

# Coverage Rule 1 for Basic Units

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## Clarifying the Intent of Coverage Rule 1 for Basic Units

The SCAMPI Method Definition Document (MDD) “Coverage Rule 1 for Basic Units” states, “For each subgroup, both artifacts and affirmations shall be provided for at least one basic unit for every process area (PA) implemented by basic units within that subgroup. This sampled basic unit shall provide data for all process areas. Selection of this basic unit must consider the schedule of work (e.g., lifecycle stage) achieved in order to maximize coverage of the process areas. In cases where this sampled basic unit would have “not yet” characterizations in a process area, additional basic units must be sampled to cover that process area (unless no other basic units remain to be sampled in the subgroup).”

The phrase “for every process area implemented by basic units in that subgroup” is not meant to allow an organization or a lead appraiser (LA) to effectively designate PAs as “not applicable” (NA) for an organization seeking a maturity level. Apart from Supplier Agreement Management (SAM), no PA can be determined to be “not applicable” for an appraisal that will result in a maturity level rating. Therefore if the appraisal is intended to set a maturity level, at least one basic unit per subgroup must provide artifacts and affirmations for every Project level PA for that maturity level. (for example, at level 3 this would include PP, PMC, RM, CM, PPQA, MA, SAM (if applicable), DAR, IPM, PI, RD, RSKM, TS, VAL, and VER)

Quality reviews indicate that a growing number of LAs are misinterpreting *Coverage Rule 1 for Basic Units*. This misinterpretation is resulting in LAs effectively identifying PAs as “not applicable.” However, the aforementioned MDD rule remains in effect. If a project in an organizational unit (OU) is sampled for a SCAMPI A appraisal that generates a maturity level, it must perform (or plan to perform) all project PAs included in maturity level the model scope of the appraisal.

A growing number of maturity level 3 appraisals are being submitted for review in which the LA has identified projects that exclude PAs such as RD. LAs have indicated that they have excluded RD as well as other PAs such as PP, PMC, DAR, or even SD in CMMI for Services appraisals, stating justification such as “because the customer gives me the requirements.” This is unacceptable, as those projects should be excluded from the OU. The phrase “for every process area implemented within the subgroup” is intended for continuous representation appraisals.