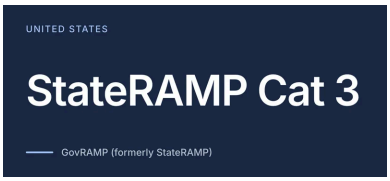
SmartSuite

Framework / Cloud Security / FedRAMP

StateRAMP Moderate – Category 3

StateRAMP Moderate (Category 3) is the Moderate impact level of GovRAMP, StateRAMP's operating name, based on the FedRAMP Rev. 5 Moderate baseline for cloud products sold to governments.



What it is

StateRAMP Moderate (Category 3) is the middle impact level of GovRAMP, the name under which the StateRAMP nonprofit has operated since February 14, 2025, for cloud products sold to state, local, tribal, territorial and education governments, and it follows the FedRAMP Rev. 5 Moderate control baseline under NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5. Version 4.2 of the Security Assessment Framework, adopted April 21, 2026, is the current edition; the old Category 3 label corresponds to what the framework now calls the Moderate impact level.

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 (NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5, Moderate impact level)

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

- **The FedRAMP Rev. 5 Moderate baseline** Section 1.5.4 of the Security Assessment Framework defines Moderate as aligned with Moderate impact, based on the FedRAMP Rev. 5 Moderate control baseline.
- **A fast first step** GovRAMP Core confirms 60 foundational NIST controls aligned with the Moderate baseline and is validated by the PMO rather than a 3PAO.
- **Reuse across states** A verified product is listed publicly, and Texas treats Core, Ready, Provisionally Authorized and Authorized as TX-RAMP Level 2.
- **Fast Track from FedRAMP** Products with FedRAMP Ready, ATO or P-ATO status submit the same audit and package without a new assessment (section 1.8).

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How SmartSuite supports StateRAMP Moderate (Cat 3)

Moderate Control Library

Load the Moderate Rev. 5 controls with owners, implementation status, inherited controls and linked evidence in Compliance Management.

Impact Level Worksheet

Keep the GR-199 information types, adjusted ratings and overall impact level with the rationale for each adjustment.

Status Pathway Tracker

Track Core, Ready and Authorized milestones, 3PAO engagement dates, the 12-month validity and the annual reassessment as one record.

POA&M and Vulnerability Register

Log deficiencies and vulnerabilities by severity with the 30, 90 and 180 day deadlines and surface overdue items on a dashboard.

Supplier Status Register

Record each cloud supplier's GovRAMP, FedRAMP or TX-RAMP status and review date in Third Party Risk Management.

Authorization Package

Assemble the System Security Plan, boundary diagram, Security Assessment Report and POA&M for the PMO and the sponsoring government.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1 | FedRAMP Rev. 5 Moderate | ISO 27001:2022 | ISO 27002:2022 | ISO 27017 | ISO 27701 | NIST CSF 2.0 | NIST 800-53 Rev.5 | SOC 2

Official resources

GovRAMP Security Assessment Framework (document library)

GovRAMP's document library, where the Security Assessment Framework that governs Ready and Authorized reviews at the Moderate impact level is published.

govramp.org/document-library

Frequently asked questions

Is StateRAMP Moderate (Category 3) the same as GovRAMP Moderate?

Yes in substance. StateRAMP's 2021 overview defined Category 3 as the FedRAMP Moderate baseline, and version 4.2 of the Security Assessment Framework defines the Moderate impact level as based on the FedRAMP Rev. 5 Moderate baseline (section 1.5.4). The name changed because StateRAMP has operated as GovRAMP since February 14, 2025, and current documents use the impact level name rather than a category number.

What does GovRAMP Core cover at the Moderate level?

Section 1.5.3 describes Core as baseline NIST 800-53 Rev. 5 controls and documentation assessed by the PMO, and GovRAMP's FAQ puts the count at 60 foundational controls aligned with the Moderate baseline. It needs quarterly continuous monitoring with web application, vulnerability and policy compliance scans, is valid for 12 months and can be extended after an annual assessment.

What separates Ready from Authorized for a Moderate product?

Ready (section 1.5.5) needs a Readiness Assessment Report from a 3PAO against the Ready Minimum Mandatory Requirements, plus a boundary diagram, inventory worksheet and roles and permissions matrix. Authorized (section 1.5.7) needs the System Security Plan, a 3PAO Security Assessment Report, penetration testing and approval by a sponsoring government or the Approvals Committee.

Can a FedRAMP authorization shortcut a GovRAMP Moderate review?

Yes. Section 1.8 says Fast Track requires no new audit for products with FedRAMP Ready, ATO or P-ATO status, and a provider that completed a FedRAMP audit may submit the same audit and security package to the PMO even before its FedRAMP review ends. It starts with the Security Review Request Form on GovRAMP's site.

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Does a GovRAMP Moderate status satisfy Texas?

Texas DIR's TX-RAMP Program Manual, version 3.1 effective May 14, 2025, says GovRAMP Core, Ready, Provisionally Authorized and Authorized products are granted TX-RAMP Level 2 certification (section 10.2). The manual still uses the name StateRAMP and states that it implicitly includes GovRAMP. A provider should confirm its listing with DIR and GovRAMP.

License included / downloadable: Yes GovRAMP publishes the Security Assessment Framework, Data Classification Tool, Moderate controls matrix 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-moderate-category-3

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