



# NECA Government Affairs ALERT

## CMCC Notice

### Background

Earlier this year, the Department of Defense (DOD) released the *Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) version 1.0*. The CMMC is the DOD's response to the rising need to implement unified security measurements across the cohort of contractors, both general and subcontractors who supply their efforts. The intent of requiring this additional certification is to ensure that sensitive information on contractors' information systems are properly defended from compromise and outside threats. With the certification being reauthorized every three years the DOD believes this will allow for contractors to continuously update their security profile.

### When

This certification process will begin in June of 2020 and be phased in over time. The DOD expects that the CMMC will be implemented for RFIs as early as June 2020, and in select RFPs potentially in September 2020.

### How is the CMMC different?

While in the past contractors were personally responsible for certifying the strength of their cyber security protocols that would hold sensitive information associated with DOD projects, the new regulations instituted by the CMMC will require third-party certification (authorized by the CMMC Accreditation Body) of a contractor's compliance.

The CMMC establish five levels or rankings of cyber security, ranked from 1 to 5 (lowest-highest) with each higher level requiring all lower requirements to be met.

### NECA Recommends

All contractors who bid on or perform Department of Defense work should immediately begin to learn the requirements and certification process required by this new regulation. In addition, contractors should identify a trusted third-party certifier to perform a review of their systems. The sooner contractors begin to understand and address this certification process, the better positioned they will be when formal RFIs and RFPs require various levels of certification.

### Resources

- Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment: [CMMC FAQ](#)
- Additional information on the CMMC Accreditation: [www.cmmcab.org](http://www.cmmcab.org)