THE HITRUST CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

HITRUST®

HITRUST Authorized Assessor

HITRUST is the global leader in cybersecurity assurances that offers a comprehensive, effective, and efficient approach to regulatory compliance and cybersecurity risk management. Earning a HITRUST certification demonstrates your organization's commitment to safeguarding sensitive information and empowers you to earn the trust of your customers, partners, and stakeholders.

You can choose from three HITRUST assessment options — e1, i1, and r2 — suited for organizations of different sizes, risk profiles, and business goals, with the option to include AI Assessments as an add-on to any of these certifications. These assessments are based on the HITRUST framework, which harmonizes more than 50 authoritative sources and leverages threat intelligence to address emerging threats. HITRUST enables you to move from one assessment to another without losing your work and to reuse and inherit controls from your third-party vendors.

HITRUST certifications are widely accepted, trusted, and reliable, with less than 1% of organizations with HITRUST certifications reporting breaches in 2022 and 2023. Achieving HITRUST certification can enhance your organization's credibility and provide a competitive edge.

Ready to start your HITRUST certification journey? Here's a step-by-step checklist to guide you.

Step 1

Prepare for your HITRUST certification

- ☐ **Align your goals:** Ensure that pursuing a HITRUST certification aligns with your business goals and programs

- ☐ **Find internal stakeholders:** Identify key stakeholders within your organization, such as champions who can drive internal buy-in, and a project owner to drive the certification process

- ☐ **Educate leadership:** Educate your team, executives, and the board on the HITRUST process, implied changes, and the added value to your organization of attaining certification

Step 2

Begin your HITRUST certification

- ☐ **Understand the HITRUST CSF:** Familiarize yourself with the control requirements of the HITRUST CSF

- ☐ **Identify compliance needs:** Determine your organization's specific compliance requirements

- ☐ **Attend a HITRUST course:** Gain insights and guidance through HITRUST's New Customer Orientation

- ☐ **Select appropriate HITRUST assessment type:** Choose between the e1, i1, or r2 assessments based on your business needs and risk profile, and whether you need to add an AI Assessment for enhanced AI security and compliance assurance.

- ☐ **Find an external assessor:** Select an Authorized HITRUST External Assessor to guide you through and to conduct your Readiness assessment

- ☐ **Purchase MyCSF subscription:** Begin the procurement process for your external assessor, MyCSF subscription, and report credit (if required)

Readiness Assessment

☐ **Define assessment scope:** Identify the areas and systems to be done with the external assessor and communicate the intended timeline of certification to your chosen external assessor

☐ **Perform initial assessment:** Work with your external assessor to identify gaps

☐ **Initiate inheritance plans:** Create plans for internal or external inheritance of controls

☐ **Make inheritance requests:** Submit inheritance requests via the MyCSF platform

☐ **Secure QA date:** Schedule a date for post-submission HITRUST QA review

Remediation

☐ **Resolve gaps:** Identify and remediate any evidence gaps identified during the readiness assessment

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Step 3

The Validated Assessment

Validated Assessment

☐ **Provide evidence:** Collect and submit necessary evidence to your external assessor

☐ **Finalize inheritance:** Confirm all inheritance plans

☐ **Support External Assessor:** Be available for any additional validation requests

☐ **Address issues:** Resolve any issues noted during the pre-submission QA

Submission and Review

☐ **Submit assessment:** Submit the relevant evidence to your chosen authorized assessor to input into MyCSF for HITRUST to review

☐ **Support QA process:** Be available to assist your external assessor with any QA queries

Certification

☐ **Review certification report:** Check and approve the draft certification report

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Step 4

Ensuring compliance over time and beyond

Ongoing Monitoring

☐ **Remediate gaps:** Continue to monitor your state of compliance and continue to close gaps

Plan for the next assessment

☐ **Future planning:** Prepare for your next HITRUST assessment to maintain compliance, manage risks, and enhance security — leveraging inheritance where appropriate

☐ **Advancing your assessment:** Consider expanding your security posture by exploring the different levels within the HITRUST ecosystem — from e1 to i1, i1 to r2, or adding an AI Assessment

Leverage the business benefits of HITRUST certification, including

☐ **Access to cyber security insurance:** Qualified organizations can leverage their HITRUST certification to gain access to streamlined underwriting, enhanced coverages, and highly competitive premiums through the HITRUST Shared Risk Facility

☐ **Commercial compliance:** Satisfy customers, contractual requirements or preferences for HITRUST certification

☐ **Market access:** Gain access to new or additional markets that require or prefer HITRUST certification

☐ **Market differentiator:** Demonstrate the highest level of security posture as a vendor or partner, including listing your certification in the Health3PT Vendor Directory

☐ **Risk mitigation:** Adopt proven, repeatable, and measurable methods to ensure significant risk reduction in certified environments (only 0.64% of experienced breaches over two years)

☐ **Value creation:** Improve potential valuation with investors and shareholders

☐ **Liability reduction:** Protect yourself and your organization by using a prescriptive, complete, and proven framework to plan, build, execute, and validate your cybersecurity program instead of building your own

☐ **Regulatory compliance:** Reuse and restate HITRUST validated controls using HIPAA, SOC 2, ISO 27001, GDRP, and others to reduce compliance efforts

HITRUST is dedicated to expanding your organization's value. It ensures you meet the highest standards in security and compliance. It helps you meet customer contract demands, access new markets, and drive business success. It offers peace of mind with proven risk mitigation strategies coupled with cyber insurance underwriting benefits. Follow the checklist to navigate the path to achieving and maintaining HITRUST certification with confidence.