

DETERMINING THE SECURITY LEVEL OF YOUR BUILDING

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES:

This standard defines the criteria and processes that those responsible for the security of a facility should use to determine its facility security level (FSL). The Facility Security Level (FSL) is the basis for implementing the physical security measures specified in ISC Standards. Facilities are categorized from FSL I to FSL V¹ (lowest to highest).

¹ Level V is designated for special-use and other unique facilities, such as high-security laboratories, hospitals, or unique storage facilities for chemicals or munitions.

To use the FSL matrix, each of the factors is examined and a point value is assigned based on the provided scoring criteria defined in the [Risk Management Process](#) (page 7-17). The points for all factors are then added together and a preliminary FSL is identified based on the sum.

FACTOR	POINTS				Scoring an example building (details below)
	1	2	3	4	
Mission Criticality	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH	0 ¹
Symbolism	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH	0 ²
Facility Population	< 100	101–250	251–750	> 750	3 ³
Facility Size	< 10,000 sq. ft.	10,001–100,000 sq. ft.	100,001–> 250,000 sq. ft.	250,000 sq. ft.	3 ⁴
Threat to Tenant Agencies	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH	3 ⁵
					Sum of above
Facility Security Level	I: 5–7 Points	II: 8–12 Points	III: 13–17 Points	IV: 18–20 Points	9
					Preliminary FSL
Intangible Adjustment	<i>JUSTIFICATION: The FSL may be raised or lowered one level at the discretion of the deciding authority based on intangible factors.</i>				II
					+ / - 1 FSL
					0
					Final FSL
					II

The scores above are an example of using the FSL matrix on a medium sized office building with public access. A brief explanation for each score is below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Location does not meet any of the Mission Criticality criteria. | 4 Facility size exceeds 100,000 square feet. |
| 2 Location does not meet any of the Symbolism criteria. | 5 Public contact is occasionally adversarial based on the nature of some business conducted at the facility. |
| 3 Facility commonly populates between 250-750 at any given time. | |

Once the Facility Security Level is determined, identification and implementation of countermeasures can be determined. While the specific details provided for countermeasures are classified and considered For Official Use Only (FOUO), the GSA has created the [Leasing Desk Guide](#) which provides guidance for facility security levels of government lease buildings. Chapter 19 of the Leasing Desk Guide provides Security measures to consider for various areas of the building including the windows.

The scorecard result in the example above is a FSL II. The minimum window protection for an FSL II-IV according to the Leasing Desk Guide is a GSA performance condition 3b when tested in accordance with the [GSA TSO1-2003 standard](#). E.g. FSL II (page 36), "Windows" section (page 44)



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HOW DO ARMORCOAT FILMS SCORE AGAINST THE GSA STANDARD?