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Home   Search   Contact Us   Site Map   What's New

Organizations
Improving
management
practices
Individuals

About
the SEI

**Management
Practices**

Engineering
Practices

Technology
Adoption

Collaboration
Opportunities

Products and
Services

Publications

**MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES**

- Welcome
- Capability Maturity Modeling
- Team & Personal Software Process
- IDEAL Model
- Risk Management
- Software Engineering Measurement & Analysis (SEMA)
- Information Repositories
- Complete Technical Project List
- Common Acronyms
- Technical Initiatives
- Conferences
- Education & Training

CMMI® Appraisal Track Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Appraiser Program main page

Contents:

- What is the CMMI Appraisal Track?
- How does a CMMI appraisal method get recognized as an ARC Class A, B, or C?
- Will there be additional definition and guidelines developed for Class B and Class C appraisal methods?
- Are there likely to be other Class A appraisal methods?
- Will there be SCAMPI B and SCAMPI C appraisal methods?
- What role do sub practices (and other informative model material) play in rating during a SCAMPI appraisal?
- Are individuals in the SCAMPI authorization track still allowed to take the Lead Appraiser training course prior to completing the CMMI Intermediate course?
- When will SCAMPI V1.1 appraisals be available?
- Are lead assessors from other methods still allowed to "grandfather" over to SCAMPI?
- Can I attend SCAMPI Lead Appraiser training even though I am not yet affiliated with a Transition Partner licensed to deliver SCAMPI Appraisal Services?
- Can I add things to the SCAMPI method when I conduct an appraisal?
- Will appraisers have to submit data so others can later verify appraisals? Is the SEI planning on keeping records of appraisals?
- Can two (or more) SCAMPI Lead Appraisers get credit for having led a SCAMPI on the same appraisal?
- Does an appraisal sponsor have to be informed that an appraisal will be an observation appraisal?
- What must the SCAMPI Lead Appraiser provide to the SEI following a SCAMPI appraisal?
- What factors might initiate an SEI audit of an appraisal?
- Can any authorized SCAMPI Lead Appraiser conduct an observation of a candidate SCAMPI Lead Appraiser?
- For More Information

What is the CMMI Appraisal Track?

This term refers to the part of the SEI Appraiser Program which manages and administers the SCAMPI^{SM} appraisal method and associated SCAMPI Lead Appraiser^{SM} authorization program.

More details about the CMMI Appraisal Track are available at SEI Appraiser Program.

return to top ▲

How does a CMMI appraisal method get recognized as an ARC Class A, B, or C?

At the present time self-declaration is the only type of recognition available. The SEI has received many requests to establish some type of recognition schema but other SEI priorities have not yet permitted any commitments to do this.

return to top ▲

Will there be additional definition and guidelines developed for Class B and Class C appraisal methods?

There are no plans to further refine or extend the definitions and guidance for Class B and Class C appraisal methods provided in the ARC.

return to top ▲

Are there likely to be other Class A appraisal methods?

Class A is a special class with the highest confidence results, so the requirements are difficult to meet. In addition, there are other factors. How many class A appraisal methods can the market support? How many benchmark methods are really needed? How can we ensure that the different methods are valid for making comparisons across industries and within industries?

An objective of the CMMI Project was to reduce the number and diversity of models and methods. If additional Class A methods emerge, they would be separate and distinct from SCAMPI and the SEI authorization program for SCAMPI.

return to top ▲

Will there be SCAMPI B and SCAMPI C appraisal methods?

The intent is to provide such methods as part of the toolkit that is provided to SEI-authorized SCAMPI Lead Appraiser[SM]s. While there are no definite plans at this time, the SEI is using all available opportunities to progress work on putting such methods in place. Such a family of integrated SCAMPI methods, using common artifacts and being upward compatible would have significant value for the process improvement community.

return to top ▲

What role do sub practices (and other informative model material) play in rating during a SCAMPI appraisal?

SCAMPI Lead Appraisers (and their teams) are taught that the full model (front and back cover as well as everything in between) is to be considered as the basis for understanding the model but that the process area goals are the only normative rating component. Practice statements are designed to encapsulate or summarize the intent of a practice. To fully comprehend the intent of a practice, the context established by the full CMMI discipline model must be understood; this includes in particular sub practices, the front matter, and the glossary.

return to top ▲

Are individuals in the SCAMPI authorization track still allowed to take the Lead Appraiser training course prior to completing the CMMI Intermediate course?

This practice was discontinued effective January 1, 2002. This kind of "out of sequence" scenario was initially allowed to facilitate establishing an initial cadre of SCAMPI Lead Appraisers. It was never a preferred or recommended approach.

return to top ▲

When will SCAMPI V1.1 appraisals be available?

Most SCAMPI Lead Appraisers who are authorized to deliver V1.0 SCAMPI appraisal services will be prepared to deliver V1.1-based appraisal services by May 2002. While SCAMPI Lead Appraisers are required to use upgraded materials as they become available, V1.0-based appraisals will be recognized by the SEI through the end of 2002 to accommodate those who already have commitments for V1.0-based SCAMPIs.

V1.0-based SCAMPIs completed after December 31, 2002 will not be recognized by the SEI as far as SCAMPI Lead Appraiser authorization credit or appraisal experience is concerned (for those in the process of qualifying to become a SCAMPI Lead Appraiser.) Note that "completion" in this context refers to the point in time at which the SEI has received the complete set of appraisal artifacts (e.g., the appraisal report) from the SCAMPI Lead Appraiser.

return to top ▲

Are lead assessors from other methods still allowed to "grandfather" over to SCAMPI?

No, the equivalency provisions were discontinued effective January 1, 2002.

The original motivation for the equivalency provisions was to facilitate establishing an initial cadre of SCAMPI Lead Appraisers. A shortened form of lead appraiser training was developed and a set of procedures and processes were established to administer the equivalency process. Now that a cadre of SCAMPI Lead Appraisers is in place the need for this approach no longer exists.

return to top ▲

Can I attend SCAMPI Lead Appraiser training even though I am not yet affiliated with a Transition Partner licensed to deliver SCAMPI Appraisal Services?

No, this is a prerequisite for applying for entry to the SCAMPI authorization process. See the detailed requirements at Lead Assessor Authorization for SCAMPI Appraisal Services.

return to top ▲

Can I add things to the SCAMPI method when I conduct an

appraisal?

The SCAMPI method is designed to be used in a wide variety of appraisal scenarios and so tailoring of the method has received a lot of attention. There is a great deal of flexibility provided to add things as long as they are consistent with the method itself. The SCAMPI Implementation Model, or SIM, is specifically designed to provide a way of thinking about SCAMPI (as well as other CMMI appraisal methods) in such a way as to facilitate tailoring and adaptation.

return to top ▲

Will appraisers have to submit data so others can later verify appraisals? Is the SEI planning on keeping records of appraisals?

As with other SEI appraisal methods, SCAMPI Lead Appraisers are required to submit an "appraisal report" or package to the SEI following the completion of SCAMPI appraisals they lead. The SEI uses these data for research and reporting purposes; they are not made public in any way that would compromise the confidentiality of the source.

All data reported to the SEI from appraisals such as SCAMPI, CBA IPI, software process assessments, interim profiles, or SCE^{SM}s, etc., are treated as confidential to the organization submitting the data. This means that access to these data is tightly controlled. Only SEI personnel with a need to know are granted access to identified data.

As a result of the degree to which the SCAMPI method satisfies ISO/IEC TR 15504-3 requirements, it supports the concept of post-appraisal verification of appraisal results. A required artifact of a SCAMPI appraisal called the appraisal record could be used to support post-appraisal verification. However, there is currently no requirement for a SCAMPI Lead Appraiser to provide this artifact to the SEI, nor does the SEI have plans to levy such a requirement.

return to top ▲

Can two (or more) SCAMPI Lead Appraisers get credit for having led a SCAMPI on the same appraisal?

No, only the individual assigned the role of appraisal team leader can get credit even if there is some sharing of responsibilities with another SCAMPI Lead Appraiser who happens to be a team member.

return to top ▲

Does an appraisal sponsor have to be informed that an appraisal will be an observation appraisal?

Yes, it is the responsibility of the candidate SCAMPI Lead Appraiser to inform the sponsor verbally and to also record this in the appraisal input.

return to top ▲

What must the SCAMPI Lead Appraiser provide to the SEI

following a SCAMPI appraisal?

The following artifacts must be provided to the SEI:

1. Appraisal input
2. Appraisal plan
3. Final findings briefing
4. Appraisal Disclosure Statement
5. PAIS Record
6. Appraisal feedback form

In addition, feedback forms are needed from the appraisal team members and the appraisal sponsor. These reporting requirements are subject to change.

return to top ▲

What factors might initiate an SEI audit of an appraisal?

The SEI does routine auditing of appraisal artifacts provided by SCAMPI Lead Appraisers. An on-site audit of an appraisal might be initiated by one or more of the following:

1. request of the appraisal sponsor
2. credible reports of misconduct
3. failure to fulfill SCAMPI Lead Appraiser responsibilities
4. random selection

return to top ▲

Can any authorized SCAMPI Lead Appraiser conduct an observation of a candidate SCAMPI Lead Appraiser?

No, only SEI observers can perform this function. At this time the only SEI observers are core members of the SCAMPI track of the SEI Appraiser program. Over time, additional SEI observers may be designated.

For More Information

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Return to top ▲
SCAMPI Lead Appraisers
SEI Appraiser Program main page