



What is the Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Credential?

In the USAccess program, a Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Credential is a secure and reliable form of identification issued to federal government employees and contractors. The PIV Credential is issued based on sound criteria for verifying an individual's identity, is strongly resistant to identity fraud and tampering, and can be rapidly authenticated electronically.

What is the Authority for the USAccess Program to issue PIV Credentials?

Homeland Security Directive 12 (HSPD-12), Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors issued in 2004. The directive can be reviewed at <http://csrc.nist.gov/policies/Presidential-Directive-Hspd-12.html>.

Why do I need a PIV Credential?

Common to all federal agencies, the PIV Credential is a way for you to prove that you are who you claim to be in order to gain access to federal government logical access computer systems and for physical access to buildings. PIV Credentials are issued to reduce identity fraud, protect your privacy, save time, and improve security through a standardized identity proofing process. As part of this process, the U.S. Government conducts a Background Investigation (BI) on you to decide whether you are suitable for your job and eligible to access the buildings, computers, applications, and data you need to do your job. Some of the information you provide for your BI, along with information from the office that hired you, is used to verify your identity, create a PIV Credential for you, and create a record that you have been issued a credential.

What information is stored in the USAccess System about me?

The following information is recorded in the system about each person issued a credential:

- full name
- facial photograph
- full set of fingerprints
- date of birth
- work address, email and phone number
- home address and phone number
- social security number
- citizenship
- employee affiliation and status
- status of your background investigation (NACI)
- approval signature of the person who registers you in the system
- PIV Credential expiration date
- PIV Credential serial number
- copies of the documents you used to verify your identity, such as your driver's license or passport



What information is stored on the PIV Credential?

The credential itself displays a printed picture of your face, your full name, agency, and sometimes sub-agency or bureau, affiliation, credential expiration date, credential serial number, and an issuer identification number. The microchip embedded in the credential contains four digital certificates. The credential also stores your photograph, a Personal Identification Number (PIN), a unique identifier, an authentication key, and two electronic fingerprints. Agencies have the option to display other demographic data such as an emergency responder designation, your height, eye color, and hair color.

How will my information on the PIV Credential be used?

Your associated agency and other agencies will use the information on the PIV credential and may use some of the stored information about you when you access to federal facilities, computers, applications, or data to prove your identity and to determine the appropriate level of access. This information will be kept as long as you have a valid PIV credential. Use of the credential is limited to that identified by the Government guidelines and to that identified in the Privacy Act System of Records notices that cover each system for the PIV Credential process.

Why do I have to sign the Privacy Act?

The Privacy Act statement explains your responsibilities as credential holder. These responsibilities cover you agreeing that personally identifiable information can be collected, you accurately represent yourself, and you will protect the PIV credential.

Who Will See My Information?

Information about you that is stored to issue you a PIV Credential and run the program may be given without your consent as permitted by the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)) and: to the appropriate Government organization if your records show a violation or potential violation of law; to the Department of Justice, a court, or other decision-maker when the records are relevant and necessary to a law suit; to a federal, state, local, tribal, or foreign agency that has records we need to decide whether to retain an employee, continue a security clearance, or agree to a contract; to a Member of Congress or to Congressional staff at your written request; to the Office of Management and Budget to evaluate private relief legislation; to agency contractors, grantees, or volunteers, who need access to the records to do agency work and who have agreed to comply with the Privacy Act; to the National Archives and Records Administration for records management inspections; and to other federal agencies to notify them when your card is no longer valid.

What happens if I don't want a PIV Credential?

Currently there is no legal requirement to be issued a PIV Credential. However, it may be a condition of your employment in order to access certain federal resources and perform your job. Therefore, not providing the information may affect your placement or employment prospects with the federal government.

Where can I get more information about how my personal information is used?

If you have questions or concerns about the use of your personal information, you may contact your organization's HSPD-12 program management office or Privacy Act official. Your supervisor should be able to direct you to those individuals.