

# Traffic Light Protocol

New Zealand's National Cyber Security Centre is hosted within the Government Communications Security Bureau

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. 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 by the original TLP designation, they must obtain explicit permission from the original source.**

TLP colour	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
<p><b>TLP: RED</b></p>  <p>Not for disclosure, restricted to participants only.</p>	<p>Information sources may use <b>TLP: RED</b> when information cannot be effectively acted upon by additional parties, and could lead to impacts on a party's privacy, reputation, or operations if misused.</p>	<p>Recipients may not share <b>TLP: RED</b> information with any parties outside of the specific exchange, meeting, or conversation in which it was originally disclosed.</p> <p>In the context of a meeting, for example, <b>TLP: RED</b> information is limited to those present at the meeting. In most circumstances, <b>TLP: RED</b> should be exchanged verbally or in person.</p>
<p><b>TLP: AMBER</b></p>  <p>Limited disclosure, restricted to participants' organisations.</p>	<p>Information sources may use <b>TLP: AMBER</b> 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 <b>TLP: AMBER</b> 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. <b>Information sources are at liberty to specify additional intended limits of the sharing; these must be adhered to.</b></p>
<p><b>TLP: GREEN</b></p>  <p>Limited disclosure, restricted to the community.</p>	<p>Information sources may use <b>TLP: GREEN</b> when information is useful for the awareness of all participating organisations, as well as with peers within the broader community or sector.</p>	<p>Recipients may share <b>TLP: GREEN</b> information with peers and partner organisations within their sector or community, but not via publicly accessible channels. Information in this category can be circulated widely within a particular community. <b>TLP: GREEN</b> information may not be released outside of the community.</p>
<p><b>TLP: WHITE</b></p>  <p>Disclosure is not limited.</p>	<p>Information sources may use <b>TLP: WHITE</b> when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.</p>	<p><b>TLP: WHITE</b> 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** The NCSC is aware of 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: WHITE** 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	
<b>TLP: RED</b>	Text: R=255, G=0, B=51 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0
<b>TLP: AMBER</b>	Text: R=255, G=192, B=0 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0
<b>TLP: GREEN</b>	Text: R=51, G=255, B=0 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0
<b>TLP: WHITE</b>	Text: R=255, G=255, B=255 Background: R=0, G=0, B=0

CYMK	
<b>TLP: RED</b>	Text: C=0, M=100, Y=79, K=0 Background: C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=100
<b>TLP: AMBER</b>	Text: C=0, M=25, Y=100, K=0 Background: : C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=100
<b>TLP: GREEN</b>	Text: C=79, M=0, Y=100, K=0 Background: : C=0, M=0, Y=0, K=100
<b>TLP: WHITE</b>	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](mailto:info@ncsc.govt.nz)**