

U.S. NRC: Rulemaking Highlights

Social Security Number Fraud Prevention

What is the rule?

- The NRC revised its regulations, effective August 17, 2020, to reduce the risk of identity theft by protecting Social Security account numbers (SSN) in written communications with the NRC. The rule lists when an SSN must be provided, maximizes the use of partially redacted SSNs where possible, and adds a new requirement that SSNs should not be visible on the outside of any package sent by mail to or from the NRC.
- This rulemaking fulfills the NRC's obligation to comply with the [Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act](#).

What is the impact?

Prior to this rulemaking, the NRC collected an individual's SSN only when necessary and partially redacted SSNs whenever possible. This rulemaking makes these protective measures even stronger by minimizing the use and visibility of SSNs and by encouraging other forms of identity verification, when possible. These practices help protect an individual's SSN and reduce the risk of identity theft.

What made this innovative?

Because this rule would make minimal changes and was not expected to be controversial, the NRC used a streamlined process ([direct final rule](#)). This expedited process allowed the NRC to amend the regulations sooner – in about one year less time than for a normal rulemaking. The NRC met the Congressional deadline for implementing the Act two years early.



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