

Unused Firewall Rule Standard

Introduction

Firewall rules are used to allow or block traffic on a network. These rules must be reviewed and maintained regularly in order to prevent a rule that is no longer needed from permitting unauthorized activity on the network. Frequent rule cleanup increases network security and ensures compliance with regulatory frameworks.

Purpose

This document establishes the OMES standard to perform a quarterly review and cleanup of unused firewall rules.

Standard

The OMES firewall team performs a rule cleanup review on a quarterly basis. Rules that were unused during the 90-day period preceding the review are identified for disablement. If the identified rules further remain unused during the 30-day review period, the rules are disabled.

Some rules are necessary despite being used less frequently than every 90 days. Those rules are identified by the OMES firewall team as being exempt from this standard and are subject to a separate yearly evaluation.

Compliance

This standard shall take effect upon publication and is made pursuant to Title 62 O.S. §§ 34.11.1 and 34.12 and Title 62 O.S. § 35.8. OMES IS may amend and publish the amended standards policies and standards at any time. Compliance is expected with all published policies and standards, and any published amendments thereof. Employees found in violation of this standard may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Rationale

To coordinate and require central approval of state agency information technology purchases and projects to enable the chief information officer to assess the needs and capabilities of state agencies as well as streamline and consolidate systems to ensure that the state delivers essential public services to its citizens in the most efficient manner at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers.

References

- [NIST Guidelines on Firewalls and Firewall Policy.](#)

Revision history

This standard is subject to periodic review to ensure relevancy.

Effective date: 10/05/2022	Review cycle: Annual
Last revised: 09/28/2022	Last reviewed: 01/12/2026
Approved by DanCronin, Chief Information Officer	