



# HITRUST Bridge Assessment and Certificate for r2 Certification

HITRUST® acknowledges the importance of organizations' HITRUST Certification status to their customers and stakeholders. As the gold standard in providing assurances for the protection of sensitive information, a HITRUST r2 Certification is a significant accomplishment for any organization.

We recognize the challenges that assessed entities may be facing in completing their HITRUST Validated Assessments and the subsequent possible impact of not maintaining HITRUST Certification. The HITRUST Assurance Program, upon which certification is based, incorporates a number of mechanisms to ensure the assurances provided by a HITRUST r2 Validated Report are 'rely-able' when the report is issued, and remain 'rely-able' up until the time a report expires. The HITRUST r2 Bridge Assessment provides a solution to assist organizations in addressing these challenges, allowing assessed entities to demonstrate a continued level of control effectiveness and assert continued progress towards the next HITRUST Validated Assessment.

## **What is the HITRUST Bridge Assessment?**

A HITRUST Bridge Assessment allows organizations to maintain a form of HITRUST Certification status for an additional 90 days even if their validated assessment submission due date is missed. A HITRUST Bridge Assessment results in a HITRUST Bridge Certificate.

### **The HITRUST Bridge Assessment is:**

- A forward-looking, temporary certificate issued by HITRUST.
- Valid for 90 days from the expiration date of the organization's previous HITRUST r2 Certification.
- A letter meant to accompany the previous/expired HITRUST Certification report.
- A Bridge Assessment is offered only for a HITRUST r2 Certification; there is no Bridge Assessment for the i1 Assessment.
- A means for the organization to demonstrate that:
  - The scoped control environment is unlikely to have degraded since the expiration of the prior certification,
  - The scoped control environment is unlikely to degrade significantly for the duration of this Certificate, and
  - It intends to complete the next HITRUST Certification effort (same scope of services).

### **The HITRUST Bridge Assessment is not:**

- An extension to the organization's existing certification (which still expires on the two-year certification anniversary), or
- A replacement for a traditional HITRUST Certification (as it does not provide an equivalent level of assurance).
- Offered to extend an i1 Certification.

## **What Organizations are Eligible for the HITRUST Bridge Assessment?**

A HITRUST Bridge Assessment is only for organizations that currently hold an active HITRUST r2 Validated Report with Certification, are likely to miss their validation submission due date, and haven't already missed that due date by greater than 30 days.

### What is the Process?

1. The qualifying organization obtains a HITRUST Bridge Assessment object by contacting their HITRUST Customer Success Manager.
2. A HITRUST Authorized External Assessor tests 19 requirement statements selected by the HITRUST MyCSF<sup>®</sup> platform.
  - a. If a validated assessment effort is already underway, many or all of these may have already been tested.
  - b. These tests can be included in the delayed validated assessment without needing to be reperformed (i.e., HITRUST will not require re-testing of these 19 requirement statements).
3. The organization's management represents (and the External Assessor must agree) that:
  - a. No reportable breaches have occurred in the scoped control environment since the previous HITRUST Certification was issued,
  - b. No significant changes in the scoped control environment have occurred since the previous HITRUST Certification was issued, *and*
  - c. The assessed entity intends to complete a full validated r2 assessment prior to the expiration of the HITRUST Bridge Certificate.
4. HITRUST performs a fast-tracked Quality Assurance review of the External Assessor's testing.
5. HITRUST issues the HITRUST Bridge Certificate.
6. The organization then submits their completed validated assessment to HITRUST before the HITRUST Bridge Certificate expires (i.e., no later than 90 days after the previous certification's expiration).
  - a. The 90 days covered by the HITRUST Bridge Certificate are deducted from the new HITRUST Certification's 24-month validity period.

### How does a Bridge Certificate impact participation in the Inheritance Program?

As previously stated, Bridge Certificates do not extend the expiration date of HITRUST Validated Reports with Certification. Instead, they represent a form of certification that offers less assurance than HITRUST r2 Validated Reports with Certification. As such, inheritance from HITRUST Validated Reports with Certification past the stated expiration date is not allowed (regardless of whether a Bridge Certificate was awarded to the organization).

*Interested in a HITRUST r2 Bridge Assessment?*

*Please contact your **HITRUST Customer Success Manager** for more information.*