

False CMMI Certification

Notice and Clarification

Identifying and reporting counterfeit CMMI Certificates

CMMI Institute frequently receives reports of organizations presenting falsified certificates as verification of alleged CMMI Maturity Level ratings. These certificates do not correlate to any of the SCAMPI appraisals that appear on our [Published Appraisal Results Site \(PARS\)](#), nor any others on record with CMMI Institute, and are not representative of valid CMMI appraisals.

In the past three months alone, we have received seven separate emails from individuals and/or organizations who have encountered a falsified certificate. Often, these inquiries come from people charged with verifying the information submitted with bids on Requests for Proposal (RFP), especially when the organization behind a bid does not appear on PARS. When asked about a certificate that does not reflect an appraisal submitted to and approved by CMMI Institute, the Quality Team informs the reporter, in no uncertain terms, that both the document and the claim to Maturity Level “X” are counterfeit.

In the majority of instances, the illegitimate certificates that are reported to us have been issued by organizations with no CMMI credentials; these companies are not CMMI Institute Partners, and do not employ certified CMMI Instructors, SCAMPI Lead Appraisers, or SCAMPI B&C Team Leaders. Organizations such as Quality System Assessments International Limited (QSA), Vintage Certifications Inc., and Regal Register (UK) Limited (RRUL) have all issued falsified certificates obtained by the Quality Team. These companies purport to offer CMMI appraisals and services without authorization from CMMI Institute, and the certificates they issue are not recognized by CMMI Institute.

In one recent instance, we received a certificate that gave the name of a currently certified Lead Appraiser, and was said to be issued by the LA’s sponsoring CMMI Institute Partner. Investigation by the Quality Team found this certificate to be a forgery; the “appraised” organization had created—or obtained from parties who had created—the document by altering a real certificate the LA had awarded to a Maturity Level 3 client. The LA and Partner had no knowledge of this fabricated certificate’s existence, and were not culpable in the actions of the organization it named.

CMMI Institute does not, itself, issue certificates to appraised organizations. We do not certify the results of appraisals, nor do we grant accreditation. We do not prohibit our Partners from creating certificates for organizations they have appraised. However, we *do* caution against this practice, as it creates the potential for those documents to be misused, and for the Certified LA and/or CMMI Institute Partner’s name to be tarnished by the dishonest actions of others.

In much more infrequent cases, a Lead Appraiser and/or a Partner organization have themselves been found to be at fault for issuing falsified certificates. The companies named by these documents had not

been appraised, yet had been awarded Maturity Level ratings. CMMI Institute does not tolerate such acts, and in these instances CMMI certifications and Partner agreements have been terminated.

The illegitimate awarding of CMMI ratings is harmful to the valuable work of both CMMI Institute and CMMI Institute Partners. Certified Lead Appraisers, Instructors, and B&C Team Leaders are our eyes and ears around the world, and we ask that you remain watchful. When a falsified certificate is found, please report it to the Quality Team immediately.

Questions regarding this Quality Tip can be sent to quality@cmmiinstitute.com.