

Domain Sampling Factor

Requirements for Sampling on Appraisals with Multiple CMMI Domains

In January of 2024, CMMI Institute updated its CMMI Appraisal Method Definition Document (MDD) with sampling factor requirements when more than one domain was selected. The aim was to ensure that sampling is sufficient to address potential process differences for Organizational Units (OUs) based on the different CMMI domains (e.g., Development, Services, Suppliers, etc.). The aim of this Quality Tip is to help the CMMI Lead Appraiser community understand the domain sampling factor requirements for multiple domain appraisals.

Per MDD *Section 1.1.4 Determine Appraisal Scope*, “when multiple domains are selected for any given OU, ...the standard domain Sampling Factor is required.” This requirement applies to all Benchmark and Sustainment appraisals regardless of the domains selected. During quality review of appraisal scope submissions, Quality Management will ensure that this requirement is met and will flag any scoping submissions that lack the required domain sampling factors for multiple domain OUs.

In prior versions of the CMMI Model, Supplier Agreement Management (SAM) was not domain-specific. However, this has changed, and SAM is now part of the Suppliers domain. Accordingly, for Sustainment appraisals, Suppliers must be added to the scope of the appraisal wherein the previous Benchmark included SAM, and subsequently the domain sampling factor is required to be added. Considering these changes, CMMI Institute’s IT Department must assist in these cases because the CMMI Appraisal System (CAS) was not built to permit such changes for Sustainment Appraisals. Therefore, it is imperative that Appraisal Team Leaders (ATLs) with such cases submit their Randomly Generated Sample (RGS) scope to CMMI Institute as early as possible for review and set expectations with their clients that such reviews can take up to five business days.

Even if all the projects in the OU will be appraised for all in-scope domains, the domain sampling factor still needs to be applied. In such cases, the ATL must create a sampling factor for “Domain”, including sampling factor values for all domains in-scope and apply each value to all projects within the OU. Even though no differences are present in the OU between domains, the domain sampling factor is still required.

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