

under section 3504 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents.

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective 60 days after Nov. 25, 2002, see section 4 of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as an Effective Date note under section 101 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-106 effective 180 days after Feb. 10, 1996, see section 5701 of Pub. L. 104-106, Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 702.

#### PUBLICATION OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES ON CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

Pub. L. 116-283, div. H, title XCIV, §9402(b), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4810, provided that: “Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 1, 2021] and pursuant to section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3), the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall publish standards and guidelines for improving cybersecurity awareness of employees and contractors of Federal agencies.”

### § 278g-3a. Definitions

In this Act:

#### (1) Agency

The term “agency” has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44.

#### (2) Director of OMB

The term “Director of OMB” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

#### (3) Director of the Institute

The term “Director of the Institute” means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

#### (4) Information system

The term “information system” has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44.

#### (5) National security system

The term “national security system” has the meaning given that term in section 3552(b)(6) of title 44.

#### (6) Operational technology

The term “operational technology” means hardware and software that detects or causes a change through the direct monitoring or control of physical devices, processes, and events in the enterprise.

#### (7) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

#### (8) Security vulnerability

The term “security vulnerability” has the meaning given that term in section 1501(17) of title 6.

(Pub. L. 116-207, §3, Dec. 4, 2020, 134 Stat. 1001.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 116-207, Dec. 4, 2020, 134 Stat. 1001, known as the Internet of Things Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020 and also as the IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020, which enacted this section and sections 278g-3b to 278g-3e of this title and provisions set out as notes under this section and section 271 of this title. For complete classification

of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2020 Amendment note set out under section 271 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Internet of Things Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020, also known as the IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020, and not as part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act which comprises this chapter.

#### SENSE OF CONGRESS

Pub. L. 116-207, §2, Dec. 4, 2020, 134 Stat. 1001, provided that: “It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) ensuring the highest level of cybersecurity at agencies in the executive branch is the responsibility of the President, followed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the head of each such agency;

“(2) this responsibility is to be carried out by working collaboratively within and among agencies in the executive branch, industry, and academia;

“(3) the strength of the cybersecurity of the Federal Government and the positive benefits of digital technology transformation depend on proactively addressing cybersecurity throughout the acquisition and operation of Internet of Things devices by the Federal Government; and

“(4) consistent with the second draft National Institute for Standards and Technology Interagency or Internal Report 8259 titled ‘Recommendations for IoT Device Manufacturers: Foundational Activities and Core Device Cybersecurity Capability Baseline’, published in January 2020, Internet of Things devices are devices that—

“(A) have at least one transducer (sensor or actuator) for interacting directly with the physical world, have at least one network interface, and are not conventional Information Technology devices, such as smartphones and laptops, for which the identification and implementation of cybersecurity features is already well understood; and

“(B) can function on their own and are not only able to function when acting as a component of another device, such as a processor.”

### § 278g-3b. Security standards and guidelines for agencies on use and management of Internet of Things devices

#### (a) National Institute of Standards and Technology development of standards and guidelines for use of Internet of Things devices by agencies

##### (1) In general

Not later than 90 days after December 4, 2020, the Director of the Institute shall develop and publish under section 278g-3 of this title standards and guidelines for the Federal Government on the appropriate use and management by agencies of Internet of Things devices owned or controlled by an agency and connected to information systems owned or controlled by an agency, including minimum information security requirements for managing cybersecurity risks associated with such devices.

##### (2) Consistency with ongoing efforts

The Director of the Institute shall ensure that the standards and guidelines developed under paragraph (1) are consistent with the efforts of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in effect on December 4, 2020—

(A) regarding—

(i) examples of possible security vulnerabilities of Internet of Things devices; and

(ii) considerations for managing the security vulnerabilities of Internet of Things devices; and

(B) with respect to the following considerations for Internet of Things devices:

- (i) Secure Development.
- (ii) Identity management.
- (iii) Patching.
- (iv) Configuration management.

**(3) Considering relevant standards**

In developing the standards and guidelines under paragraph (1), the Director of the Institute shall consider relevant standards, guidelines, and best practices developed by the private sector, agencies, and public-private partnerships.

**(b) Review of agency information security policies and principles**

**(1) Requirement**

Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Director of the Institute completes the development of the standards and guidelines required under subsection (a), the Director of OMB shall review agency information security policies and principles on the basis of the standards and guidelines published under subsection (a) pertaining to Internet of Things devices owned or controlled by agencies (excluding agency information security policies and principles pertaining to Internet of Things devices owned or controlled by agencies that are or comprise a national security system) for consistency with the standards and guidelines submitted under subsection (a) and issue such policies and principles as may be necessary to ensure those policies and principles are consistent with such standards and guidelines.

**(2) Review**

In reviewing agency information security policies and principles under paragraph (1) and issuing policies and principles under such paragraph, as may be necessary, the Director of OMB shall—

(A) consult with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(B) ensure such policies and principles are consistent with the information security requirements under subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44.

**(3) National security systems**

Any policy or principle issued by the Director of OMB under paragraph (1) shall not apply to national security systems.

**(c) Quinquennial review and revision**

**(1) Review and revision of NIST standards and guidelines**

Not later than 5 years after the date on which the Director of the Institute publishes the standards and guidelines under subsection (a), and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Director of the Institute, shall—

(A) review such standards and guidelines; and

(B) revise such standards and guidelines as appropriate.

**(2) Updated OMB policies and principles for agencies**

Not later than 180 days after the Director of the Institute makes a revision pursuant to paragraph (1), the Director of OMB, in consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, shall update any policy or principle issued under subsection (b)(1) as necessary to ensure those policies and principles are consistent with the review and any revision under paragraph (1) under this subsection and paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b).

**(d) Revision of Federal Acquisition Regulation**

The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised as necessary to implement any standards and guidelines promulgated in this section.

(Pub. L. 116-207, §4, Dec. 4, 2020, 134 Stat. 1002.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Internet of Things Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020, also known as the IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020, and not as part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act which comprises this chapter.

DEFINITIONS

For definitions of terms used in this section, see section 278g-3a of this title.

**§ 278g-3c. Guidelines on the disclosure process for security vulnerabilities relating to information systems, including Internet of Things devices**

**(a) In general**

Not later than 180 days after December 4, 2020, the Director of the Institute, in consultation with such cybersecurity researchers and private sector industry experts as the Director considers appropriate, and in consultation with the Secretary, shall develop and publish under section 278g-3 of this title guidelines—

(1) for the reporting, coordinating, publishing, and receiving of information about—

(A) a security vulnerability relating to information systems owned or controlled by an agency (including Internet of Things devices owned or controlled by an agency); and

(B) the resolution of such security vulnerability; and

(2) for a contractor providing to an agency an information system (including an Internet of Things device) and any subcontractor thereof at any tier providing such information system to such contractor, on—

(A) receiving information about a potential security vulnerability relating to the information system; and

(B) disseminating information about the resolution of a security vulnerability relating to the information system.

**(b) Elements**

The guidelines published under subsection (a) shall—