HITRUST CSF® Validated Assessment Enhancements FAQs

Policy and Procedure Incubation Period

What is changing?

The minimum number of days that a remediated or newly implemented policy or procedure must be in place to be considered for scoring is being reduced from 90 days to 60 days.

Is the incubation period for the Implemented, Measured, and Managed maturity levels changing?

No, the incubation period for these maturity levels will remain at 90 days.

Does this change apply to all versions of the HITRUST CSF?

Yes.

When is this change effective?

This change is effective immediately.

I have an assessment currently in progress, will this change apply to that assessment?

Yes, this change applies to all HITRUST CSF® Validated Assessments that do not currently have a draft or final report posted.

I submitted a validated assessment where scores were lowered for requirement statements that did not meet the 90 day incubation period, but would have met the 60 day threshold. Can I re-score that assessment?

No, any validated assessments which have been submitted will not be able to be re-scored.

Why is HITRUST making this change?

This change is being made to allow Assessed Entities the opportunity to align their policies and procedures with their currently implemented controls. As there is no change to the incubation period for implemented controls, this will increase an Assessed Entity's attention on implementing the necessary controls.

Policy and Procedure Level Scoring

What is changing?

The scoring requirements for the Policy and Procedure maturity levels in the current rubric are being modified. For Policy level scoring, the strength criteria are being reduced from 3 criteria to 1 criterion. For Procedure level scoring, the strength criteria are being reduced from 4 criteria to 1 criterion.

Will HITRUST be issuing a new rubric reflecting this change?

No, a new rubric will not be issued at this time. For both policy and procedure maturity levels, if the single criterion for strength is met it should be scored at the 'Tier 4' coverage level in the current rubric. If it is not met, strength should be scored at 'Tier 0' or 'Tier 1' based on whether the current criteria for an undocumented policy has been met, as defined in the current rubric. For detailed scoring examples, please see here.

Does this change how I should evaluate the Coverage criteria?

No, there is no change in how Coverage criteria should be evaluated.

Does this change apply to all versions of the HITRUST CSF?

Yes.

When is this change effective?

This change is effective immediately.

I have an assessment currently in progress, will this change apply to that assessment?

Yes, this change applies to all HITRUST CSF Validated Assessments that do not currently have a draft or final report posted.

I submitted a validated assessment where scores were lowered because they did not meet the prior Policy & Procedure Strength criteria. Can I re-score that assessment?

No, any validated assessments which have been submitted will not be able to be re-scored.

Why is HITRUST making this change?

This change is intended to simplify the assessment process for Policy and Procedure maturity levels, HITRUST intends to increase the focus on the Implemented maturity level.

CSF Certification Letter Issuance

What is changing?

When an Assessed Entity achieves HITRUST CSF Certification, an additional stand-alone Certification Letter will now also be released to the Assessed Entity that does not include the Assessed Entity's detailed scope information.

What will be included in the stand-alone Certification Letter?

This will include the letter from HITRUST stating that the Assessed Entity has achieved certification, but exclude the "Assessment Context" and "Scope of Systems in the Assessment" content. A reference will be included in the letter stating that a copy of the Certification Letter with scope information is available.

Does this change apply to all versions of the HITRUST CSF?

Yes.

When is this change effective?

This change is effective immediately.

I have an assessment currently with a Draft Report posted, will this change apply to that assessment?

Yes, this change applies to all assessments that do not currently have a Final Report posted.

I am HITRUST CSF certified, but was not issued the stand-alone Certification Letter. Can I request this letter to be issued?

Yes, if your Certification is currently valid. To do so please email Support requesting the stand-alone Certification Letter and include the following information:

- Organization Name as it appears in MyCSF
- Assessment Name as it appears in MyCSF
- Certification Date

Why is HITRUST making this change?

Some Assessed Entities may not want to disclose certain detailed information concerning their scope when providing evidence of Certification. This letter is being issued to allow assessed entities the flexibility to provide the correct level of detail they wish to share regarding their environment.