

AEROSPACE / SUPPLY CHAIN

READINESS

From Assessment to Certification: A CMMC Readiness Case Study

CMMC READINESS ASSESSMENT

| Contractor unsure how far it stood from certification

01 Engagement Overview

An aerospace supply chain contractor had informal security practices in place but no clear picture of how those practices measured against certification requirements, and no roadmap for closing the distance.

- Scope: Readiness assessment across policy documentation, technical controls, and evidence collection practices ahead of formal certification
- Approach: Structured gap analysis against required practice families, scored to show distance from certification rather than a pass or fail verdict
- Baseline: Security practices existed informally but were undocumented, untested, and inconsistently applied across teams

02 Technical Discovery

The readiness assessment revealed a gap between what the contractor believed was in place and what could actually be demonstrated to an assessor.

- Mechanism: Several required controls existed in practice but had no supporting evidence, logs, or documentation an assessor could review
- Scope: Responsibility for security practices was distributed informally across IT staff with no single owner accountable for compliance readiness
- Why it mattered: Assessors evaluate documented, demonstrable evidence, not verbal assurance, so undocumented controls scored the same as missing ones

03 Risk & Business Impact

Without the readiness assessment, the contractor would have discovered these gaps during formal certification, at a much higher cost in time and assessment fees.

- Entering formal assessment unprepared risked a failed assessment, requiring a full remediation cycle and a second assessment fee
- Standards exposure: Evidence gaps spanned several practice families, meaning the shortfall was systemic rather than isolated to one control area
- A failed or delayed certification risked missing bid deadlines on upcoming contract opportunities tied to certification status

04 Remediation & Outcome

The readiness assessment produced a prioritized roadmap that closed evidence and documentation gaps before formal certification began.

- Assigned a single internal owner accountable for compliance documentation and evidence collection going forward
- Built a centralized evidence repository mapping each required practice to its supporting documentation
- Closed the highest-priority control gaps identified in the readiness scoring before scheduling formal assessment
- Entered formal certification with documented evidence in hand, avoiding the delays and costs of a failed first assessment