

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



JUN - 6 2008

Reply to Attn of: **Office of the Chief Information Officer**

TO: Distribution

FROM: Deputy CIO for IT Security

SUBJECT: Clarification on Requirement for Contractors to Complete NASA annual IT Security Awareness Training

In order to comply with the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), it is the decision of the Deputy CIO for IT Security that contractors who have access to NASA information systems be required to take annual IT security awareness training through NASA's SATERN Learning Management System (LMS).

Background:

In order to meet the requirements of FISMA, NASA must implement agency-wide information security awareness training for all employees including civil servants, contractors and other users of NASA's information systems that support the operations and assets of the Agency. NASA's IT Security Awareness and Training Center (ITSATC) has developed two courses that fulfill this requirement depending on the learner's role within the Agency:

- Basic IT Security for 2008
- IT Security for Managers 2008

In addition to the requirement of FISMA to provide annual information security awareness training, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires that contractor personnel receive identical, not "equivalent", security procedures. Specifically, the agency is responsible for ensuring contractor personnel receive appropriate training (i.e., user awareness training and training on agency policy and procedures).

Discussion:

In keeping in line with the government-wide e-training initiative, the course materials for the Basic IT Security and IT Security for Managers courses are delivered through NASA's LMS, SATERN. SATERN provides the ability to deliver NASA specific IT security awareness training along with an official record of completion for FISMA reporting. By requiring the completion of these courses in SATERN, and no substitutions, NASA can be assured that all personnel are given identical information.

Decision:

In order to meet the requirement of FISMA and OMB with regards to IT Security awareness training, and to assure that all personnel who have access to NASA information systems (civil servant and contractor) receive identical training, NASA requires the completion of IT Security awareness training through SATERN. If SATERN is not accessible, alternate delivery methods of the course content (CD, audio presentation, hard-copy) are allowed, but non-NASA course content substitutions will not be allowed to meet this requirement.


for Jerry L. Davis

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