



Organization of Information Security Standard

Document Name: Organization of Information Security	Effective Date: October 15 th , 2018
Document ID: IS.001	Last Revised Date: August 29, 2022

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this **standard** is to:

- Protect the Commonwealth's business information by establishing, implementing and managing risk-based administrative, technical and personnel safeguards.
- Establish responsibility and accountability for information security in the organization.
- Comply with relevant laws, regulations and contractual obligations related to information security.

2. AUTHORITY

2.1. M.G.L. Ch. 7d provides that "Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule, regulation, executive order, policy or procedure to the contrary, all executive department agencies shall, and other state agencies may, adhere to the policies, procedures and objectives established by the executive office of technology services and security with respect to activities concerning information technology."

3. SCOPE

3.1. This document applies to the use of information, information systems, electronic and computing devices, applications, and network resources used to conduct business on behalf of the Commonwealth. The document applies to all state agencies in the Executive Department including all executive offices, boards, commissions, agencies, departments, divisions, councils, bureaus, and offices. Other Commonwealth entities that voluntarily use or participate in services provided by the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security, such as mass.gov, must agree to comply with this document, with respect to those services, as a condition of use.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

- 4.1. The Enterprise Security Office is responsible for the development and ongoing maintenance of this standard.
- 4.2. The Enterprise Security Office is responsible for compliance with this **standard** and may enlist other departments in the maintaining and monitoring compliance with this **standard**.
- 4.3. Any inquiries or comments regarding this standard shall be submitted to the Enterprise Security Office by sending an email to [EOTSS-DL-Security Office](mailto:EOTSS-DL-Security@state.ma.us).
- 4.4. Additional information regarding this and its related standards may be found at <https://www.mass.gov/cybersecurity/policies>.

5. COMPLIANCE

5.1. Compliance with this document is mandatory for all state agencies in the Executive Department. Violations are subject to disciplinary action in accordance to applicable employment and collective bargaining agreements, up to and including the termination of their employment and/or assignment with the Commonwealth.

Exceptions to any part of this document must be requested via email to the Security Office ([EOTSS-DL-Security Office](#)). A policy exception may be granted only if the benefits of the exception outweigh the increased risks, as determined by the Commonwealth CISO or Deputy CISO.

6. POLICY STATEMENTS

6.1. Information Security Organization Structure

6.1.1. EOTSS's Enterprise Security Office is responsible for security across the Commonwealth.

6.2. Roles and Responsibilities

The information security function covers a broad range of activities that touch on multiple organizational facets. In order to effectively and consistently manage information security across the organization, the following roles and responsibilities are defined and referenced across relevant policies and standards.

Role	Responsibility
Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC team)	The executive body responsible for establishing acceptable risk tolerance, ensuring demonstrable alignment of security and business objectives and reviewing overall direction and priorities for information technology and security policies .
Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)	The person responsible for aligning security initiatives with enterprise programs and business objectives, ensuring that communication systems, confidential information and technologies are adequately protected. The primary CISO for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the Commonwealth CISO.
Deputy Chief Information Security Officer (Deputy CISO)	The person responsible for providing advice and support to the CISO and serves as the primary interface with the information security leadership teams of agencies. The Deputy CISO is also responsible for leading the day to day security operations.
EOTSS General Counsel's Office	The persons who are responsible for reviewing policies for compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations and contractual obligations and will support the regular review process delineated in this policy document.
Information Security Team	The team responsible for the protection of information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide confidentiality, integrity and availability.
Information Owner	Official with statutory or operational authority for specified information and responsibility for establishing the controls for its generation, collection, processing, dissemination, and disposal.
Information Custodian	The person responsible for overseeing and implementing the necessary safeguards to protect communication systems and confidential information, at the level classified by the Information Owner (e.g., System Administrator, controlling access to a system component).
Personnel	The Commonwealth's state employees, contractors, consultants, vendors, and interns, including full-time, part-time, temporary, or voluntary regardless of rank, position or title on the Commonwealth payroll.

6.3. Information Security Policy Framework

The Information Security Policy Framework (ISPF) serves as a foundation for the Commonwealth's information security program and outlines the governance framework that has been adopted by the Commonwealth's leadership to govern information security across the organization.

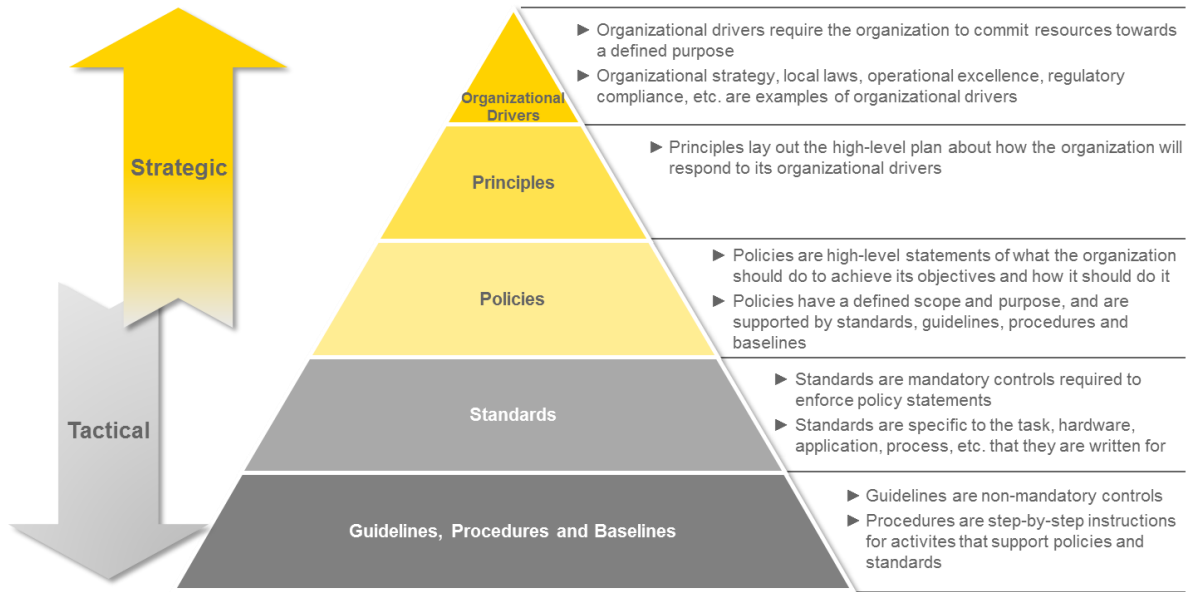


Figure 1 - Information Security Policy Framework (ISPF)

6.3.1. Policy framework details

The Commonwealth's ISPF consists of the set of policies, standards, guidelines and procedures (PSGP). The framework is defined as follows:

- 6.3.1.1. Policies are mandatory, management statements, instructions or organizational rules that guide behavior and set operational goals. Policies shall be concise and easily understood.
- 6.3.1.2. Standards are a mandatory set of technical configurations used to ensure that a minimum level of security is provided across multiple implementations of business services, systems, networks and products used throughout the Commonwealth.
- 6.3.1.3. Procedures contain process-specific operational steps or methods to support the requirements contained in the related policy and/or standard. Executive Offices and agencies are encouraged to develop internal procedures that comply with these policies and standards.
- 6.3.1.4. Guidelines are the statements that provide optional control recommendations based on leading practices.

6.3.1.5. **Policy Areas**

The Commonwealth has defined 1 enterprise-level information security policy, 1 enterprise acceptable use of information technology policy and 15 core enterprise security standards as follows:



Figure 2 — Information Security Policy Framework

6.4. Policy Life Cycle Management

The Information Security policy framework serves to govern the life cycle of the Commonwealth's Information Security PSGPs.

6.4.1. Implementation and compliance monitoring

6.4.1.1. The Enterprise Security Office is responsible for implementing procedures for monitoring compliance with information security PSGPs.

6.4.1.2. The Enterprise Security Office shall assist agencies to develop tools and enablers to measure their compliance with policies and standards.

6.4.2. Policy exceptions

- 6.4.2.1. All Executive Offices and Commonwealth agencies that receive or expect to receive IT/IS services from the Commonwealth are expected to comply with enterprise information security policies and standards. Agencies and offices are required to implement procedures that ensure their personnel, including consultants, contractors, and vendors, comply with these requirements.
- 6.4.2.2. In the event that a policy, procedure or technical standard cannot be adhered to, a policy exception request must be submitted via email to ([EOTSS-DL-Compliance](#)).
- 6.4.2.3. An exception will be granted only if the benefits of the exception outweigh the increased risks for the approved length of the exception, as determined by the Commonwealth CISO and the associated Information Owner or Delegate.
- 6.4.2.4. Compliance progress shall be validated at the exception expiration date.
- 6.4.2.5. Exceptions may be closed if the agreed-upon solution has been implemented and the exception has been resolved.
- 6.4.2.6. An extension may be requested if more time is required to implement the long-term solution by completing an extension request.
- 6.4.2.7. Compliance with policies and standards will be enforced through regular audits by the Enterprise Security Office of Commonwealth Executive Offices and agencies. The Enterprise Security Office will also proffer support if needed to rectify any gaps in the capacity of a Commonwealth entity to ensure compliance.

6.4.3. Additions, changes, and deletions to policies and standards

- 6.4.3.1. Commonwealth agencies and/or departments may request a new or modification to an enterprise policy or standard by submitting a change request to the Enterprise Security Office.
- 6.4.3.2. Each request must include the business justification for requesting a change.
- 6.4.3.3. The Enterprise Security Office shall review each request and provide recommendations for the Commonwealth CISO's approval or denial.
- 6.4.3.4. The Enterprise Security Office is responsible for ensuring all approved changes or additions to information security policies and standards are documented and communicated to Commonwealth agencies and offices in a timely manner.

6.4.4. Review process

- 6.4.4.1. Information security PSGPs shall be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are consistent, practical and properly address the following:
 - 6.4.4.1.1. Legal, regulatory and contractual requirements.
 - 6.4.4.1.2. Organizational needs and impact: Controls remain effective from both a cost and process perspective and support the business without causing unreasonable disruption on the timely execution of those processes.
 - 6.4.4.1.3. Emerging technology environment: Opportunities and threats created by changes, trends and new developments are taken into account.

6.4.4.1.4. Internal technology environment: Strengths and weaknesses resulting from the Commonwealth's use of technology are considered.

6.4.4.1.5. Other requirements specific to new or unique circumstances are evaluated.

6.4.5. Review intervals

6.4.5.1. A review of information security policies, procedures and standards shall be performed by the Document Owner, as follows:

6.4.5.1.1. Policies: Review at least once every year

6.4.5.1.2. Standards: Review at least once every year

6.4.5.1.3. Procedures: Review annually by process owner

6.4.5.2. In addition to the defined review cycle, relevant information security PSGPs shall be considered for review and update:

6.4.5.2.1. When a significant change is identified in the technology, business, or regulatory environment that may have a substantial impact on the Commonwealth's risk posture.

6.4.5.2.2. As part of the post-mortem of security incident response process.

6.4.5.2.3. After the performance of an internal or external review that identifies a need for change.

6.4.6. Dissemination

6.4.6.1. Information Security PSGPs shall be published and made accessible to the entities covered under the scope of this policy.

6.4.6.2. Policies and standards are public documents that are published on the mass.gov web site. Guidelines and Procedures contain specific information about Commonwealth infrastructure and are therefore **Internal Use** documents that should be distributed on a limited basis outside of the Commonwealth.

7. CONTROL MAPPING

Section	NIST SP800-53 R4 (1)	CIS Security 20 v6	NIST CSF
6.1 Information Security Organization Structure	PM-1	-	ID.GV-1
	PM-8	-	ID.BE-2
	PM-11	-	ID.AM-6
6.2 Roles and Responsibilities	-	-	-
6.3 Information Security Policy Framework	PM-9	-	ID.GV-4
	PM-15	CSC 4	ID.RA-2
	PM-16	CSC 4	ID.RA-2
	PM-12	-	ID.RA-3
	PM-4	-	ID.RA-6
	PM-13	CSC 17	PR.AT-1
	PM-6	-	PR.IP-7
	PM-14	CSC 19	PR.IP-10
			ID.GV-2
6.4 Information Security Policy Lifecycle Management			ID.GV-3
	AT-2	CSC 17	PR.AT-1
	AT-3	CSC 5	PR.AT-2
	PL-1	-	ID.GV-1
	PL-2	-	PR.IP-7
	PL-3	-	-
	PL-6	-	-
		PL-9	
		-	
		-	

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Document	Effective date

9. DOCUMENT CHANGE CONTROL

Version No.	Revised by	Effective date	Description of changes
0.80	Jim Cusson	10/01/2017	Corrections and formatting
0.90	John Merto	12/18/2018	Minor corrections; wording
0.95	Sean Vinck	5/7/2018	Minor Corrections and Formatting
0.96	Andrew Rudder	5/31/2018	Corrections and Formatting
0.97	Anthony O'Neill	05/31/2018	Corrections and Formatting
1.0	Dennis McDermitt	6/1/2018	Final Review
1.0	Andrew Rudder	10/4/2018	Approved for Publication by: John Merto
1.1	Megan Perkins	7/15/2020	Annual Review; Minor corrections and formatting
1.2	Sean M. Hughes	11/04/2021	Annual Review
1.3	Sean M. Hughes	08/22/2022	Annual Review

The owner of this document is the Commonwealth CISO (or designee). It is the responsibility of the document owner to maintain, update and communicate the content of this document. Questions or suggestions for improvement shall be submitted to the document owner.

9.1 Annual Review

This *Organization of Information Security Standard* shall be reviewed and updated by the document owner on an annual basis or when significant policy or procedure changes necessitate an amendment.