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Framework / Cloud Security / FedRAMP

TX-RAMP – Level 1

TX-RAMP Level 1 is the Texas DIR certification for low impact cloud computing services used by state agencies, required for contracts entered or renewed on or after January 1, 2024.



What it is

TX-RAMP Level 1 is the Texas Risk and Authorization Management Program certification that a cloud computing service needs before a Texas state agency may contract for it when the agency rates the service as a low impact information resource. The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) runs the program under Government Code section 2063.408 (originally section 2054.0593, added by S.B. 475 of the 87th Legislature in 2021 and transferred by H.B. 150 of the 89th Legislature, effective September 1, 2025), and the Program Manual (version 3.1, effective May 14, 2025) requires Level 1 certification for contracts entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 2024.

At a glance

PUBLISHER
Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR); cybersecurity functions moving to the Texas Cyber Command under H.B. 150 (2025)

TYPE
Certification / Assurance Program

VERSION
TX-RAMP Program Manual version 3.1 (Level 1 baseline, 117 controls)

EFFECTIVE
January 1, 2024 (Level 1 certification required for contracts); program statute effective for contracts from January 1, 2022

DOMAIN
Cloud Security

FAMILY
FedRAMP

REGION
Texas

INDUSTRY
Government & Public Sector

ADOPTION MODEL
Regulatory Compliance

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY
Medium

Source: statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2063.htm

Why it matters

- **A statutory duty on agencies** Section 2063.408(e) bars a state agency from entering or renewing a contract for a cloud computing service that is subject to the program unless the vendor shows compliance.
- **Two levels, one decision** Section 9 of the Program Manual maps the agency's impact rating to the level: Low to Level 1, Moderate and High to Level 2.
- **A defined scope** Section 6 uses the NIST SP 800-145 definition of a cloud computing service, and section 7 lists categories an agency may treat as out of scope.
- **Time to contract** Provisional certification under section 11 lets agencies contract for 18 months while the vendor completes the assessment.

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How SmartSuite supports TX-RAMP Level 1

Level 1 Control Workbook

Hold each baseline control with its implementation description, owner, status and evidence, ready to enter into the Security Plan Workbook.

Scope and Level Determination

Record the section 9 questions, the agency's impact rating, any section 7 out-of-scope reason and the date of the decision.

POA&M Register

Log each deficient control with milestones and due dates, and review it at least quarterly as section 15.4 expects.

Annual Vulnerability Report

Compile identified, remediated and existing vulnerabilities by CVSS severity for the SPECTRIM Vendor Portal submission.

Incident and Change Clock

Start the 48-hour breach notice to DIR and the 30-day significant change report from a single incident or change record.

Certification Calendar

Track provisional expiry, the three-year certification end date and the 12-month recertification window with reminders.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1 | CSA CCM v4 | FedRAMP Rev. 5 Low | ISO 27001:2022 | NIST CSF 2.0 | NIST 800-171 Rev. 3 | NIST 800-53 Rev.5

Official resources

TX-RAMP program page (Texas DIR)

Texas DIR's TX-RAMP page: scope intake forms, the Program Manual, the certified cloud products list and the Texas Cyber Command transfer notice.

dir.texas.gov/information-security/texas-risk-and-authorization-management-program-tx-ramp

TX-RAMP eligibility and requirements (Texas DIR)

DIR's page on which cloud services are in scope, how Level 1 and Level 2 are assigned, provisional status and the control baselines.

dir.texas.gov/information-security/texas-risk-and-authorization-management-program-tx-ramp/tx-ramp-eligibility

Texas Government Code Chapter 2063 (section 2063.408)

The statute behind TX-RAMP as renumbered by H.B. 150 (2025): the program's purpose, agency contracting duties and the cloud computing service definition.

statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2063.htm

1 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 202 (Information Security Standards)

The Texas security standards for state agencies and institutions of higher education that the TX-RAMP baselines and impact ratings refer to.

texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=1&pt=10&ch=202

Frequently asked questions

Who needs TX-RAMP Level 1 certification?

A cloud service provider whose service a Texas state agency rates as a low impact information resource and that is not out of scope. Government Code section 2063.408(e) bars agencies from entering or renewing such contracts without compliance, and section 4.1 of the Program Manual makes Level 1 mandatory for contracts on or after January 1, 2024. The agency decides scope and level.

How does a provider obtain Level 1 certification?

Section 10 gives two paths. DIR can review the Acknowledgment and Inventory Questionnaire and the Level 1 Assessment Questionnaire with its Security Plan Workbook, or the service can earn a corresponding external authorization, such as FedRAMP Low. FedRAMP LI-SaaS authorizations do not carry over, and GovRAMP Core, Ready, Provisionally Authorized and Authorized statuses are granted Level 2.

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What is TX-RAMP provisional certification, and how long does it last?

Section 11 says provisional certification follows DIR approval of the Acknowledgment and Inventory Questionnaire and lasts 18 months. It lets agencies contract while the provider completes the assessment, but it does not indicate compliance with the baseline. DIR may extend it by six months, and a lapse leaves the service noncompliant.

Can a SOC 2 or HITRUST report shorten the Level 1 assessment?

Section 16 allows Fast Track: DIR accepts a SOC 2 Type 2 report, a HITRUST Authorized External Assessor validated assessment or a PCI DSS Report on Compliance completed within the previous 24 months, and may certify Level 1 wholly or in part on it. DIR keeps discretion, security artifacts for the underlying IaaS do not qualify, and DIR cannot sign nondisclosure agreements.

What must a Level 1 provider report after certification?

Section 18.2 requires annual vulnerability reports through the SPECTRIM Vendor Portal, with severity from the NIST CVSS scale. Section 18.3 requires notice to DIR within 48 hours of a breach of system security, and section 18.4 requires significant changes to be reported within 30 days. Certification lasts three years (section 21), and failure to report can lead to revocation (section 20).

License included / downloadable: Yes The TX-RAMP Program Manual and Security Plan Workbook are published free by the Texas Department of Information Resources, and the enabling statute is Texas law; the platform links to the official sources.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/tx-ramp-level-1-texas-risk-and-authorization-management-program

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