

Quick Reference Guide: DoD IAT Certification Levels

IAT Levels Overview

The DoD 8570.01-M framework establishes Information Assurance Technical (IAT) levels to define certification requirements for cybersecurity professionals performing technical and operational roles. IAT certifications are divided into three levels: I, II, and III, with Level III being the highest formal tier. Professionals can progress into senior and specialized roles beyond Level III by pursuing advanced certifications and leadership opportunities.

IAT Level I (Entry-Level Technical Roles)

Focus: Basic support and maintenance of IT systems, including hardware and software.

Certifications:

1. A+ CE – CompTIA A+ (Continuing Education version)
 2. CCNA-Security – Cisco Certified Network Associate Security
 3. CND – Certified Network Defender
 4. Network+ CE – CompTIA Network+ (Continuing Education version)
 5. SSCP – Systems Security Certified Practitioner
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IAT Level II (Intermediate-Level Technical Roles)

Focus: Administration and support of IT systems with an emphasis on cybersecurity.

Certifications:

1. CCNA-Security – Cisco Certified Network Associate Security
 2. CySA+ CE – CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst (Continuing Education version)
 3. GICSP – Global Industrial Cyber Security Professional
 4. GSEC – GIAC Security Essentials Certification
 5. Security+ CE – CompTIA Security+ (Continuing Education version)
 6. SSCP – Systems Security Certified Practitioner
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IAT Level III (Advanced-Level Technical Roles)

Focus: Advanced administration, security, and troubleshooting of IT systems.

Certifications:

1. CASP+ CE – CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner (Continuing Education version)
2. CCNP-Security – Cisco Certified Network Professional Security
3. CISA – Certified Information Systems Auditor
4. CISSP – Certified Information Systems Security Professional
5. GCED – GIAC Certified Enterprise Defender
6. GCIH – GIAC Certified Incident Handler

Beyond IAT Level III

While IAT Level III is the highest formal tier in the framework, professionals can advance into senior and specialized roles by pursuing additional certifications and leadership opportunities.

Recommended Advanced Certifications Beyond IAT Level III:

1. **CISSP-ISSAP** – Information Systems Security Architecture Professional
2. **CISSP-ISSMP** – Information Systems Security Management Professional
3. **CCIE-Security** – Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert Security
4. **OSCP** – Offensive Security Certified Professional
5. **CCISO** – Certified Chief Information Security Officer
6. **CEHv12 Master** – Certified Ethical Hacker Master
7. **CGEIT** – Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT
8. **GIAC Security Leadership Advanced Tracks**

Senior Roles Beyond IAT:

- **Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)** – Enterprise-wide security strategy and governance.
- **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)** – Technical leadership and innovation.
- **Senior Penetration Tester** – Offensive security and advanced vulnerability assessments.
- **Enterprise Architect** – Designing secure and scalable enterprise IT systems.
- **Cyber Operations Specialist** – Advanced offensive and defensive cyber operations.

Key Takeaways

- IAT Level III is the highest formal tier within the framework.
- Professionals can advance beyond Level III by acquiring specialized certifications and pursuing leadership roles.
- Advanced roles and certifications focus on enterprise IT governance, offensive and defensive cybersecurity, and technical leadership.

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