



Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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IMPORTANT NOTICE ON *LLIS.GOV* SECURITY CHANGES

As part of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) continuing commitment to information security, *LLIS.gov* is currently undergoing security enhancements to comply with the DHS Certification and Accreditation (C&A) process. The C&A process is a systematic procedure for evaluating, describing, testing, and authorizing systems for operation in a production environment. Certification is a comprehensive assessment of the security controls of the *LLIS.gov* system and accreditation is the official decision to authorize operation of *LLIS.gov*. Together, these activities help to ensure DHS information technology assets and data are protected and secure.

In order for *LLIS.gov* to comply with C&A requirements, we have made a number of security modifications. Beginning 19 June 2008, *LLIS.gov* members, upon initial login, will be prompted to answer the following items:

- **Password Changes.** Some users will be prompted to change their password to comply with the following requirements:
 - The password must be between 8 and 15 characters long and must contain at least one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter, one numeric value, and one "special character" (Shift + numeric).
 - The password must not contain a dictionary word.
 - The password must not be identical to the username.
 - The must not be the same as the previous 8 passwords.
 - Users will be prompted to re-set their passwords every 90 days.
- **Security Questions.** We've replaced some of the security questions with ones that comply with C&A requirements. If users originally answered any of the questions that are no longer valid, they will be prompted to choose a different question to answer. The new list of security questions are:
 - What was your first job?
 - What is the last name of your best friend?
 - What model was your first car?
 - When were your parents married?
- **Citizenship Verification.** All users will be asked to verify their citizenship upon initial login.
- **Login Security.** *User accounts that are inactive for 180 days will be disabled.* Users who have not logged on to the system in the last 180 days will have to call the Help Desk to re-activate their accounts.

For a full list of security enhancements, please log onto LLIS.gov and click on [C&A Security Enhancements](#) at the top of the homepage. As always, if you have any questions, please contact our Help Desk at (866) 476-4827 or help@llis.dhs.gov.