



CMMI® and MDDAP Intellectual Property (IP) Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines the requirements for usage of CMMI Intellectual Property (IP) or intellectual property of any CMMI derivatives including MDDAP content (“CMMI IP”) in the normal course of CMMI-related business activities as performed by CMMI Partner organizations, CMMI Certified Individuals, and other users of the CMMI Performance Solutions ecosystem.

Scope and Applicability

CMMI IP encompasses the CMMI Performance Solutions ecosystem content, including CMMI model content, CMMI Method Definition Document (MDD), CMMI Model Viewer and associated .pdf files, training course materials, and exam content.

This policy applies to all CMMI Partners, Partner Business Points of Contact (BPOCs), Partner-sponsored Certified Individuals, employees or designees of the Partner organization (“Covered Entities”), MDDAP Partners and suppliers, all CMMI adopting or appraised organizations, and anyone using the CMMI Performance Solution ecosystem including but not limited to: students of CMMI and MDDAP courses, exam test takers, process implementers, and any other personnel from CMMI adopting organizations using CMMI. In addition to this policy, all CMMI Partners are held to the IP terms as outlined in the Partnership Universal License Agreement (ULA) that is in place with each Partner Organization.

For any use of CMMI IP that falls outside the restrictions set forth in this policy—including but not limited to special cases or commercial-use proposals—prior approval must be obtained. Formal requests should be submitted to permission@cmmiinstitute.com.

Policy Implementation Detail

Sharing of CMMI IP

All CMMI Model users as detailed within Scope and Applicability must have active licensed access to the current version of the CMMI model as accessed through the CMMI Model Viewer or CMMI e-reader. Users of the CMMI Performance Solutions ecosystem are permitted to reproduce and distribute materials incorporating CMMI IP to be left behind with potential customers and CMMI users as set forth below (“Permitted Sharing”).

CMMI licensed Partners, certified individuals (i.e., those who hold active CMMI and MDDAP certifications) and those organizations who have active individual or enterprise CMMI Model Viewer licenses, or CMMI Partnership agreements are permitted to engage in Permitted Sharing of the following CMMI IP in appraisal tracking tools, marketing presentations, and other materials that are commonly used in driving adoption and performing appraisals:

- Practice Area (PA) Name and Icon
- PA Intent Statement
- PA Value Statement

The following levels of detail **cannot** be distributed or shared with individuals or organizations that do not have active CMMI Model Viewer licenses or CMMI certifications.

- Additional Required Practice Area Information
- Explanatory Practice Area Information, including the Practice Summary tables
- Additional Explanatory Practice Area Information
- Required Practice Information, ***including Practice Statements (Intent), Value statements, and any other Additional Required Information***
- Additional Required Practice Information
- Additional Explanatory Practice Information, ***including Additional Explanatory Information, Example Activities, Example Work Products***
- Any Context Specific Information

The only exception to these restrictions on Permitted Sharing is the Process Quality Assurance (PQA) Practice Area excerpt included in the CMMI Model Quick Reference Guide which may be shared with unlicensed individuals for the purpose of helping to market and explain the structure and use of CMMI and persuade the reader to purchase a CMMI Model Viewer subscription.

As part of a licensed CMMI training course delivery, course materials that contain CMMI IP, e.g., slides, exercises, worksheets, may also be left behind and retained by students from the roster of the course. With regard to CMMI appraisals, the Appraisal Team Leader (ATL) is permitted to do a limited screen share during appraisal activities of the MDD but is not permitted to handover any portions of the MDD to others. The MDD Toolkit includes materials, e.g., Appraisal Team Member Guide, for Appraisal Team Members to use during appraisals.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Restrictions

All CMMI Institute content and all copyrighted material, including the CMMI Model, MDD, Adoption Guidance, training courses, and exams, cannot be copied and pasted or otherwise entered or transcribed into any Artificial Intelligence (AI) model or system, such as CoPilot, ChatGPT, DeepSeek and other similar models, tools and systems for any reason. Use of AI models, systems or tools are also prohibited from use with all CMMI courses, including student assignments, and exams, including those considered “open book.”

Tailoring Content from the CMMI IP

“Tailoring” content refers to repurposing, reformatting, or augmenting the CMMI IP for the purpose of facilitating adoption of CMMI in organizations, promoting student learning, or

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improving the ease of use of tools or materials for the certified individual.

Individuals with licensed access to CMMI IP are only permitted to engage in Tailoring of CMMI IP in accordance with applicable guidance contained in the CMMI Model, the MDD and MDD toolkit, and CMMI course and exam materials. In addition, Certified CMMI Instructors are permitted to engage in Tailoring to make changes to course materials in accordance with the tailoring guidelines found in the Training Library, which is made available to Certified CMMI and MDDAP Instructors through their credential dashboard.

Translating Content from the CMMI IP

Independent translation of CMMI IP is **not** permitted, except in the context of:

- Certified CMMI and MDDAP Instructors informally translating training course materials, in accordance with tailoring guidelines: for students who lack proficiency in the English language.

CMMI Institute maintains official translations of some languages for the CMMI model and CMMI Associate and Practitioner Exams. Other translations of the CMMI model content are not permitted.

Displaying Content from the CMMI IP

Individuals with licensed access to CMMI IP are permitted to temporarily display such for the purpose of explanation and business development so long as they take reasonable steps to ensure that it is not retained by the viewing party. An example could be displaying the details of a PA to a prospective customer for the purpose of explaining the business value of CMMI to their organization.

Commercial Use of CMMI IP

Any commercial use of CMMI IP outside of use in connection with CMMI or MDDAP appraisal and training course delivery is prohibited without prior written consent from CMMI Institute "Commercial Use". For the avoidance of doubt, Commercial Use includes use of CMMI in any software, app, standalone product or service, regardless of whether a license fee is charged for access to the software, app, product or service. Commercial use of CMMI IP requires a formally submitted request to CMMI Institute for consideration and potential approval. Such a request requires, but is not limited to, specific IP requested, why it is requested, such as intended use and purpose or business need, and include a robust business case, with expected target customers and users, financials, including estimated revenue and sales projections, and then any requested justification and rationale that CMMI Institute may ask for after the request is submitted. Refusal to provide this information will result in the request not being considered or approved. CMMI Institute may decide to approve or deny any request for a license to engage in Commercial Use in CMMI Institute's sole discretion.

- Questions regarding this policy should be submitted via support.isaca.org.

- Published policies are available at [cmmiinstitute.com](https://cmmiinstitute.com/partners/policies) on the policy page:
<https://cmmiinstitute.com/partners/policies>

Revision History

Version Number	Date Published	Date Effective	Changes
V3.1	21 August 2025	21 August 2025	Updated to align with CMMI V3.0 intellectual property requirements, MDD, and CMMI Appraisal - Sponsor Role and Responsibilities Policy and Agreement (SRR).
V3.0	28 October 2024	28 October 2024	Updated to CMMI V3.0 intellectual property requirements.
V1.3	24 February 2023	1 July 2019	Updated to align to current CMMI branding
V1.2	9 November 2021	1 July 2019	Updated to ISACA branding; removed outdated references; minor grammar and readability edits
V1.1	30 September 2019	1 July 2019	Updated format & structure; minor editorial updates
V1.0	30 June 2019	1 July 2019	Initial release