

WHICH CMMC LEVEL APPLIES TO YOUR ORGANIZATION?

CMMC is structured around three progressive levels designed to protect sensitive federal data within the defense supply chain. Your required CMMC level depends on the type of federal data you handle, either **Federal Contract Information (FCI)** or **Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)**, and the cybersecurity controls specified in your contract.

Each level introduces increasing security requirements, from foundational cyber hygiene to advanced protections against sophisticated threats. Use the breakdown below to understand what CMMC level applies to your organization and what is required to demonstrate compliance.

THE CMMC LEVELS & COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

MODEL	LEVEL DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT DATA	LEVEL REQUIREMENTS
LEVEL 3	Expert	CUI	<p>Compliance with 110+ practices drawn from the security requirements specified in NIST SP 800-172.</p> <p>You must demonstrate standardized and optimized processes in place-including resources to monitor, scan, and process data forensics-as well as enhanced practices that detect and respond to changing tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) of advanced persistent threats (APTs)*.</p> <p><i>*An APT is an adversary with the sophisticated cyber expertise and significant resources to conduct attacks from multiple vectors.</i></p>
LEVEL 2	Advanced	CUI	<p>Compliance with 110 practices specified in NIST SP 800-171 Rev 2 per DFARS Clause 252.204-7012 [3, 4, 5].</p> <p>You must demonstrate an institutionalized management plan to implement good cyber hygiene practices to safeguard CUI, including all the NIST 800-171 r2 security requirements and processes.</p>
LEVEL 1	Foundational	FCI	<p>Compliance with 17 practices as specified in FAR Clause 52.204-21.</p> <p>You must demonstrate basic cyber hygiene practices, such as ensuring employees change passwords regularly to protect FCI.</p>

Determine your CMMC level today to remain contract-ready in 2026.
[Talk to our experts](#) to build your path to compliance.



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