

Blanco HMG v4.5 Configuration Requirements to meet Infosec Standard 5

Infosec Standard 5 and Manual S has two standards for Data Erasure. Blanco Data Cleaner is the only Data Erasure Utility to have been approved to both these standards for USB/IDE/SCSI/RAID and SATA support.

- For *clearing* of data up to and including CONFIDENTIAL, overwriting products that meet at least the Baseline Standard shall be used.
- For *clearing* of SECRET and TOP SECRET data, overwriting products that meet the Enhanced Standard shall be used.
- For *purging* of data up to RESTRICTED, overwriting or degaussing products that meet at least the requirements of the Baseline Standard should be used.
- For *purging* of CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET data, overwriting or degaussing products that meet the requirements of the Enhanced Standard should be used.

The Baseline Standard – Overwriting

The Overwriting and Verification applications shall be run from a bootable floppy disk or CD-ROM.

Both Overwrite and Verification applications shall report the *actual* disk capacity to be overwritten.

(NB: The *actual* disk capacity should be ascertained (possibly by calculation – see CESG Infosec Manual S) prior to overwriting since BIOS, FDISK, CHKDSK and Windows etc. cannot be relied on to report disk capacity accurately).

- **The Overwriting application shall write a single character pattern to all addressable areas.**
- The Verification application shall generate a report that all addressable areas have been overwritten.
- The Verification application shall report any bad or unusable sectors that cannot be overwritten.

Verification of successful secure erasure is optional but strongly recommended

Blanco Data Cleaner HMG v4.5 – Configuration to Baseline Standard

Options available on screen 2/4

NUMBER OF OVERWRITINGS – HMG v4.5 defaults to Baseline Standard (See Top Right of Screen)

THE PATTERN FOR THE LAST OVERWRITING – Automatically configured under Baseline Standard

Check the hard drives you wish to erase are shown and selected, click **erase** and follow prompts.

All the required Verifications are contained within the Data Erasure Confirmation Report as generated after the completion of a successful erasure process. It is recommended that this confirmation report is saved and printed for future reference.

The Enhanced Standard – Overwriting

- Both Overwrite and Verification applications shall report the **actual** disk capacity to be overwritten.

(NB: The *actual* disk capacity should be ascertained (possibly by calculation – see CESG Infosec Manual S) prior to overwriting since BIOS, FDISK, CHKDSK and Windows etc. cannot be relied on to report disk capacity accurately).

- **The Overwriting application shall perform three overwrites to *all* addressable areas. The overwriting sequence will be a single character pattern, followed by its complement, and finally an overwrite using a random character pattern. (i.e. a total of 3 overwrites).**
- The Verification application shall generate a report that all addressable areas have been overwritten.
- The Verification application shall report any bad or unusable sectors that cannot be overwritten.

Verification of successful secure erasure shall be carried out for all clearing and purging instances.

Blanco Data Cleaner HMG v4.5 – Configuration to Enhanced Standard

Options available on screen 2/4

NUMBER OF OVERWRITINGS – Press F3 or select Erasure Method (Bottom Left of Screen) you will see Baseline Standard is automatically selected, next to this is a drop down menu, select this and choose Enhanced Standard then click ok.

Screen 2/4 should show that Enhanced Standard is now selected (See Top Right of Screen).

THE PATTERN FOR THE LAST OVERWRITING – Automatically configured under Enhanced Standard

Check the hard drives you wish to erase are shown and selected, click **erase** and follow prompts.

All the required **Verifications** are contained within the Data Erasure Confirmation Report as generated after the completion of a successful erasure process. It is required that this confirmation report is saved and printed for future reference.

Additional Recommendations - General Good Practice

The success of the erasure should be positively verified. If there are large quantities of storage media for re-use or disposal, it may be decided that verification of a sample, rather than the whole batch, is sufficient to manage the risk. It is recommended that a 1% - 5% sample is used for Baseline Standard verification, and 5% - 10% sample is used for Enhanced Standard verification.

Blanco Data Cleaner HMG v4.5 has an in-built Hexviewer, which allows the user to sample the contents of the hard disk before and after the erasure process. This tool gives the user the option to randomly sample, and positively verify the erasure process, in-line with the above recommendations from CESG.