

## ***Suspect/Counterfeit Items: Preventing, Detecting, and Reporting***

It is a top priority that those working at the DOE go home safely each day and that we complete our very important missions. Therefore, we do not want to use S/CIs in our work.

### **What is a “Suspect/Counterfeit Item” or a S/CI?**

A Suspect/Counterfeit Item (S/CI) is any item, material, or software that is intentionally misrepresented or provided with falsified, altered/tampered, or imitated information. S/CIs are intended to be passed off as genuine and often work but might not work as expected.

### **Why is it important to prevent & detect S/CIs?**

S/CIs may pose a significant risk to you or your work depending on its use. S/CIs have been known to unexpectedly stop working, cause fires, explosions, mechanical failures, and so much more. These types of items have a known history to be detrimental to safety, health, security, and ultimately mission success.

### **How do you prevent & detect S/CIs**

Prevention and detection of S/CIs may be highly variable and graded as to the amount of rigor that may be applied dependent on your mission needs. For example, a non-critical project may not use as much rigor in S/CI prevention and detection as a highly critical project. For guidance on general S/CI prevention and detection methods and additional resources please see the recently revised DOE Suspect/Counterfeit Items Resource Handbook which is available [here](#).

### **Why is it important to report S/CIs?**

When an S/CI is discovered, it should be reported. It is important to report S/CIs because they may be present in other non-critical or critical systems throughout the Department.

### **How do you report S/CIs?**

Reporting should follow any applicable local processes or procedures. All DOE/NNSA sites have reporting processes for S/CIs. If you are unsure of how to report an S/CI please contact [counterfeit@hq.doe.gov](mailto:counterfeit@hq.doe.gov). Suspected fraud, waste, and abuse may also be directly reported to the DOE Office of Inspector General (OIG) by going to the OIG’s website [here](#) or by calling toll free (800) 541-1625.

For questions on training or resources for S/CI please contact [counterfeit@hq.doe.gov](mailto:counterfeit@hq.doe.gov).

