

Memorandum

To: Agency CIOs and Security Liaisons

From: Rob Main, State Chief Risk Officer
NC Department of Information Technology (DIT)

Subject: Adoption of NIST SP 800-37 Rev. 2 and NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5

Date: April 20, 2022

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143B-1376 - *Statewide Security Standards*, the State Chief Information Officer (CIO) shall manage all executive branch information technology security and shall establish a statewide standard for information technology security to maximize the functionality, security, and interoperability of the State's distributed information technology assets, including, but not limited to, data classification and management, communications, and encryption technologies.

In February 2018, the State adopted the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-37 Rev. 1 – *Guide for Applying Risk Management Framework (RMF) to Federal Information Systems*, as the standard for managing information security risk in State agencies. At that same time, the State aligned its information technology security policies to NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 – *Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations* as the framework for the Statewide Risk Management Program. The State has modified certain controls from the original NIST 800-53 requirements where they were deemed necessary. Originally published in April 2013, NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 has provided a solid risk management foundation for organizations to secure their information systems.

Due to the constantly evolving threat landscape, the State adopted both NIST SP 800-37 Rev. 2 and NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 in January 2022 with the intent of being better prepared today for the cyber threats and attack vectors of tomorrow. The January 2022 updates to the Statewide Information Security Manual, developed in collaboration with Agency Security Liaisons, are reflective of the aforementioned adoption of both Special Publications.

If you have any questions about the updated Statewide Information Security Manual, please contact State Chief Risk Officer Rob Main at rob.main@nc.gov or 919-754-6228.



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