SmartSuite

Framework / Cloud Security / FedRAMP

# StateRAMP Low+ – Category 2

StateRAMP Low+ (Category 2) is a legacy StateRAMP label for FedRAMP Low plus select Moderate controls; GovRAMP now sorts cloud products into Low, Moderate and High impact levels.




## What it is

StateRAMP Low+ (Category 2) is the label StateRAMP gave in 2021 to a cloud security tier made of the FedRAMP Low baseline plus selected Moderate controls, for cloud products sold to U.S. state and local governments. StateRAMP is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit that kept its legal name but has operated as GovRAMP since its announcement of February 14, 2025. Today's Security Assessment Framework (version 4.2, adopted April 21, 2026) sorts every product into a Low, Moderate or High impact level and does not define Low+, so this page explains the legacy label and what applies now.

## At a glance

PUBLISHER
StateRAMP, operating as GovRAMP (501(c)(6) nonprofit; program management office operated by RAMPQuest)

TYPE
Framework

VERSION
GovRAMP Security Assessment Framework version 4.2 (Low+ is a legacy StateRAMP label)

EFFECTIVE
April 21, 2026 (version 4.2 adopted); program since September 24, 2020

DOMAIN
Cloud Security

FAMILY
FedRAMP

REGION
United States (participating state, local, tribal, territorial and education governments)

INDUSTRY
Government & Public Sector

ADOPTION MODEL
Regulatory Compliance

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY
High

Source: govramp.org/document-library

## Why it matters

- **A defined meaning for Low+** StateRAMP's Spring 2021 overview described Category 2 as FedRAMP Low plus select Moderate controls, between Category 1 (FedRAMP Low) and Category 3 (FedRAMP Moderate).
- **A current equivalent** Section 1.5.4 of the Security Assessment Framework lists Low, Moderate and High impact levels based on FedRAMP Rev. 5 baselines; Low is the lowest tier with its own Ready requirements.
- **Reuse across governments** Verified products are listed publicly on the Program Participants page, so one review can serve many buyers.
- **Independent assurance** Ready, Provisionally Authorized and Authorized need an assessment by a 3PAO recognized by FedRAMP and accredited by A2LA (section 1.4.3).

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## How SmartSuite supports StateRAMP Low+ Cat 2

### Impact Level Record

Store the GR-199 data types, the adjusted confidentiality, integrity and availability ratings and the overall impact level with the rationale.

### Control Library

Hold NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 controls for the chosen level, each with an owner, implementation status and linked evidence in Compliance Management.

### POA&M Tracker

Log each deficiency with severity, owner and due date against the 30, 90 and 180 day remediation timelines, and show overdue items on a dashboard.

### Vendor Status Register

Record the GovRAMP, FedRAMP or TX-RAMP status of every cloud supplier, its listing date and the next review in Third Party Risk Management.

### Continuous Monitoring Calendar

Schedule monthly scans and summaries, quarterly Core evidence and the annual 3PAO assessment, with automations that remind owners.

### Assessment Evidence Package

Assemble the System Security Plan, boundary diagram, assessment report and POA&M from the same records for the PMO and sponsoring government.

## Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1 | CSA CCM v4 | FedRAMP Rev. 5 | ISO 27001:2022 | ISO 27002:2022 | ISO 27017 | NIST CSF 2.0 | SOC 2

## Official resources

### GovRAMP document library

GovRAMP (formerly StateRAMP) program documents: the Security Assessment Framework, the Low, Moderate and High impact packages, the Rev. 5 controls matrices and the Data Classification Tool.

govramp.org/document-library

## Frequently asked questions

### What is StateRAMP Low+ (Category 2), and does GovRAMP still use it?

Low+ was StateRAMP's 2021 name for Category 2: the FedRAMP Low control baseline plus selected Moderate controls, between Category 1 (FedRAMP Low) and Category 3 (FedRAMP Moderate). Version 4.2 of the Security Assessment Framework and the June 2026 Data Classification Tool describe only Low, Moderate and High impact levels, so a solicitation that still says Low+ should be clarified with the buyer. StateRAMP now operates as GovRAMP.

### How does a provider choose between the Low, Moderate and High impact levels?

It uses the GR-199 worksheet described in the Data Classification Tool. The provider selects NIST SP 800-60 Volume II information types, assigns provisional confidentiality, integrity and availability ratings, adjusts each by at most one level with a documented rationale, and takes the highest rating as the overall impact level. Buyers can use the same tool to write solicitations.

### What are the GovRAMP verified and progressing statuses?

Section 1.5 lists four verified statuses: Core, Ready, Provisionally Authorized and Authorized, all shown on the Authorized Product List. Section 1.5.10 lists the progressing statuses Progressing, Not Progressing, In Process and Pending. A Security Snapshot is a separate 12-month maturity score on the top 40 controls and is not a verified status.

### Who performs the assessments and runs the program?

The Program Management Office validates security packages and runs continuous monitoring; the SAF names Knowledge Services, and GovRAMP's FAQ says the PMO is now operated by RAMPQuest. Ready, Provisionally Authorized and Authorized also need a 3PAO that FedRAMP recognizes and A2LA accredits (section 1.4.3). Authorized needs a sponsoring government or the Approvals Committee.

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### What does the 2025 rebrand change for existing StateRAMP statuses?

Nothing legal. The February 14, 2025 announcement says StateRAMP remains the legal name and operates as GovRAMP, and that existing contracts, memberships and certifications continue without interruption. Documents now carry GovRAMP branding, and the framework's revision history records version 4.1 of September 20, 2025 as the update that reflected the dba.

License included / downloadable: Yes GovRAMP publishes the Security Assessment Framework, Data Classification Tool, control workbooks and templates free in its public document library; the platform links to the publisher's documents.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/stateramp-low-plus-category-2

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