

Form F3-2. Compliance Protocol for Researchers and Individuals Communicating, or Attempting to Communicate, with Non-Human Intelligence

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Use. Speaking to and receiving information from NHI is protected expression under current law ([Issue F3](#)). The legal risks lie in four narrower areas: radio licensing, export controls on technical data, coordination with any designated hostile entity, and handling of information that may be classified. This protocol addresses each and creates a record that the participants acted lawfully.

When to use. A research group or individual planning transmissions to, or reporting communications with, NHI. **Not for:** Classified government programs.

Deadlines. Adopt before the first transmission.

[ORGANIZATION] PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Scope. This Protocol applies to every person who, on behalf of [Organization], (a) transmits or prepares any message intended for NHI; (b) receives, records, or analyzes any signal or communication believed to come from NHI; or (c) publishes or shares the content of any such communication.

2. Transmissions.

(a) No transmission will be made except under an FCC license or authorization covering the station, frequency, power, and emission type, or from a station operated by a licensee who has confirmed in writing that the transmission is within its authorization. 47 U.S.C. §301.

(b) The transmission plan will identify the target, schedule, frequency, power, and antenna gain, and will be reviewed for interference with other services.

(c) Before any transmission directed at a specific object detected in Earth's vicinity, or at a location where a government authority has reported unidentified anomalous phenomena, the Principal Investigator will notify [the FAA, if aviation safety could be affected / the relevant agency] and record the notice.

3. Content review. Before transmission or publication, the Export Control Officer will review the content and confirm in writing that it does not contain:

(a) technical data or technology controlled under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (22 C.F.R. parts 120-130) or the Export Administration Regulations (15 C.F.R. parts 730-774) for reasons other than anti-terrorism, unless it is published or otherwise within the public-domain or fundamental-research exclusions;

(b) Restricted Data or other information subject to the Atomic Energy Act;

(c) information that is or appears to be classified; or

(d) personal information about third parties disclosed without consent. Messages composed of mathematics, general science, language primers, cultural material, and descriptions of the sender ordinarily raise none of these issues.

4. Received communications containing technical content. If any communication received appears to contain technical information about energy, propulsion, materials, weapons, or medicine:

(a) record it, the circumstances of receipt, and the chain of custody of any recording;

(b) do not share the technical content with any foreign person (including foreign nationals working in the United States) until the Export Control Officer has determined whether it is controlled, since release to a foreign person in the United States can be a deemed export;

(c) do not attempt to build, test, or administer any device, substance, or treatment described, except under the ordinary safety, institutional review, and regulatory requirements that would apply to the same work from any other source; and

(d) consult counsel before publishing. Publication of lawfully received information is ordinarily protected (Issues B4, F3), but publication of information that would make it subject to the public-domain exclusion should be a deliberate decision.

5. Designated entities. Before any communication that involves providing services, training, expert advice, or resources to any entity, confirm that the entity is not designated under any sanctions or counterterrorism authority. If any government designates an NHI group or affiliated

human organization, suspend all coordinated activity with it pending legal review. Independent speech and publication about that group may continue.

6. Information from government sources. If any person offers [Organization] information that is or appears to be classified, follow [Form A5-2](#) (policy on unsolicited sensitive information). Do not solicit classified information.

7. Records. Maintain for at least [seven] years: transmission plans and licenses; content reviews; logs of signals and communications received; chain-of-custody records; and notices to agencies.

8. Government contact. Refer any inquiry from law enforcement or a government agency about these activities to [counsel]. Participants may decline to answer questions without counsel present. Nothing in this Protocol limits any person's right to report information to a government authority.

Drafting notes

- **Logan Act.** Communications intended to influence a foreign government's conduct in a dispute with the United States are addressed by 18 U.S.C. §953, whose application to a non-human polity is doubtful ([Issue F3](#)). The Protocol does not restrict content on that ground; if a participant intends to negotiate on behalf of the United States or to influence any polity's conduct toward it, consult counsel first.
- **IAA protocols.** Scientific groups may also adopt the International Academy of Astronautics' post-detection principles on verification and announcement ([Issue F6](#)). Those principles are professional norms and impose no legal duty.
- **Individuals.** An individual reporting personal contact can use Sections 3, 4, 6, and 7 without the institutional roles.
- Related: [Issue F3](#), A5, F6; Forms A5-1, A5-2, F3-1.