpose

Incorporating lessons learned from the past year (conducting remote reviews due to COVID restrictions), IRS Office of Safeguards will leverage a hybrid (both on-site and remote) approach to reviews.

This hybrid approach will:

- Reduce IRS footprint during on-site review.
- Include improved efficiency of the review workflow by enabling data collection to occur pre-visit and during on-site visit.



Pre-Review Activities



60 Days before being onsite:

Preliminary Security Evaluation (PSE) Call

Meeting will be conducted using collaborative software tools (currently WebEx) to test agency's capability to connect and utilize screen sharing capabilities.



20 Days before being onsite:

Nessus Call

Nessus prep calls will be required for all agencies to perform set-up and run test scans. Applicable IT Administrators will be needed on the call.

Pre- Review Activities cont.



1-2 Weeks before being onsite:

Opening Conference and Data Flow

Will be conducted remotely using collaborative software tools (currently WebEx)

Remote IT Testing

Nessus scans and IT testing will begin immediately following the Data Flow. IT testing that cannot be conducted remotely will be conducted during the onsite review week.

Policies and Procedures

MOT documentation and agency's policies/procedures (physical portion) to be provided during this one-week to two-week period, or prior, so that assessment of those documents may be conducted before the onsite review.



Review Activities

Review Team Assignments

- Onsite: 1 Disclosure Enforcement Specialist (DES) and 1 Computer Security Reviewer (CSR) per agency.
- Additional IT reviewers will act as at-home support and will be assisting remotely.
- Assignments may be adjusted based on scope and at the discretion of the manager.

Data Center/Shared Site Reviews

- Conducted by 2 Disclosure Enforcement Specialists (DES)
- Additional field offices within a state may be reviewed on-site or remotely



Review Activities Cont.

Review Closings

- Will typically be conducted on Thursday of the on-site review week.
- Reviews with large numbers of outstanding items, will not be held on Thursday and PFRs will not be issued while on-site. Tentative closing times will be established on Thursday prior to leaving on-site location.



Next Steps

Pilot Program

- Will be conducted to test proposed changes/activities.
- Feedback will be requested from pilot agencies.

SRRs and CAPs

- Future proposal to streamline findings remediation reporting.

Q&A

