



OMB Control #0693-0033

Expiration Date: 09/30/2025

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. Your insights are invaluable in helping us improve our policies and ensure they are effectively implemented to support both our institutional objectives and your personal work environment.

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12:29



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Front page

We invite you to take part in a research study aimed at gathering your valuable feedback on the recent changes to the NIST policy for reviewing and clearing scientific publications. This brief, anonymous survey will ask about your understanding and perception related to the policy updates. The survey should take about ten minutes to complete. If you have any questions, please contact Juan F. Fung at juan.fung@nist.gov or call 202-380-7347.

By proceeding, you confirm your understanding of the study and voluntarily agree to participate. For the full information sheet, please [click here](#).

Old Policy Module

NIST has updated the publication review policy for scientific publications.

Before examining the changes, we would like to know about your experiences with the previous review policy ("the ERB").

The previous policy is summarized

here: <https://inet.nist.gov/adlp/service-resource/publishingfaq>

How did the previous NIST publication review policy affect your ability to perform your duties effectively?

- ☐ Very negative impact
- ☐ Negative impact
- ☐ Neither positive nor negative impact
- ☐ Positive impact
- ☐ Very positive

To what extent did you feel that you were clear on how to comply with the previous NIST publication review policy?

- ☐ Very unclear
- ☐ Somewhat unclear
- ☐ Neither clear nor unclear
- ☐ Somewhat clear
- ☐ Very clear

Please share any other thoughts on how the previous policy affected your ability to perform your duties effectively, including anything that hindered your ability to comply with the previous NIST publication review policy.

Purpose Module A/B

The policy changes are designed to **enhance compliance**, thereby maintaining the **integrity** and **effectiveness** of our research. Compliance is crucial for achieving our **institutional goals** and upholding our **reputation for excellence**.

Understanding how these changes impact your work helps us ensure that our policies effectively support **NIST's mission** of advancing innovation and technology.

The policy changes are intended to ensure that you can work more **effectively** and **efficiently**, aligning your efforts with the broader goals of NIST. Compliance is essential for creating a **supportive work environment** that facilitates **success** and **personal growth**. Understanding your perspectives helps us tailor policies to better serve **both you and the institution**.

I am aware of the changes to the NIST publication review policy for scientific publications.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Provide your level of agreement with the following statements:

My adherence to the NIST publication review policy supports my career development at NIST.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

My adherence to the NIST publication review policy supports our shared mission at NIST.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

Key Changes Module

The following table provides an overview of the **key changes** to the NIST publication review policy. These changes aim to enhance clarity, efficiency, and effectiveness across all stages of review. As you review these changes, consider how they align with your understanding and expectations of the previous policy.

Policy Element	Previous Policy	Updated Policy
Review Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Single combined process for review and clearance with redundancies and overlap across OU and NIST levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Separate technical review at OU-level and clearance review at NIST-level.
Roles and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Roles and responsibilities not clearly defined, leading to potential confusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clear roles and responsibilities for OUs and NIST.
Policy Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Comprehensive policy but complexity can result in ambiguity and misinterpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Streamlined with clarified requirements, reducing ambiguities and improving understanding.
Modernization		<div>New elements include:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accessibility complianceGenerative AI disclaimers

Click on the image to open in a new window. To learn more about the policy changes, visit inet.nist.gov/link-to-policy

How are the key changes to the NIST publication review policy

likely to affect your ability to perform your duties effectively?

- ☐ 1. Very negative impact
- ☐ 2. Negative impact
- ☐ 3. Neither positive nor negative impact
- ☐ 4. Positive impact
- ☐ 5. Very positive impact

How helpful are the key changes to the NIST publication review policy in making it clearer how you comply with the policy?

- ☐ Very unhelpful
- ☐ Unhelpful
- ☐ Neither helpful nor unhelpful
- ☐ Helpful
- ☐ Very helpful

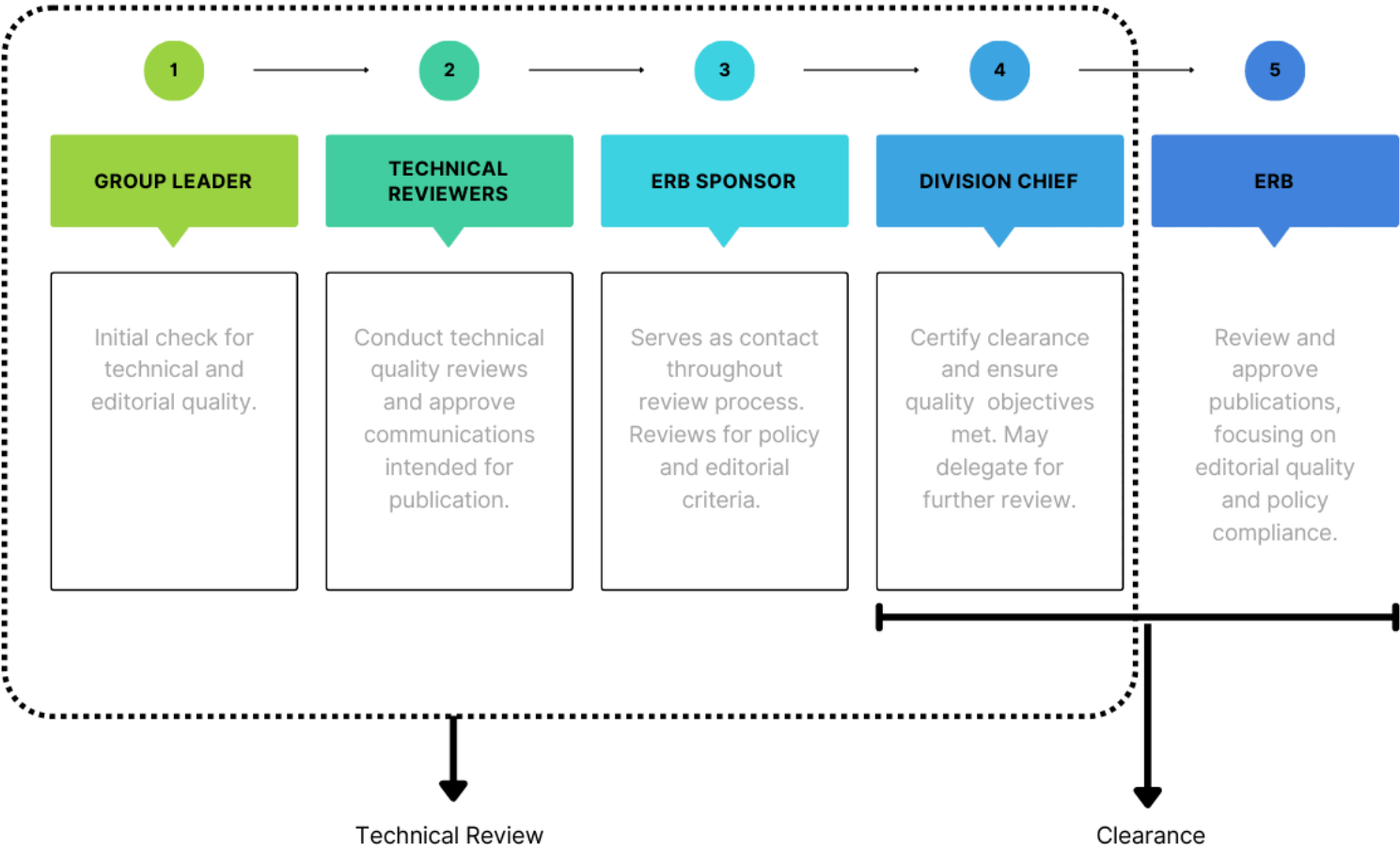
Review Process Module

Now that you've reviewed the key policy changes, take a look at the following graphic for a deeper dive into the specific changes to the **review process**.

These updates aim to streamline the review process by decoupling the technical review (your OU's responsibility) from clearance review (NIST RPO's responsibility), clarifying roles and responsibilities, and introducing process improvements such as a

brief review option. Reflect on how these procedural changes might impact your workflow.

Previous (ERB) Review Process



Click on the image to open in a new window. To learn more about the policy changes, visit inet.nist.gov/link-to-policy

The two-step review process is expected to enhance compliance by separating the OU review of scientific content (Technical Review) from NIST review of adherence to policy requirements (Clearance Review).

How helpful do you find the separation of the Technical Review

and Clearance Review stages for making it clearer how you comply with the policy?

- ☐ Very unhelpful
- ☐ Unhelpful
- ☐ Neither helpful or unhelpful
- ☐ Helpful
- ☐ Very helpful

How is the separation of the Technical Review and Clearance Review stages likely to affect your ability to perform your duties effectively?

- ☐ Very negative impact
- ☐ Negative impact
- ☐ Neither positive nor negative impact
- ☐ Positive impact
- ☐ Very positive impact

The Brief Technical Review option may be available for publications that are intended for external peer review. This option allows the external peer review to satisfy the technical reviewer requirements (at the OU's discretion).

How helpful do you find the Brief Technical Review option for making it clearer how you comply with the policy?

- ☐ Very unhelpful

- ☐ Unhelpful
- ☐ Neither helpful nor unhelpful
- ☐ Helpful
- ☐ Very helpful

How is the Brief Technical Review option likely to affect your ability to perform your duties effectively?

- ☐ Very negative impact
- ☐ Negative impact
- ☐ Neither positive nor negative impact
- ☐ Positive impact
- ☐ Very positive impact

Policy Requirements Module

We'll now shift our focus to the updated **policy requirements**, summarized in the following table.

Policy requirements for publication clearance span technical standards, ethics and security compliance, publication integrity (including a new requirement for generative AI disclosures), and accessibility and public engagement (including a new requirement for Section 508 compliance). As you engage with this section, consider how these requirements integrate with your duties and support NIST's commitment to excellence.

 <p>TECHNICAL STANDARDS Ensure consistency, traceability, and proper identification of researchers and their contributions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced: Reinforces SI unit reporting with stricter compliance. • Clarified: ORCID IDs for authors more clearly emphasized as mandatory for traceability.
 <p>ETHICAL AND SECURITY COMPLIANCE Protects ethical integrity and safeguards sensitive information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced: Provides detailed guidance on ethical approvals, including human and animal research. • Enhanced: Comprehensive instructions for export controls, privacy, and IT security, building on previous guidelines.
 <p>PUBLICATION INTEGRITY Protects ethical integrity and safeguards sensitive information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced: Framework for evaluating commercial products without implying endorsements (<i>subject to OU approval</i>). • Enhanced: Clearer disclaimers mandated to prevent misinterpretation as official positions. • New: Explicit requirement for disclosure of generative AI use.
 <p>PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT Ensure accessibility, transparency, and proactive public engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New: ADA Section 508 compliance is now explicitly required for all publications. • New: Specific mandates for funding disclosures and proactive notifications for potential controversies.

Click on the image to open in a new window. To learn more about the policy changes, visit inet.nist.gov/link-to-policy

The policy requirements have been streamlined by clarifying and combining overlapping requirements, reducing ambiguities and improving understanding, which is anticipated to directly improve compliance rates.

How helpful are the changes to the policy requirements in making it clearer how you comply with the policy?

- ☐ Very unhelpful
- ☐ Unhelpful
- ☐ Neither helpful nor unhelpful
- ☐ Helpful

☐ Very helpful

The policy changes provide an expanded framework for **evaluating commercial products** without endorsement and clarifies that any commercial-product evaluation requires your OU's approval.

How helpful is the clarification that commercial-product evaluation requires OU approval?

- ☐ Very unhelpful
- ☐ Unhelpful
- ☐ Neither helpful nor unhelpful
- ☐ Helpful
- ☐ Very helpful

How is the requirement to include disclaimers when using generative AI in publications likely to affect your ability to perform your duties effectively?

- ☐ Very negative impact
- ☐ Negative impact
- ☐ Neither positive nor negative impact
- ☐ Positive impact
- ☐ Very positive impact

Ex-post Module

Reflecting on your understanding of the policy changes, state your level of agreement with the following statements:

My adherence to the NIST publication review policy supports my career development at NIST.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

My adherence to the NIST publication review policy supports our shared mission at NIST.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

Please share any thoughts on your responses or anything else that would improve your ability to comply with the policy.

Respondent Characteristics

What is your role at NIST?

- ☐ Federal employee
- ☐ Associate

How many years have you worked at NIST?

Do you have any experience with any of the following roles under the previous review policy? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Author (submitted to ERB)
- ☐ Author (co-author submitted to ERB)
- ☐ Technical Reviewer
- ☐ Process Monitor
- ☐ Division Chief
- ☐ ERB Sponsor
- ☐ Other

About how many publications have you submitted for review during your time at NIST?

- ☐ Less than 5
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 11-20
- ☐ 21-50
- ☐ More than 50

About how many publications have you served as technical reviewer during your time at NIST?

- ☐ Less than 5
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 11-20
- ☐ 21-50
- ☐ More than 50

Do you have experience with review processes in **other** organizations? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Other federal agency
- ☐ Private sector
- ☐ Academia
- ☐ Other

☐ None

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