

# Decision Tree: DFARS or CMMC

Department of Defense cybersecurity regulations do not apply to companies that supply Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products or sell products below the micro-purchase threshold to the DoD.

**Does your current contract reference DFARS 252.204-7012?**

Yes

No

**Do you touch CUI?** You need to determine if your company transmits, processes, stores and/or creates Controlled Unclassified Information. You may need to work with your contracting officer to make the determination. Click [HERE](#) for more information about CUI.

Yes

**Is the CUI necessary?** Work with your contracting officer/prime to eliminate the CUI if the data is not necessary for the execution of the project.

No

Implement the practices in CMMC Level 1 (equivalent to FAR 52.204-21)  
*NOTE: Even though your company does not touch CUI, you are expected to protect Federal Contract Information (FCI). Click [HERE](#) for information about FCI.*

Yes

The DFARS Interim Rule applies. Click [HERE](#) to access information and tools to assist with your self-assessment.

Yes

After you complete the tasks required by the new DFARS Interim Rule, consider working toward compliance to CMMC2.0 Level 2.

The DoD doesn't anticipate that you will transmit, process, store and/or create Controlled Unclassified Information, therefore you are not required to do a self-assessment to the NIST controls yet. Begin working toward compliance to CMMC Level 1 (equivalent to FAR 52.204-21)

*NOTE: Even though your company does not touch CUI, you are expected to protect Federal Contract Information (FCI). Click [HERE](#) for information about FCI.*

*Determining if your company touches CUI or not is the most important thing to consider in developing a cybersecurity program, in terms of risk and cost. See below.*

*Touching CUI requires the implementation of 110 NIST controls, a self-assessment to those controls, and uploading your score to SPRS..*

***It is in your company's best interest AND in the best interest of national security to avoid touching CUI.***



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# Decision Tree Notes

- Remember – if your contract references DFARS 252.204-7012 that doesn't necessarily mean that you touch CUI. **The clause is only applicable if you touch CUI. NOTE:** Prime contractors often require a higher level of compliance from their subs and suppliers than is necessary. Try to work with them to only flow down requirements – and data – that are necessary to perform the work.
- All the cybersecurity regulations are based on the protection of DoD data – FCI or CUI. To know which regulation your company must comply with, it is critical that you know what type(s) of data the contracts require you to transmit, process, store and/or create.
- If your company touches CUI, you must comply with DFARS clauses 252.204-7012/7019/7020, which means you should begin implementing the 110 controls in NIST SP 800-171 AND comply with every requirement in the three clauses.
- If your company only touches FCI, you must comply with FAR 52.204-21, which means you should begin implementing the 17 controls in CMMC 2.0 Level 1.

**CUI = \$\$\$ + Risk AVOID IT IF POSSIBLE!**