

Texas DIR State Agency Security Control Standards v2.0

Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 defines mandatory security controls and baselines for Texas state agencies to protect information and systems.



What it is

U.S. Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 is a cybersecurity and compliance framework that establishes baseline security controls for Texas state agencies to safeguard information systems and data assets. Its primary purpose is to reduce cybersecurity risks, enhance data protection, and ensure compliance with state regulations.

Developed and published by the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR), this framework applies to all state agencies, providing standardized guidelines and control objectives covering cybersecurity management, risk assessment, access control, incident response, and privacy governance. It serves as a foundation for state-level regulatory compliance and operational resilience programs.

At a glance

PUBLISHER Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR)	TYPE Control Framework	VERSION 2.0
EFFECTIVE January 20, 2022	DOMAIN Cybersecurity	FAMILY Other
REGION Texas (specifically, the State of Texas) ([dir.texas.gov](https://dir.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/DIR%20Security%20Control%20Standards%20Catalog%202.0.pdf?utm_source=openai))	INDUSTRY Government & Public Sector	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance
IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY High		

Source: https://dir.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/Security%20Control%20Standards%20Catalog_v2.2_0.pdf

Why it matters

- Strengthen cybersecurity governance** Enable agencies to implement structured oversight, ensuring responsibilities and security priorities are clearly defined and regularly reviewed.
- Support compliance with state regulations** Facilitate continuous alignment with Texas statutes, reducing compliance gaps and supporting fulfillment of required reporting obligations.
- Enhance operational resilience** Minimize service disruptions and strengthen business continuity by promoting risk-based planning and resiliency strategies.
- Improve incident response readiness** Enable faster identification, reporting, and management of security incidents through established protocols and response processes.

How SmartSuite supports Texas DIR SCS v2.0

State Control Library Management

Structure DIR security controls with ownership, scope, and implementation status across systems.

Risk Assessment and Control Mapping

Link controls to risks, systems, and business processes to prioritize remediation efforts.

Policy and Standards Governance

Centralize security policies, procedures, and compliance documentation aligned to DIR requirements.

Control Performance and Security Monitoring

Track control performance, security monitoring activities, and ongoing validation of safeguards.

Incident Response and Security Operations

Manage incident workflows, escalation procedures, and response activities across state environments.

DIR Audit and Assessment Readiness Reporting

Provide dashboards showing control coverage, open gaps, and readiness for DIR audits and assessments.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1

COBIT 2019

CJIS Security Policy

FedRAMP Rev. 5

HIPAA (NIST SP 800-66 Rev. 2)

ISO 27001:2022

NIST CSF 2.0

NIST 800-53 Rev.5

PCI DSS 4.0.1

SOC 2

Official resources

Texas Department of Information Resources Security Control Standards Catalog

Defines the security control standards for Texas state agencies as per Texas DIR requirements.
pubext.dir.texas.gov/portal/internal/resources/DocumentLibrary/Security%20Control%20Standards%20Catalog.pdf

Frequently asked questions

What is Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 used for?

Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 provides a standardized set of cybersecurity and risk management controls for all Texas state agencies. The framework is intended to guide organizations in protecting information systems, ensuring regulatory compliance, and aligning with statewide IT security objectives.

Is compliance with Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 mandatory?

Yes, compliance with Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 is mandatory for all state agencies and higher education institutions in Texas, as directed by the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR). Agencies must adopt the controls or document and justify any exceptions as part of their information security program.

Who does Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 apply to?

The standards apply to all Texas state agencies, including institutions of higher education, that manage or operate information systems storing, processing, or transmitting state-owned data. Contractors or service providers may also need to follow these standards when handling agency data.

What are the key controls or artifacts required by Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0?

Key controls include risk assessments, asset inventory, access control, incident response procedures, system monitoring, and acceptable use policies. Agencies are required to document compliance efforts and maintain supporting artifacts such as audit logs, security plans, and training records.

How should agencies implement Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0?

Implementation should begin with a gap assessment comparing existing practices to the DIR standards, followed by remediation planning to address deficiencies. Agencies must maintain documentation, assign control ownership, and verify that security measures are effective.

How does Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 relate to NIST and other frameworks?

Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 aligns closely with the NIST SP 800-53 security control catalog, adapting its requirements to the Texas state context. Agencies may leverage existing controls implemented for frameworks like NIST or CIS but must ensure all DIR-specific requirements are met.

What are the ongoing compliance requirements for Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0?

Ongoing compliance involves conducting regular self-assessments, annual risk assessments, periodic security training, and timely reporting of risks or incidents to DIR. Agencies should update artifacts and evidence to demonstrate sustained adherence to control requirements.

How would SmartSuite support Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0?

SmartSuite can help organizations manage Texas DIR Control Standards 2.0 by enabling centralized control tracking, risk assessment management, evidence collection, and automated alerts for compliance tasks. Its reporting and audit tools support audit readiness and help security leaders demonstrate control effectiveness during state or internal reviews.

License included / downloadable: Yes The Texas DIR publishes the State Agency Security Control Standards (Control Standards 2.0) freely on its official website. License included with platform

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/us-texas-dir-control-standards-2-0-state-agency-security-control-standards