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Overview of CUI Regulations

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Ask RCRA

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Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and CMMC

What Emory Researchers and Administrators Need to Know

- ▶ Brief overview of CUI in research environments
- ▶ Why CUI matters to research
- ▶ Department of Defense (DoD) Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program



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What is CUI?

- ▶ **Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)**
- ▶ Information that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls under federal law, regulation, or government-wide policy
- ▶ Not classified information
- ▶ Relatively common in federal research, especially DoD-sponsored work
- ▶ The government - not the university - determines whether information is CUI
- ▶ Examples in research settings: technical data, export-controlled information, research data designated by the sponsor as CUI



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Why CUI Matters to Research

Handling CUI may require:

- ▶ Restricted data storage locations
- ▶ Enhanced cybersecurity controls
- ▶ Limited access to authorized personnel
- ▶ Specific incident reporting obligations
- ▶ Additional training and compliance oversight



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“Will I know if I have CUI?”

- ▶ Yes – it will be explicitly identified in your contract or agreement.
- ▶ Your award documents will reference applicable clauses (e.g., DFARS 252.204-7012)
- ▶ If your contract involves CUI, OSP and ECRC will flag it during award setup.



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What is CMMC?

- ▶ Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification - DoD's framework for verifying that contractors and their institutions protect CUI
- ▶ Based on NIST SP 800-171 (110 security practices)
- ▶ Three levels: Level 1 (foundational), Level 2 (advanced - most relevant for research), Level 3 (expert)
- ▶ Moves from self-attestation toward third-party verified compliance
- ▶ Phased rollout – CMMC requirements are gradually being incorporated into agreements now through 2028.



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What Does This Mean for Emory?



Emory is working to:



Identify research
involving CUI



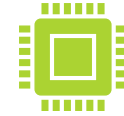
Assess cybersecurity
and compliance
requirements



Develop processes
for secure handling
environments



Support researchers
and departments
navigating sponsor
requirements



Developing,
deploying, and
implementing secure
enclave
environment

[Learn more: CUI and Research at Emory](#)



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