

Certification Assistant

CMMC readiness: Simplified and delivered via a secure, cloud-based platform.



The cybersecurity requirements for organizations within the defense industrial base (DIB) are changing to address the growing loss of intellectual property to adversaries, which threatens the United States' technological advantage and military superiority. Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC), rolling out in 2020, sets a new, uniform compliance standard for cybersecurity hygiene across the DIB by defining security policies and practices that augment the existing NIST 800-171 standard. During CMMC's multi-year rollout, the Department of Defense (DoD) will be increasing audit scrutiny and enforcement of the NIST 800-171 security controls for contracts not yet subject to CMMC requirements.

Certification Assistant helps DIB organizations address compliance and risk-mitigation challenges posed by the coexistence of NIST 800-171 and CMMC. The secure, cloud-based, SaaS (software-as-a-service) offering guides organizations through the assessment of their current cybersecurity maturity and compliance status with respect to the NIST 800-171 security controls, and each CMMC process and practice. It helps users identify exceptions, determine tools and policies to resolve exceptions, and more easily manage and maintain compliance and certification initiatives.

Certification Assistant delivers a self-guided, step-by-step platform for streamlining the implementation of controls and policies necessary to complete an accurate NIST 800-171 self-assessment, or to prepare for CMMC certification success. It allows organizations, large and small, to organize and harness the myriad tasks and processes required for NIST 800-171 compliance and CMMC certification. In doing so, Certification Assistant can drive competitive advantage and return on investment.

**Certification Assistant: Complete preparation for both
NIST 800-171 compliance and CMMC certification.**

WHAT IT DOES

Certification Assistant helps businesses address DoD cybersecurity compliance requirements, and related forms of supply-chain and organizational risk, more efficiently. It's an uncomplicated solution that applies a step-by-step method for addressing gaps and requirements identified in the CMMC and NIST 800-171 standards, in accordance with current and forthcoming versions of Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) clause 252.204-7012. These include security controls, processes, and practices, along with the establishment of SSPs (system security plans) and POA&Ms (plans of action and milestones).

WHY IT'S DIFFERENT

Certification Assistant from Exostar provides a web-based, wizard-like experience for users – with clear explanations and relevant reference content – to implement the controls, practices, and processes mandated by NIST 800-171 and CMMC. Easy-to-understand reports illustrate status and gaps, and identify activities organizations must complete to achieve the desired level of CMMC certification. Suppliers and service providers can work and communicate - consistently and seamlessly - within the secure, cloud-based platform.

Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Back to Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Dashboard

System Description | Stakeholders | Policies | **Self Assessment** | Risk Assessment | Approval | SSP/POAM

Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3

Self Assessment

Controls Print Compliance Controls | Print Compliance Action Items

Section		Implemented	Not Implemented	Partially Implemented	Not Applicable
AC - Access Control	1 / 4 △	1	0	2	1
IA - Identification and Authorization	1 / 2 △	1	1	0	0
MP - Media Protection	1 / 1 ✔	1	0	0	0
PE - Physical Protection	1 / 4	1	0	0	0
SC - System and Communications Protection	1 / 2	1	0	0	0
SI - System and Informational Integrity	1 / 4	1	0	0	0

With Certification Assistant, users benefit from expert guidance on an assisted path toward NIST 800-171 self-assessment and compliance, as well as reliable preparation for CMMC certification.

With Certification Assistant from Exostar, a single, secure online platform accommodates workflows, evidence collection, and documentation uploads for simplified interactions between suppliers and third-party service providers. The product helps shorten and assure the path to continued participation on government contracts that mandate NIST 800-171 compliance or CMMC certification.

BENEFITS

- **Flexible** - Certification Assistant is available in tiers designed for different compliance and certification objectives - each tier includes a dashboard and reporting for risk and compliance attributes, and supports uploading of evidence and artifacts
 - **CA Lite** addresses CMMC Level 1 and includes a free-trial period
 - **CA Standard** accounts for NIST 800-171 (110 security controls) and for CMMC Levels 1-3 (130 practices and three processes)
- **Secure** - Access to Certification Assistant is controlled by the Exostar Managed Access Gateway (MAG) which requires two-factor authentication for login

- **Comprehensive** - Certification Assistant allows users to accurately complete NIST 800-171 self-assessments and prepare for third-party certification audits at each CMMC level

WHY EXOSTAR?

Exostar's cloud-based platforms create exclusive communities within highly-regulated industries where organizations securely collaborate, share information, and operate compliantly. Within these communities, we build trust. More than 135,000 aerospace and defense organizations and agencies in more than 150 countries trust Exostar to strengthen security, reduce expenditures, raise productivity, and help them achieve their missions. Ten of the top 20 global biopharmaceutical companies rely on Exostar to help them speed new medicines and therapies to market. Exostar is a Gartner Cool Vendor.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

To get started with Certification Assistant today, please contact us at [exostar.com/contact](https://www.exostar.com/contact). Find out how we can ease your path to risk management and regulatory compliance.