

ISMAP (Japan)

ISMAP is a Japanese government framework for assessing and certifying cloud service security for use by national public sector agencies.



What it is

Japan ISMAP (Information System Security Management and Assessment Program) is a cybersecurity and compliance framework that enables organizations to demonstrate the security and risk management posture of their cloud services to government agencies in Japan. Its primary purpose is to support the secure adoption of cloud computing in the Japanese public sector by establishing a baseline set of security controls and assessment requirements.

Published by the Japanese government, specifically the Cabinet Secretariat and the Digital Agency, ISMAP is mandatory for cloud service providers seeking to offer services to national government entities. The framework covers areas such as cybersecurity controls, risk management processes, data protection, and incident response, aligning with requirements similar to ISO 27001 and other international standards.

At a glance

PUBLISHER Digital Agency	TYPE Framework	VERSION ISMAP Program (current version)
EFFECTIVE 2018	DOMAIN Cloud Security	FAMILY Other
REGION Japan	INDUSTRY Government & Public Sector	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance
IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY High		

Source: <https://www.ismap.go.jp/en/>

Why it matters

- **Strengthen cybersecurity governance** Enable organizations to systematically manage security risks and ensure oversight of cloud-based services for the public sector.
- **Enhance regulatory compliance** Facilitate alignment with Japanese government requirements and international standards, reducing compliance gaps and regulatory exposure.
- **Increase audit readiness** Support thorough documentation and independent third-party assessments, streamlining audit processes and demonstrating accountability.
- **Improve incident response capabilities** Enable proactive planning and structured response procedures for security incidents affecting government cloud services.

How SmartSuite supports ISMAP

Cloud Security Control Framework

Structure ISMAP control requirements with ownership, scope, and implementation tracking.

Provider Assessment and Certification Tracking

Manage assessment status, certification evidence, and compliance documentation for cloud services.

Risk and Control Mapping

Link controls to risks, assets, and regulatory requirements for prioritized remediation.

Evidence Collection and Assurance Artifacts

Centralize audit evidence, policies, and technical documentation supporting ISMAP compliance.

Continuous Monitoring and Compliance Workflows

Track control effectiveness, monitoring activities, and remediation tasks across cloud environments.

ISMAP Compliance and Assessment Readiness Reporting

Provide dashboards showing control coverage, assessment status, and ISMAP compliance readiness.

Common framework mappings

CSA STAR

FedRAMP Rev. 5

ISO 27001:2022

ISO 27017

ISO 27018

ISO 27701

NIST CSF 2.0

NIST 800-53 Rev.5

Official resources

ISMAP Overview

Provides a detailed explanation of the ISMAP framework and its significance for cloud services.
ismap.go.jp/csm?id=ismap_en

ISMAP Security Control Requirements

Defines the mandatory security controls required for compliance with ISMAP.
ismap.go.jp/en/info/documents/control-guidelines.pdf

ISMAP Assessment Guide

Outlines the process and criteria for conducting assessments under the ISMAP framework.
ismap.go.jp/en/info/documents/assessment-guide.pdf

ISMAP Implementation Guidance

Offers official guidance on implementing ISMAP requirements for cloud services.
ismap.go.jp/en/info/documents/implementation-guidelines.pdf

Frequently asked questions

What is Japan ISMAP used for?

Japan ISMAP establishes a standardized framework for cloud service security and risk management, enabling cloud providers to demonstrate compliance with Japanese government requirements. It streamlines the evaluation of cloud services offered to public sector agencies to ensure appropriate protection of information assets.

Is compliance with Japan ISMAP mandatory for cloud providers?

Yes, ISMAP compliance is mandatory for cloud service providers seeking to offer their services to Japanese national government agencies. Cloud providers must complete the registration process and successfully undergo third-party assessments to be listed as ISMAP-compliant.

Who does Japan ISMAP apply to?

Japan ISMAP applies specifically to cloud service providers that wish to provide services to central government entities in Japan. While it is not required for private sector or municipal government use, achieving ISMAP compliance may be beneficial for organizations serving multiple sectors.

What key controls and documentation does Japan ISMAP require?

ISMAP requires organizations to implement extensive cybersecurity controls across areas such as risk management, access control, incident response, and continuous monitoring. Comprehensive documentation—including security policies, risk assessments, and evidence of control operation—is essential for demonstrating compliance during assessments.

How does an organization implement Japan ISMAP requirements?

Organizations implement ISMAP by aligning their internal security practices with the framework's control catalog, conducting regular risk assessments, and preparing thorough documentation for review. The process typically includes readiness assessments, gap analysis, remediation planning, and third-party audits.

How does Japan ISMAP relate to other information security standards?

Japan ISMAP draws on principles from international standards such as ISO 27001, but specifies requirements and assessment points unique to the Japanese public sector context. Organizations with existing ISO 27001 programs may find parallels but will need to address ISMAP-specific controls and documentation.

What are the ongoing compliance requirements for Japan ISMAP?

Ongoing ISMAP compliance involves continuous monitoring of implemented controls, recurring evidence collection, and scheduled audits to confirm adherence. Organizations are required to maintain up-to-date risk assessments and demonstrate timely remediation of any identified gaps to retain their ISMAP status.

How would SmartSuite support Japan ISMAP?

SmartSuite can support Japan ISMAP by offering pre-mapped control libraries and integrated risk registers tailored to ISMAP requirements. The platform enables organizations to systematically collect compliance evidence, manage policy documentation, track audit readiness, generate custom reports, and coordinate remediation actions to maintain sustained compliance.

License included / downloadable: Yes ISMAP program information and official guidance are publicly available through the official ISMAP website and related Japanese government resources.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/japan-ismap-information-system-security-management-and-assessment-program