Quick Reference Guide: DoD IAM Certification Levels

IAM Levels Overview

The DoD 8570.01-M framework establishes **Information Assurance Management (IAM)** levels to define certification requirements for cybersecurity professionals managing systems and personnel. IAM certifications are divided into three levels: **I, II, and III**, with Level III being the highest tier.

IAM Level I (Entry-Level Management of Information Assurance Systems)

Focus: Basic system authorization and leadership tasks.

Certifications:

1. **CAP** – Certified Authorization Professional
2. **GSLC** – GIAC Security Leadership Certification
3. **Security+ CE** – CompTIA Security+ (Continuing Education version)

IAM Level II (Intermediate-Level Management of Information Assurance Systems)

Focus: Intermediate management, risk assessment, and compliance tasks.

Certifications:

1. **CAP** – Certified Authorization Professional
2. **CASP+ CE** – CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner (Continuing Education version)
3. **CISM** – Certified Information Security Manager
4. **CISSP (Associate)** – Certified Information Systems Security Professional (Associate level)
5. **GSLC** – GIAC Security Leadership Certification

IAM Level III (Advanced-Level Management of Information Assurance Systems)

Focus: Strategic and advanced system management, high-level risk mitigation, and leadership.

Certifications:

1. **CISM** – Certified Information Security Manager
2. **CISSP** – Certified Information Systems Security Professional
3. **GSLC** – GIAC Security Leadership Certification
4. **CCISO** – Certified Chief Information Security Officer

Beyond IAM Level III

Although **IAM Level III** is the highest formal tier in the framework, professionals can advance into senior and strategic roles by pursuing additional certifications and leadership opportunities.

Advanced Leadership Roles:

- **Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)**
- **Chief Risk Officer (CRO)**

Recommended Advanced Certifications:

1. **CISSP-ISSAP** – Information Systems Security Architecture Professional
2. **CISSP-ISSMP** – Information Systems Security Management Professional
3. **CCISO** – Certified Chief Information Security Officer
4. **CGEIT** – Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT
5. **PMP** – Project Management Professional
6. **COBIT 5/COBIT 2019** – IT governance and management framework
7. **ITIL** – IT Service Management

DoD Cyber Workforce Framework (DCWF):

The new DCWF focuses on advanced roles in governance, operational execution, and enterprise-wide cybersecurity practices.

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Summary Table

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IAM Level	Focus	Certifications
IAM Level I	Basic system authorization and leadership	CAP, GSLC, Security+ CE
IAM Level II	Intermediate risk management and compliance	CAP, CASP+ CE, CISM, CISSP (Associate), GSLC
IAM Level III	Strategic leadership and high-level risk mitigation	CISM, CISSP, GSLC, CCISO

Key Takeaways

- **IAM Level III** is the highest certification level in the DoD 8570.01-M framework.
- Advanced leadership roles and certifications go beyond Level III for professionals seeking broader strategic and executive opportunities.
- Senior roles often require additional certifications and specialized skills in governance, enterprise IT, and project management.