SmartSuite

Framework / Cloud Security / FedRAMP

FedRAMP Rev. 5 – Low

FedRAMP Rev. 5 Low baseline: the 156 NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 controls for low-impact cloud services, LI-SaaS tailoring and the Consolidated Rules for 2026 transition dates.



What it is

The FedRAMP Rev. 5 Low baseline is the set of 156 NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 controls and enhancements that a cloud service offering handling federal information at the FIPS 199 Low impact level must implement and have assessed to obtain and keep a FedRAMP Certification under the program's Rev5 process. The FedRAMP Joint Authorization Board approved the Rev. 5 baselines on May 29, 2023, and since July 4, 2026 the Rev5 process has run as a legacy path under the FedRAMP Consolidated Rules for 2026, with no new Rev5 applications accepted after June 11, 2027.

At a glance

PUBLISHER
U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), FedRAMP Program Management Office; baselines approved by the FedRAMP Joint Authorization Board

TYPE
Certification / Assurance Program

VERSION
Rev. 5 Low baseline (156 items, approved May 29, 2023); legacy Rev5 Certification process under the Consolidated Rules for 2026

EFFECTIVE
May 29, 2023 (Rev. 5 baselines approved and released; transition plan dates followed); Consolidated Rules for 2026 in effect July 4, 2026

DOMAIN
Cloud Security

FAMILY
FedRAMP

REGION
United States

INDUSTRY
Government & Public Sector

ADOPTION MODEL
Regulatory Compliance

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY
Medium

Source: fedramp.gov/legacy/

Why it matters

- **A fixed, published control set** The legacy FedRAMP Security Controls Baseline workbook lists the 156 Low items with FedRAMP-defined assignments, additional requirements and continuous monitoring periodicity for each.
- **Anchored to NIST** The baseline is the SP 800-53B Low baseline plus seven FedRAMP additions, so an agency can map it straight to its own FISMA categorization.
- **A lighter SaaS route** LI-SaaS tailoring applies Attest, Document and Assess, conditional, NSO and FED actions to the same 156 items, cutting the documented and assessed set for low-risk SaaS.
- **One certification, many agencies** A FedRAMP Certification lets agencies reuse the assessment instead of repeating it, the program's purpose under 44 U.S.C. 3607 to 3616 and M-24-15.

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How SmartSuite supports FedRAMP Rev. 5 Low

Rev. 5 Low Control Library

Hold the 135 controls and 21 enhancements by family with the FedRAMP-defined assignments, additional requirements and continuous monitoring periodicity from the baseline workbook.

LI-SaaS Tailoring View

Tag each control with its Attest, Document and Assess, conditional, NSO or FED action so the documented and assessed subset is visible for a low-risk SaaS offering.

Implementation and Security Decision Records

Capture how each control is met, the parameter values chosen and the inherited or customer-responsibility split that feeds the Certification Package Overview and Security Decision Record.

Assessment Evidence

Attach test results and artifacts to each control for the independent assessment and the annual reassessment, with findings linked to the control they affect.

Accepted Weaknesses and Vulnerability Tracking

Track findings, remediation and accepted weaknesses in Cyber & IT Risk with owners, dates and the detection source the Consolidated Rules expect.

Ongoing Certification Calendar

Schedule the recurring activities by periodicity, assign owners and report coverage, overdue items and open weaknesses on dashboards for agency reviews.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1 · COBIT 2019 · CSA CCM v4 · HIPAA · ISO 27001:2022 · ISO 27017 · NIST CSF 2.0 · NIST 800-53 Rev.5 · PCI DSS 4.0.1 · SOC 2

Official resources

FedRAMP Low Impact Baseline

Defines the security and risk management requirements for Low Impact cloud systems under FedRAMP.

fedramp.gov/legacy/assets/LEGACY%20FedRAMP_Security_Controls_Baseline.xlsx

FedRAMP Program Overview

Outlines the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program and its objectives.

fedramp.gov

FedRAMP Security Controls Baseline

Describes the baseline security controls necessary for FedRAMP compliance.

fedramp.gov/legacy/assets/LEGACY%20FedRAMP_Security_Controls_Baseline.xlsx

Frequently asked questions

How many controls are in the FedRAMP Rev. 5 Low baseline?

156 items: 135 base controls and 21 control enhancements from NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 across 18 control families, as listed on the Low tab of the FedRAMP Security Controls Baseline workbook. FedRAMP started from the SP 800-53B Low baseline of 149 controls and added seven; the Rev. 4 Low baseline had 125.

What is the difference between the Low baseline and LI-SaaS?

LI-SaaS (Low Impact Software-as-a-Service) is a tailoring of the same 156 Low items, not a separate control set. Each item carries one of five actions from the workbook's key: Attest (75), Document and Assess (45), Document and Assess (Conditional) (20), NSO, not selected (11) and FED, a federal responsibility (3), with two items split. Only the Document and Assess items are independently tested.

Is FedRAMP Rev. 5 Low still accepted for new cloud services?

For now. Under the Consolidated Rules for 2026, all new Rev5 applications must follow the rules from January 1, 2027, and FedRAMP will accept no new applications for Rev5 Certification after June 11, 2027. FedRAMP describes Rev5 as a legacy certification process being replaced entirely by FedRAMP 20x, so a provider starting today should weigh 20x Class B, the 20x counterpart to Low impact.

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What changed for Rev5 providers under the Consolidated Rules for 2026?

The rules took effect for widespread adoption on July 4, 2026. They rename FedRAMP authorization to FedRAMP Certification, impact levels to Certification Classes A to D, the System Security Plan to the Certification Package Overview and Security Decision Record and continuous monitoring to Ongoing Certification; they replace Word and Excel templates with JSON packages, remove most FedRAMP-defined organizational parameters and replace POA&Ms with a list of Accepted Weaknesses. Grace periods end on February 1, 2028.

Which law and policy govern the baseline?

The FedRAMP Authorization Act, section 5921 of Pub. L. 117-263 (codified at 44 U.S.C. 3607 to 3616), established FedRAMP in law within the General Services Administration, and OMB Memorandum M-24-15 of July 25, 2024 set the program's current policy, rescinding the Federal CIO's 2011 memorandum. The controls themselves come from NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 and the SP 800-53B Low baseline.

License included / downloadable: Yes The FedRAMP baselines, the legacy Security Controls Baseline workbook and the Consolidated Rules for 2026 are U.S. Government works published free on fedramp.gov; the underlying NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 and SP 800-53B are free from NIST.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/us-fedramp-rev-5-low-impact-baseline-federal-risk-authorization