

# Randomly Generated Samples

## The Process and Timeline for Generating a Random Sample

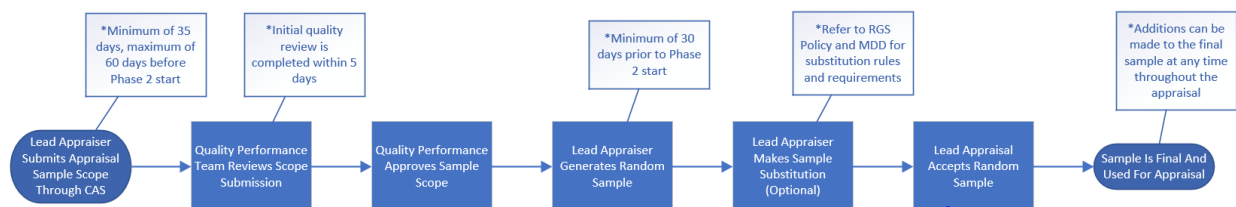
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The randomly generated sample (RGS) is a crucial component of an appraisal delivery in the current appraisal method. Failure to properly plan for and understand the RGS process may result in delays to appraisals as there are multiple time-dependent steps to the process. Recently, some Lead Appraisers (LAs) have expressed confusion about, or lack of awareness of, certain aspects of the RGS process and timeline. This Quality Tip aims to condense the requirements of the CMMI Method Definition Document (MDD) and Random Sample Generation Policy ([PA005](#)) into an easy to follow reference that may be used as a guide for LAs when submitting RGS requests.

### RGS Submission Guidelines

Both the CMMI Appraisal System (CAS) and the Random Sample Generation Policy require that the Organizational Unit (OU) scoping for an appraisal be submitted to ISACA for review a minimum of 35 calendar days and a maximum of 60 calendar days prior to the Conduct Appraisal Phase (Phase 2). Additionally, CAS requires that the RGS be generated and accepted at least 30 days prior to the Conduct Appraisal Phase. Accordingly, in situations where the organizational scope is more complex, such as an appraisal targeting both capability and maturity levels, ISACA recommends that the scope be submitted sooner rather than later during the RGS request period to ensure the scope is captured accurately and the Appraisal Team Leader (ATL) has allowed sufficient time for any quality review discussion that may ensue. A flowchart of the RGS process is included below:

Random Sample Generation Flowchart and Timeline



CAS enforces RGS timeline considerations including compliance with the 35 and 30-day requirements included in the above flowchart. This may prevent the ATL from moving forward in instances in which the timeline requirements are not met.

An RGS is required for Benchmark and Sustainment Appraisal deliveries and is based on information about the projects and support functions being appraised in the OU. This is true even in cases where there is only one active project in the OU. An RGS is not a requirement to deliver an Evaluation Appraisal; however, an RGS may be generated at the OU's and ATL's discretion.

Questions about RGS submissions or this Quality Tip may be directed to [quality@cmmiinstitute.com](mailto:quality@cmmiinstitute.com)