SmartSuite

Framework / Quality & Safety / Other

CMMI v3.0

CMMI V3.0 is ISACA's CMMI Institute model for rating process capability (levels 0 to 3) and maturity (levels 0 to 5) through appraisals across eight domains.



What it is

CMMI V3.0 is the release of the Capability Maturity Model Integration that ISACA's CMMI Institute announced in April 2023, a performance improvement model that organizations use to benchmark and improve how they build, deliver and manage work. It brought eight domains into one model: Development, Services, Security, Data Management, Supplier Management, Safety, People Management and Virtual Work.

Use of CMMI is voluntary; no law requires it, but customers and government buyers can ask for an appraised level in a contract, and the Institute publishes a CMMI Acquisition Handbook for verifying such requirements. The model was originally created for the U.S. Department of Defense to assess software contractors and now applies in any industry. It is a different program from the DoD's Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification, despite the similar name.

At a glance

PUBLISHER
CMMI Institute

TYPE
Assessment / Maturity Model

VERSION
CMMI V3.0 (eight domains; capability levels 0 to 3, maturity levels 0 to 5)

EFFECTIVE
April 6, 2023

DOMAIN
Quality & Safety

FAMILY
Other

REGION
United States

ADOPTION MODEL
Risk Management

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY
High

Source: cmmiinstitute.com/products/cmmi

Why it matters

- **A benchmark with a defined lifespan** A Benchmark appraisal needs a CMMI Certified Lead Appraiser leading a team of four or more, and its ratings are valid for three years (CMMI Institute, Types of CMMI Appraisals).
- **A staged improvement path** Capability levels 0 to 3 apply to one practice area, and maturity levels 0 to 5 apply to a predefined set of practice areas, so teams can focus on a manageable number at a time.
- **One model, eight domains** Organizations build a view of the model from Development, Services, Supplier Management, Security, Safety, Data Management, People Management and Virtual Work to match their business.
- **Check-ups between benchmarks** A Sustainment appraisal has reduced scope and two-year rating validity, and no more than three can run in a row before another Benchmark is required.

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How SmartSuite supports CMMI v3.0

Practice Area Register

Record each practice area in scope with its owner, its target capability level (0 to 3) and the domains chosen for your view of the model.

Evidence by Practice

Attach process artifacts, plans and records to each practice so an appraisal team led by a CMMI Certified Lead Appraiser can trace them.

Appraisal Planning

Track the appraisal type (Benchmark, Sustainment, Evaluation or Action Plan Reappraisal), team members, dates and the rating validity date.

Findings and Improvement Actions

Turn appraisal strengths and weaknesses into assigned actions with due dates, including the four-month window for an Action Plan Reappraisal.

Performance Measures

Keep the business performance objectives that the appraisal links to model adoption, with the metrics that show progress.

Maturity Dashboard

Report capability and maturity status by practice area, team and project for leadership review.

Common framework mappings

COBIT 2019 | ISO 13485:2016 | ITIL 4

Official resources

What is CMMI?

The CMMI Institute's introduction to the model, its eight domain views and how to adopt it.

cmmiinstitute.com/products/cmmi/intro

CMMI Levels of Capability and Performance

Capability levels 0 to 3 and maturity levels 0 to 5, as defined by the CMMI Institute.

cmmiinstitute.com/learning/appraisals/levels

Types of CMMI Appraisals

Benchmark, Sustainment, Evaluation and Action Plan Reappraisal compared by team size, scope, ratings and validity.

cmmiinstitute.com/learning/appraisals/types

CMMI Model Viewer and Model Viewer Plus

How to access the CMMI model by subscription, with the content each viewer includes.

cmmiinstitute.com/products/cmmi/cmmi-model-viewer

Frequently asked questions

Is CMMI V3.0 a certification?

Not in the sense of a certificate issued against a standard. An organization is appraised under the CMMI Appraisal Method and receives ratings: capability levels 0 to 3 for practice areas or maturity levels 0 to 5 for a set of them. ISACA does certify individuals, such as CMMI Certified Lead Appraisers (CMMI Institute).

What changed in CMMI V3.0?

ISACA announced V3.0 in April 2023 and added five domains, Security, Safety, Data Management, People Management and Virtual Work, to Development, Services and Supplier Management, for eight domains in one model. ISACA's March 2024 Q&A said organizations using only the original three domains would notice few changes.

What are the types of CMMI appraisal?

The Appraisal Method Definition Document describes four types. Benchmark gives ratings with three-year validity, a certified lead appraiser and four or more team members; Sustainment has reduced scope and two-year validity; Evaluation gives no ratings; and an Action Plan Reappraisal is a second attempt within four months of the prior appraisal's end.

How long does a CMMI rating last?

Benchmark appraisal ratings are valid for three years. A Sustainment appraisal, accepted by ISACA before the earlier validity date expires, carries a two-year validity, and no more than three Sustainment appraisals can follow in a row before another Benchmark is required (CMMI Institute, Types of CMMI Appraisals).

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Can I read the CMMI model for free?

No. The publisher sells access through the CMMI Model Viewer by one-year subscription, with Model Viewer Plus adding AI Maturity content and crosswalks. On October 14, 2026 the publisher listed US$150 and US$225 for those subscriptions, and enterprise packages of 10, 25 and 50 licenses.

License included / downloadable: No CMMI V3.0 is published by ISACA's CMMI Institute. The model is read in the CMMI Model Viewer, sold by one-year subscription to individuals and organizations, so the model text is not included with the platform.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/cmmi-v3-0-capability-maturity-model-integration