SmartSuite

Framework / Cloud Security / FedRAMP

TX-RAMP Level 2 – Moderate

TX-RAMP Level 2 is the Texas DIR certification for moderate and high impact cloud computing services handling confidential state data, required for contracts since January 1, 2022.



What it is

TX-RAMP Level 2 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 moderate or high impact information resource, which covers confidential and regulated data. 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 Level 2 has been required for contracts entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 2022; the current Program Manual is version 3.1, effective May 14, 2025.

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 2 baseline, 223 controls)

EFFECTIVE
January 1, 2022 (Level 2 certification required for contracts entered into or renewed on or after that date)

DOMAIN
Cloud Security

FAMILY
FedRAMP

REGION
Texas

INDUSTRY
Government & Public Sector

ADOPTION MODEL
Regulatory Compliance

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY
High

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

Why it matters

- **The stricter baseline** The TX-RAMP Moderate Impact Baseline assesses 223 controls and enhancements, against 117 for Level 1, with the largest increases in access control, system and communications protection and configuration management.
- **In force since 2022** Section 4.2 of the Program Manual set January 1, 2022 as the date from which Level 2 services must be certified to contract with state agencies.
- **Recognition of other programs** Section 10.2 grants Level 2 to FedRAMP Moderate and High authorizations and to GovRAMP Core, Ready, Provisionally Authorized and Authorized products.
- **Quarterly visibility** Level 2 providers send quarterly vulnerability reports through the SPECTRIM Vendor Portal, which DIR shows to the agencies using the service.

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How SmartSuite supports TX-RAMP Level 2

Level 2 Control Workbook

Hold each baseline control with its implementation description, owner, inherited-control note and evidence for the Security Plan Workbook.

Level Determination Record

Capture the section 9 answers, the data classification, the moderate or high rating and the agency's documented scope decision.

Quarterly Vulnerability Report

Compile identified, remediated and open vulnerabilities by CVSS severity, with remediation or mitigation plans for high and critical items.

POA&M Register

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

External Status Tracker

Record FedRAMP or GovRAMP status for each service, the date it was granted and the duty to tell DIR if it is lost.

Breach and Change Clock

Start the 48-hour DIR notice, the Attorney General notice for 250 or more Texans and the 30-day significant change report from one incident or change record.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1 | CSA CCM v4 | FISMA | FedRAMP Rev. 5 | HITRUST CSF v11.5 | 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 Level 2 baseline 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

When does a cloud service need TX-RAMP Level 2 rather than Level 1?

Section 9 of the Program Manual sends the service to Level 2 when the Texas state agency categorizes it as a moderate or high impact information resource, and to Level 1 when it is low impact. The test turns on whether the service processes or stores confidential information, as defined in 1 Texas Administrative Code section 202.1. The agency makes and documents the decision.

How many controls does the Level 2 baseline contain?

Appendix A of Program Manual 3.1 counts 223 controls and enhancements for Level 2 and 117 for Level 1, grouped in the NIST SP 800-53 families. Level 2 has 33 in access control, 23 in system and communications protection, 21 in configuration management and 16 each in system and services acquisition and in identification and authentication. Control changes must be implemented within 18 months of adoption (section 22.3).

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Does a FedRAMP or GovRAMP status give a service Level 2?

Yes. Section 10.2 grants Level 2 to FedRAMP Moderate or High authorizations and to GovRAMP Core, Ready, Provisionally Authorized and Authorized products, and says DIR reconciles its records with both programs. FedRAMP Ready and In Process give provisional certification, and FedRAMP LI-SaaS does not carry over. If the external status is lost, the TX-RAMP certification is revoked.

What does Level 2 certification require after it is granted?

Section 18.2 requires quarterly vulnerability reports through the SPECTRIM Vendor Portal, and section 18.3 requires notice to DIR within 48 hours of a breach of system security. Significant changes go to DIR within 30 days under section 18.4. Certification lasts three years under section 21, and a provider can start recertification up to 12 months before the end date.

What happens if provisional certification expires before Level 2 is granted?

Section 11.2 says a lapse leaves the service noncompliant, and section 2063.408(f) requires agencies to make maintaining certification a contract term. DIR may extend provisional certification by six months (section 13.1), and an agency can use the section 14 Transitional Grace Period, with a plan of no more than 24 months, to move to a certified service.

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-2-texas-risk-and-authorization-management-program

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