



DEFENCE INDUSTRY SECURITY VETTING SERVICES - FAQ

From 1 January 2015 the Department of Defence (Defence) will commence charging defence industry for security vetting services.

The Department of Defence provides security vetting services to whole-of-government through the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA).

Following is a number of FAQs related specifically to the decision to charge defence industry for vetting services. General advice and information about security vetting services, including how to get and maintain a security clearance, can be found on the [AGSVA website](#).

1. When will this occur?

Defence will commence charging industry for security vetting services from 1 January 2015.

2. Will vetting services under way prior to but not completed before 1 January 2015 be charged?

No. Only security vetting services requested from 1 January 2015 onwards will be charged.

3. Who do the charges apply to?

The charges apply to industry providers that require a security clearance to provide services, advice and support to Defence.

4. What security vetting services will we be charged for?

Fees will be charged for:

- new security clearances
- security clearance upgrades
- security clearance revalidations and re-evaluations, and
- cancellations—cancellation fees will only apply after a complete vetting pack (ePack questionnaire and supporting documents) has been submitted by a clearance subject.

5. Will we be charged for a security clearance revalidation / re-evaluation if the revalidation / re-evaluation is due prior to 1 January 2015 but not initiated until after 1 January 2015?

No. Security clearances due for revalidation / re-evaluation prior to 1 January will not be charged.

6. Why was the decision taken to charge industry for vetting services?

This move (1) aligns Defence with other government departments which already charge industry and (2) brings defence industry in line with AGSVA's government customers who have always paid for security vetting services.

It is estimated that some 16 per cent of all security clearances managed by the AGSVA are Defence Industry Security Program (DISP) clearances—currently security vetting services are provided at no charge to defence industry providers and contractors.

7. How much will it cost?

The fees are the same as those incurred by the AGSVA's other government customers and are listed in Attachment 2 of the [AGSVA Service Level Charter](#).

8. Does this mean that because industry pay for the clearance the individual then owns the clearance?

No individual owns a security clearance. A clearance reflects a government requirement for an individual to access classified material or information and is valid only while this government requirement remains current.





9. Where will the revenue go?

All revenue generated will be used to build vetting capacity and enhance service delivery. This in turn will enable the AGSVA to better meet the needs of all its customers.

10. Will we be invoiced if a clearance is not granted?

Yes. It takes at least the same amount of work, and often more, to make a determination to deny a clearance.

Cancelled clearances up to and including Negative Level Vetting 2 will be charged at 50 per cent of the clearance charge. Positive Vetting clearance cancellations will be charged according to the assessment stages that have been completed. Please refer fee schedule in Attachment 2 of the [AGSVA Service Level Charter](#) for detail on cancellation charges.

11. Who else pays for security clearances?

All other government agencies that use the services of the AGSVA are charged for security vetting services. A number of these agencies then pass the costs on to industry.

12. Can we pass vetting costs back to Defence?

Pricing and costs are determined on an individual contractor and project basis. Discussions on pricing and costs, with regard to existing and future contracts, need to be undertaken by individual companies and contractors directly with their Department of Defence contract manager.

13. How will industry be billed?

The AGSVA will bill industry on behalf of Defence and will liaise with individual companies / contractors to identify one central billing address and contact.

Reporting and billing of industry will then follow the same process currently used for government customers. The AGSVA will provide defence industry customers with monthly updates on the progress of vetting services and will invoice defence industry customers monthly on completion of services. Payment terms are 30 days.

14. Will we be able to pay a premium for a priority clearance?

No. The decision as to which clearances are given priority is assessed on a case by case basis, based on the requirements of government and not financial considerations.

As has always been the case, industry will still be able to request priority through their Defence 2-star / Band 2 sponsor, using a priority request form that can be obtained from the Security Officer Dashboard. However, the final decision will be made by the AGSVA based on availability of resources.

15. What can I do if I have more questions?

Defence values the relationship it has with industry and is keen to ensure the transition occurs as transparently and as seamlessly as possible.

If you have any additional questions or wish to provide feedback you can do this by sending an email to agsva.customerfeedback@defence.gov.au.

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