

JOINT AUTHORIZATION BOARD CHARTER

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FedRAMP



NIST

REVISION HISTORY

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APPROVALS

The following approvals are required for this document:



Mr. David A. Shive
Chief Information Officer
General Services Administration

132118

Date:



Dr. John A. Zangardi
Chief Information Officer
Department of Homeland Security

07/13/18

Date:



Mr. Dana Deasy
Chief Information Officer
Department of Defense

1570418

Date:



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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Charter is to define the authority, objectives, membership, roles and responsibilities, meeting schedule, and decision-making requirements for the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) Joint Authorization Board (JAB) in accordance with OMB Memo "Security Authorizations of Information Systems in Cloud Computing Environments" (hereinafter referred to as FedRAMP Policy Memo).

2. BACKGROUND

The White House worked in close collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), General Services Administration (GSA), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Government Chief Information Officers Council (CIOC) and working bodies such as the Information Security and Identity Management Committee (ISIMC), state and local Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and academia to develop the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP).

As a part of this program, the Chief Information Officers (CIOs) of DHS, DOD, and GSA, at the direction of the Federal CIO, have agreed to establish a Joint Authorization Board (JAB). The JAB will provide the technical knowledge and skills to provide a government-wide baseline approach to address the security needs associated with placing Federal data in cloud computing solutions. Additionally, the JAB will provide joint provisional security authorizations of cloud solutions using this baseline approach. This provisional authorization will create an authorization package that can be leveraged by individual agencies across the Federal Government to grant an Authority to Operate at their respective organizations.

3. AUTHORITY

The authority of the FedRAMP JAB comes from the FedRAMP Policy Memo.

4. OBJECTIVES

The JAB will meet the objectives described in the FedRAMP Policy Memo.



5. MEMBERSHIP

The following reflects FedRAMP roles and membership as they pertain to the JAB.

| Role | Membership |
|---|---|
| JAB Authorizing Officials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Defense (DOD) CIO Department of Homeland Security (DHS) CIO General Services Administration (GSA) CIO |
| JAB Technical Representatives and Teams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designee(s) of DOD CIO Designee(s) of DHS CIO Designee(s) of GSA CIO |
| FedRAMP Program Management Office (PMO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FedRAMP Director Program Management Office and Team |

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following describes the general and specific duties expected of each role in support.

| Role | Duties and Responsibilities |
|---|--|
| JAB Authorizing Officials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a Technical Representative(s) with the appropriate decision-making authority to support the day-to-day activities of FedRAMP Ensure there is an appropriately staffed team to support the JAB Technical Representative(s). Issue joint provisional authorization decisions Define the FedRAMP security authorization requirements and review process Approve accreditation criteria for Third Party Assessment Organizations (3PAOs) |
| JAB Technical Representatives and Teams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide subject matter expertise to implement the technical, strategic, and operational direction of the respective JAB Member Implement the JAB provisional authorization process Perform all risk assessment and detailed technical reviews of JAB provisional authorization packages Recommend provisional authorization decisions to the respective JAB Members |



| Role | Duties and Responsibilities |
|--|---|
| <p>FedRAMP Program Management Office</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide project management support to the JAB and JAB Technical Representatives and their teams and provide oversight for the JAB authorization process ● Work with the JAB to create a process and framework for Federal agencies to meet FedRAMP requirements ● Maintain the 3PAO accreditation program and provide oversight of the performance and qualifications of accredited 3PAOs ● Conduct outreach and education on FedRAMP with stakeholders, including Federal agencies, industry, and oversight organizations ● Work with Federal departments and agencies to promote the issuance of FedRAMP Agency ATOs and the re-use of JAB P-ATOs and Agency ATOs |

7. MEETINGS

1. JAB Authorizing Officials will:
 - a. Meet, at a minimum, annually;
 - b. Meet as required to make decisions based on feedback from JAB Technical Representatives and FedRAMP PMO.
2. The JAB Technical Representatives will:
 - a. Meet, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis;
 - b. Meet more regularly as required based on new risks, threats or requirements.
3. The JAB Technical Review Teams will:
 - a. Meet regularly, as needed, to review and discuss authorization packages;
 - b. Meet regularly with the FedRAMP PMO to communicate status and issues related to authorization package reviews.
4. The FedRAMP PMO will:
 - a. Organize, schedule and prepare JAB meeting agendas and minutes as needed.



8. DECISION MAKING

- 1) All FedRAMP JAB decisions must be agreed to by a majority of the JAB Authorizing Officials (or as designated to a respective Deputy CIO as needed) for decisions affecting:
 - a. Security authorization requirements;
 - b. 3PAO criteria;
 - c. Priority queue requirements;
 - d. Methods for input to security authorization requirements.
- 2) All FedRAMP JAB decisions must be agreed to unanimously by all JAB Authorizing Officials for decisions affecting provisional authorizations.

9. COMMITTEES

The JAB may establish standing councils and working groups as necessary to consider items of concern to the Joint Authorization Board.

10. CHARTER REVIEW

This Charter will be reviewed annually to evaluate its effectiveness and incorporate any improvements. Changes to the Charter must be approved by consensus among all JAB Authorizing Officials.

