

28 September 2022/GSA-2022-934



General Security Advisory



Traffic Light Protocol - Version 2.0

The Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) was created to facilitate greater sharing of information. TLP is designed to improve the flow of information between individuals, organisations, or communities in a controlled and trusted way. TLP is a set of designations used to ensure that sensitive information is shared with the appropriate audience. The release of TLP2.0 by the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) has seen the standard refreshed. This has resulted in changes to both the TLP colours and their criteria for use, with the updated information outlined in this guidance.




TLP uses four colours to indicate expected sharing boundaries to be applied by the recipient(s). **If a recipient needs to share the information more widely than indicated in the TLP designation, they must obtain explicit permission from the original source.**

TLP colour	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
<p>TLP: RED</p>  <p>Restricted to individual recipients only, no further disclosure.</p>	<p>Information sources may use TLP: RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon without significant risk for the privacy, reputation, or operations of the organisations involved.</p>	<p>TLP: RED information is for the eyes and ears of individual recipients only, no further disclosure.</p> <p>In the context of a meeting, for example, TLP: RED information is limited to those present at the meeting. In most circumstances, TLP: RED should be exchanged verbally or in person.</p>
<p>TLP: AMBER+STRICT</p>  <p>Limited disclosure, restricted to the recipients' organisation only.</p>	<p>Information sources may use TLP: AMBER+STRICT when information requires support to be effectively acted upon, but carries risk to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organisations involved.</p>	<p>Recipients may only share TLP: AMBER+STRICT information with members of their own organisation who need to know the information to protect themselves or prevent further harm.</p>



Te Tira Tiaki
Government Communications
Security Bureau

**National Cyber
Security Centre**

TLP colour	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
<p>TLP: AMBER</p>  <p>Limited disclosure, restricted to recipients' organisations and their clients on a need-to-know basis.</p>	<p>Information sources may use TLP: AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon, but carries risk to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organisations and their clients involved.</p>	<p>Recipients may only share TLP: AMBER information with members of their own organisation, and with clients or customers who need to know the information to protect themselves or prevent further harm.</p>
<p>TLP: GREEN</p>  <p>Limited disclosure, restricted to recipients and their community.</p>	<p>Information sources may use TLP: GREEN when information is useful for the awareness of peers and partner organisations within their sector or community. When "community" is not defined, assume the cyber security community.</p>	<p>Recipients may share TLP: GREEN information with peers and partner organisations within their sector or community, but not via publicly accessible channels. Information in this category can be circulated within a particular community. TLP: GREEN information may not be released outside of the community.</p>
<p>TLP: CLEAR</p>  <p>Disclosure is not limited.</p>	<p>Information sources may use TLP: CLEAR when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.</p>	<p>TLP: CLEAR information may be distributed without restriction, subject to standard copyright rules.</p>

TLP designation: examples

TLP: RED The NCSC receives information about a serious undisclosed data breach suffered by a large organisation. The breach poses significant risk to individuals' privacy and the organisation's continued operations. The NCSC shares details of the breach in a meeting with specific members of the organisation's security team.

TLP: AMBER+STRICT The NCSC is aware of a newly disclosed vulnerability that is likely to affect one nationally significant organisation. The NCSC produces a report detailing mitigation strategies and emails the report to the affected organisation.

TLP: AMBER The NCSC receives information about a new type of malware targeting New Zealand institutions within a certain sector. The NCSC produces a report detailing mitigation strategies for the malware and emails the report to institutions within the affected sector.

TLP: GREEN The NCSC produces an advisory describing the actions needed to mitigate a recently disclosed security vulnerability. The NCSC emails the advisory to a list of organisations who may be affected by the vulnerability.

TLP: CLEAR The NCSC produces cyber security advice designed to help organisations and their staff work more securely when they are away from the office. The NCSC publishes the advice on its public website for a general audience.

TLP usage: documents

Documents utilising a TLP designation must indicate the relevant TLP colour in the header and footer of each page. The TLP colour should appear in capital letters and in 12 point type or greater. The letters must be right-justified on the page and presented with a black background. The below tables define the lettering colours for each TLP designation.

RGB	
TLP: RED	Text: R=255, G=43, B=43 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0
TLP: AMBER+STRICT	Text: R=255, G=192, B=0 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0
TLP: AMBER	Text: R=255, G=192, B=0 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0
TLP: GREEN	Text: R=51, G=255, B=0 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0
TLP: CLEAR	Text: R=255, G=255, B=255 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0

CYMK	
TLP: RED	Text: C=0, M=83, Y=83, K=0 Background: C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=100
TLP: AMBER+STRICT	Text: C=0, M=25, Y=100, K=0 Background: : C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=100
TLP: AMBER	Text: C=0, M=25, Y=100, K=0 Background: : C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=100
TLP: GREEN	Text: C=79, M=0, Y=100, K=0 Background: : C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=100
TLP: CLEAR	Text: C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=0 Background: : C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=100

TLP usage: email

Emails utilising a TLP designation should indicate the relevant TLP colour in the subject line and in the body of the email, preceding the information.

The TLP colour must be displayed in capital letters – for example, TLP: AMBER.

The NCSC can be contacted by email at: info@ncsc.govt.nz
 We encourage you to contact us at any time if you require any further assistance or advice.