DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6000

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MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program Moderate Equivalency for Cloud Service Provider's Cloud Service Offerings

References: (a) Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program, https://www.fedramp.gov/
(b) Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum, "Security Authorization of Information Systems in Cloud Computing Environments," December 8, 2011, https://www.fedramp.gov/assets/resources/documents/FedRAMP_Policy_Memo.pdf
(c) DFARS 252.204-7012, "Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting"

This memorandum provides guidance and clarification to references (c), paragraph (b) (2) (ii) (D) regarding the application of Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) Moderate equivalency to Cloud Service Offerings (CSOs) when used to store, process, or transmit covered defense information (CDI). This memorandum does not confer FedRAMP Moderate Authorization to CSOs that meet the criteria for equivalency.

This memorandum does not apply to CSOs that are FedRAMP Moderate Authorized under the existing FedRAMP process. FedRAMP Moderate Authorized CSOs identified in the FedRAMP Marketplace provide the required security to store, process or transmit CDI in accordance with Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement (DFARS) clause 252.204-7012, "Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting" and can be leveraged without further assessment to meet the equivalency requirements.

To be considered FedRAMP Moderate equivalent, CSOs must achieve 100 percent compliance with the latest FedRAMP moderate security control baseline through an assessment conducted by a FedRAMP-recognized Third Party Assessment Organization (3PAO) and present the following supporting documentation to the contractor as the body of evidence (BoE):

System Security Plan (SSP)

- Information Security Policies and Procedures (covering all control families)
- User Guide
- Digital Identity Worksheet
- Rules of Behavior (RoB)
- Information System Contingency Plan (ISCP)
- Incident Response Plan (IRP)
- Configuration Management Plan (CMP)

- Control Implementation Summary (CIS) Workbook
- Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 199
- Separation of Duties Matrix
- Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Standards
- Integrated Inventory Workbook

Security Assessment Plan (SAP)

- Security Test Case Procedures
- Penetration Testing Plan and Methodology conducted annually and validated by a FedRAMP-recognized Third Party Assessment Organization (3PAO)
- FedRAMP-recognized 3PAO Supplied Deliverables (e.g., Penetration Test Rules of Engagement, Sampling Methodology)

Security Assessment Report (SAR) performed by a FedRAMP-recognized 3PAO

- Risk Exposure Table
- Security Test Case Procedures
- Infrastructure Scan Results conducted monthly and validated annually by 3PAO
- Database Scan Results conducted monthly and validated annually by a FedRAMP-recognized 3PAO
- Web Scan Results conducted monthly and validated annually by a FedRAMP-recognized 3PAO
- Auxiliary Documents (e.g., evidence artifacts)
- Penetration Test Reports

Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M)

- Continuous Monitoring Strategy (required by CA-7)
- Continuous Monitoring Monthly Executive Summary, validated annually by a FedRAMP-recognized 3PAO

DoD requirements for FedRAMP Moderate Equivalency do not allow for POA&M's resulting from a 3PAO assessment of the CSP's CSO. All POA&M actions must be corrected and validated by the 3PAO as closed. CSPs are allowed to have operational POA&Ms which are not the result of FedRAMP-recognized 3PAO assessment.

Where applicable, DFARS clause 252.204-7012 requires any contractor that uses an external cloud service provider to store, process, or transmit any covered defense information in performance of a DoD contract to "require and ensure" that the cloud service provider:

- meets security requirements equivalent to the FedRAMP Moderate baseline and
- complies with DFARS 252.204-7012 requirements for cyber incident reporting, malicious software, media preservation and protection, access to additional information and equipment necessary for forensic analysis, and cyber incident damage assessment.

Defense Contract Management Agency's (DCMA's) Defense Industrial Base Cybersecurity Assessment Center (DIBCAC) is responsible for regularly validating compliance with DFARS clauses 252.204-7012 and 252.204-7020 as well as implementation of contractor required controls. The DIBCAC will review the CSP's Body of Evidence (BoE) asserting to FedRAMP Moderate Equivalency, with the CSP required to have an Annual Assessment conducted by a 3PAO validating compliance with DFARS clauses 252.204-7012 and 252.204-7020. The onus is on the contractor to validate the BoE provided by the 3PAO meets the Moderate Equivalent standards outlined in this memo and if using a CSO that is FedRAMP Moderate equivalent, must provide the CRM to DIBCAC and 3PAO assessors to support assessments.

The contractor acts as approver for the use of the CSO by their organization and confirms that the selected CSP has an incident response plan. The contractor, not the CSO's CSP, will be held responsible for reporting in the event of CSO compromise. The contractor shall ensure the CSP follows the incident response plan and can provide notifications to the contractor. The contractor will report incidents in accordance with the applicable contract terms and conditions.

The points of contact for this effort are the Risk Management Framework Technical Advisory Group at osd.pentagon.dod-cio.mbx.rmf-tag-secretariat@mail.mil and for inquiries regarding equivalency in the CMMC Ecosystem, the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Program Management Office at osd.pentagon.dod-cio.mbx.cmmc-inquiries@mail.mil.

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