

NiST 800-171

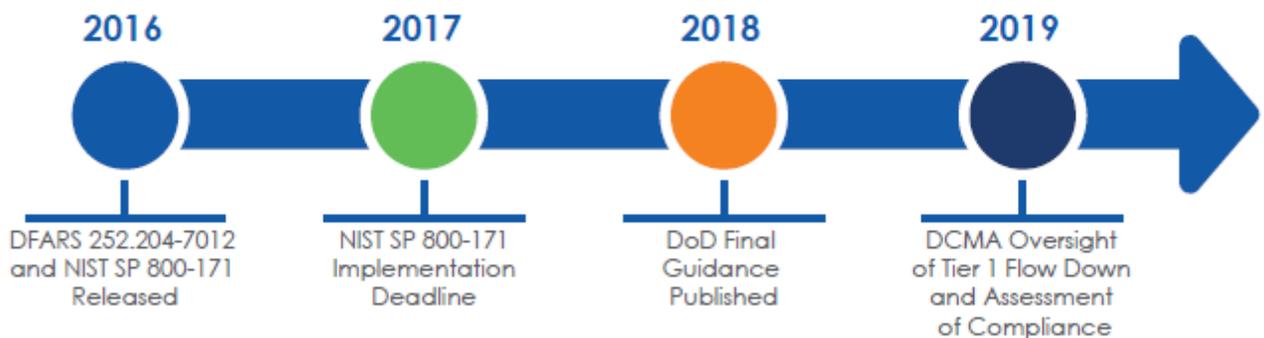
The Importance of Compliance to NIST SP 800-171 for DoD Contractors Handling CUI



“All Department of Defense (DoD) contractors that process, store or transmit Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) must meet the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) minimum security standards by December 31, 2017 or risk losing their DoD contracts.”

- U.S. Federal Government

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CUI can apply to:

- Federal contract information
- Controlled unclassified information (USG-wide)
- Covered Defense Information (CDI)

Your responsibilities, when it comes to protecting “Controlled Unclassified Information” (CUI) are as follows:

- Identify sensitive information marked as “CUI” and noted in solicitations and contract amendments.
- Provide and maintain “adequate security” on all covered information systems (DFARS 252.204-7012, NIST SP 800-171).
- Develop and maintain a documented System Security Plan (SSP) and Plan of Action and Milestones (POAM) to demonstrate compliance.
- Submit your SSP and POAM with all proposals to demonstrate compliance (contract data requirements list).
- Be prepared for on-site assessments of covered defense information systems by DCMA.
- Periodically review and update SSP and POAM to maintain compliance. Keep in mind that your SSP and POAM will be evaluated by contracting activities (USG or prime contractor) to assess the risk of sharing CUI/CDI with contractor. This can affect your ability to win or retain contracts with the federal government.

Core Business Solutions has consulting support, training and programs to assist you in becoming compliant to NIST 800-171.

Contact info@thecoresolution.com or call 866.354.0300 to learn more.

The NIST 800-171 standard was created to address the protection of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). As of 2016, the DFARS requires security controls to be implemented by both the contractor and subcontractor levels based on the information security guidance in NIST Special Publication 800-171.

What is NIST SP 800-171? It is regarding “protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Systems and Organizations” and provides requirements for protecting the confidentiality of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

The NIST 800-171 document helps to clarify the role of defense contractors in data breach incidents and specifies security controls necessary to protect CUI handled or generated by private sector firms.

What is CUI? Controlled Unclassified Information is information that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls pursuant to and consistent with applicable law, regulations, and government-wide policies but is not classified under Executive Order 13526 or the Atomic Energy Act, as amended. Essentially, it is non-classified yet sensitive information that should be protected throughout the supply-chain in order to protect our nation’s warfighters, infrastructure and other critical operations of the US government.