

Getting the Most Out of Certification Assistant

The self-guided, step-by-step platform for mastering the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification process

It's a new day

Cybersecurity requirements for contractors and suppliers within the Defense Industrial Base (DIB) have always been rigorous. Yet despite industry-wide security controls for protecting controlled unclassified information (CUI), there have been multiple incidents of high-profile losses of intellectual property to adversaries in recent years, directly threatening the United States' technological advantage and military superiority. The Department of Defense's (DoD) response has been to begin audits of contractors' implementation of NIST 800-171 controls while also rolling out the new Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program.



IF YOU'RE NOT
CERTIFIED, YOU LOSE
THE ABILITY TO BID
ON CONTRACTS

Audits are coming, and compliance is mandatory

CMMC increases scrutiny and enforcement of the NIST 800-171 security controls, and sets forth a certification and audit process that's mandatory for all contract holders and their suppliers at all tiers within the supply chain. In fact, as of early 2021, having a 171 Self Assessment and reporting your score based on the DoD methodology will be a near-term requirement for any DoD acquisition. If you're not certified, you lose your ability to bid on RFIs/RFPs. For subcontractors and suppliers who rely on DoD prime contractor relationships to drive their business, the CMMC poses a real threat to the bottom line if not addressed now.

Certification can be quick and easy

Certification Assistant from Exostar is specifically designed to help businesses address the current and new DoD cybersecurity compliance requirements in accordance with current and forthcoming versions of Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS). Certification Assistant allows users to accurately complete NIST 800-171 self-assessments and prepare for third-party certification audits assessments at each of the five CMMC maturity levels. It's an uncomplicated, straightforward solution that applies a step-by-step methodology for addressing gaps and requirements identified in the CMMC and NIST 800-171 standards. How easy is it to use? If you've ever done your taxes online, the SaaS-based Certification Assistant will be a familiar experience.

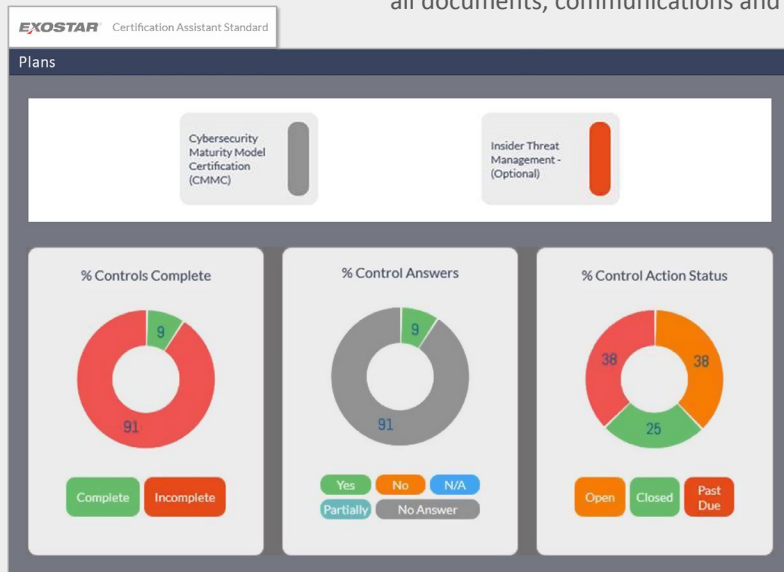
A comprehensive toolset gets you NIST and CMMC ready

The CMMC is a 5-tiered maturity model, and the CMMC level requirements will be specified in all newly issued procurement RFPs. For instance, all contractors and subcontractors handling Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) need to certify at Level 3, but the requirements flowing down to subcontractors and suppliers on a procurement might be just for Level 1 or Level 2 certification. Keep in mind: all organizations in the DIB ecosystem must get certified at a minimum for Maturity Level 1. Certification Assistant is designed to enable suppliers to assess the current security posture, prepare to meet the highly specific steps required for NIST 800-171 and CMMC certification, and monitor ongoing compliance status — quickly and confidently.

One secure platform does the work for you

For suppliers and subcontractors who've struggled to track NIST compliance via spreadsheets, file shares and email threads, Certification Assistant will be a very welcome new solution indeed. Through an intuitive SaaS-based user interface, Certification Assistant provides comprehensive workflows that empower self-guided, step-by-step progress to NIST 800-171 and CMMC compliance. It's your secure online platform that centralizes all documents, communications and processes needed to achieve certification at your required Level.

CENTRALIZE
ALL DOCUMENTS
AND PLANS



ONE SOLUTION FROM PLANNING TO COMPLETION:

- Dashboard tracks assessment and compliance status.
- Easy reporting illustrates compliance gaps, and next steps.
- Supports any team size; unlimited user capability for internal task collaboration.
- Built-in information guides provide clarification and best practices.
- Document storage eliminates sprawl, collect and document in one central space.
- Support for security controls, processes, practices, plans of action and milestones (POA&Ms)
- Risk assessment reporting for successful assessment and audit.
- Secure access control and content protection.

Pick the level that's right for you

You could hire an expensive cybersecurity consultant to come in and revamp your IT infrastructure, business practices and security systems to shoot for CMMC compliance at Maturity Level 3 or higher. But if you're a supplier or subcontractor likely to be working on procurements that require only Maturity Level 1 or Maturity Level 2 certification, it makes more sense to start with your own internal guided self-assessment and gap analysis, and then engage support from consultants in a scoped and affordable fashion if warranted.

| EXOSTAR Certification Assistant Standard | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) | | | | |
| Switch to NIST 800-171 View | Summary | Target CMMC Level | Self Assessed CMMC Level | Implemented |
| | | 5 | 0 | 16 |
| | | 0 | | |
| Practice/Process | Level 1 Complete/Total | Level 2 Complete/Total | Level 3 Complete/Total | |
| Practices | In Progress 2 / 4 | Incomplete 0 / 10 | In Progress 1 / 8 | |
| Processes | | Incomplete 0 / 2 | Incomplete 0 / 1 | |
| Practices | | | Incomplete 0 / 1 | |
| Processes | | Incomplete 0 / 2 | Incomplete 0 / 1 | |
| Practices | | Incomplete 0 / 4 | Incomplete 0 / 7 | |
| Processes | | Incomplete 0 / 2 | Incomplete 0 / 1 | |
| Practices | Completed 2 / 2 | Incomplete 0 / 5 | Incomplete 0 / 4 | |
| Processes | | Incomplete 0 / 2 | Incomplete 0 / 1 | |



TRACK YOUR PROGRESS AND
LEVEL-UP WHEN YOU NEED IT

Build on your foundation

As a supplier active in the DIB, you've likely already made investments in cybersecurity and regulatory compliance. Why not build on that foundation to get basic certification that will enable you to bid on CMMC-regulated procurements as soon as they are issued? Certification Assistant enables you to do just that. As a comprehensive tool for compliance management, self-assessment, risk management and SSP/POA&M process governance, it enables suppliers like you to quickly improve your security posture and become ready in weeks, not months. Have you struggled to understand how to complete a System Security Plan (SSP) that will pass muster with an auditor? Certification Assistant provides a guided method for information collection, and provides a completed SSP for NIST 800-171 and CMMC for CMMC Maturity Levels 2-5.

Level up when needed

Certification Assistant is available in three progressively tiered versions, so you can maximize your investment in NIST 800-171/CMMC compliance, while also setting yourself up to elevate to the next level when needed. Importantly, all versions of Certification Assistant are designed to enable secure interaction with an expanding community of partners. Suppliers and service providers can work and communicate consistently and seamlessly within the secure, cloud-based platform, and broaden CMMC compliance operations as needed.

Get ready today

Getting ready for certification and compliance with CMMC and NIST 800-171 doesn't have to be an expensive exercise in hiring consultants and installing heavy enterprise software. Cloud-based and progressively tiered, Certification Assistant from Exostar is the comprehensive NIST 800-171/CMMC solution that grows along with your DOD procurement supply business.

**Get the most out of your investment
in NIST 800-171/CMMC compliance.**

Get Certification Assistant.

START HERE »

30-Day Free Trial
Certification Assistant

