



CCSS Version Transition Guidelines

Document Purpose

This document provides guidance for a CCSS-certified system's transition from CCSS version 8.1 to CCSS version 9.0.

Document Control

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	XXXXX	The initial release of CCSS Version Transition Guidelines document covering the transition from CCSS version 8.1 to version 9.0.

Existing CCSS Version 8.1 Certified Systems

For existing CCSS certified systems or systems under the CCSS audit and certification process as of December 17th, 2024, two consecutive audits and certifications are permitted under CCSS version 8.1. After two consecutive years of audit and certification under CCSS version 8.1, the systems must be audited and certified under CCSS version 9.0.

For example, a system certified in Feb 2024 under CCSS version 8.1 is allowed to be audited and certified for an additional two consecutive years under CCSS version 8.1 (Feb 2025 and Feb 2026 annual audit and certification). The entity must be audited and certified under CCSS version 9.0 for the annual 2027 audit and certification and beyond.





Systems not under the CCSS Audit and Certification Process

Once a new major version is released, there is a 3-month review period. Any audit already in progress, or if an “intent to audit” form for the current version is submitted before the end of the 3-month review period, the audit against the current version will be honored. Otherwise all new audits after the 3-month review period must be completed against the new version of the standard.

Reconciliation of Versions For QSPs and Full Systems

If a QSP’s CCSS certification is for a previous version of CCSS, when a new version of CCSS is released, the entity using the QSP within its CCSS Trusted Environment can accept the QSP’s CCSS certification until the end of the assigned grace period. Once the assigned grace period has been reached, the QSP must audit and certify under the new CCSS version.

For example, if a QSP is certified under CCSS version 8.1 and a Full System, using that QSP within the CCSS Trusted Environment is auditing and certifying under CCSS version 9.0, then the QSP’s CCSS version 8.1 certification is acceptable until the end of the grace period allocated to the QSP.

CCSS Version Releases

There is no fixed review period for CCSS. However, when required, the CCSS Steering Committee will release minor version releases to address any reported errors or inconsistencies in the standard or supporting processes. Minor version updates will increase the “z” component of the version number (X.Y.Z). For example, CCSS version 9.0 to CCSS version 9.0.1 will be a minor update to CCSS.

How Is Versioning Applied to CCSS

Version	When Used	Grace Period
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Number Format		
X.0	Significant changes to CCSS, including the addition, update, and removal of CCSS requirements, changes to aspects and aspect controls, and movement of existing requirements, aspects, and aspect controls within the CCSS structure.	Two years
X.Y	Minor changes to requirement, requirement rationale, aspect, aspect objective or aspect control wording. For example, to provide more clarity regarding the intent of a requirement. There is no addition or removal of a requirement, aspect or aspect control.	One year
X.Y.Z	Changes to CCSS formatting, spelling, and grammar. No changes to CCSS requirement, requirement rationale, aspect and aspect control wording or intent.	Six months

CCSS Auditor Certifications

Certification Requirements for CCSS Auditors

To perform a CCSS audit for any version, an auditor must be certified under that specific version:

- **CCSS v8.1 Audits:** Only auditors certified on v8.1 are eligible to conduct audits for systems seeking certification under v8.1.
- **CCSS v9.0 Audits:** Auditors must pass the v9.0 exam or complete the 9.0 quiz to be eligible to conduct audits for systems seeking certification under v9.0.

This ensures auditors are fully knowledgeable about the version-specific requirements and can provide accurate and effective assessments.

How the Exam Process Works

The CCSSA (CryptoCurrency Security Standard Auditor) certification process now includes an optional **9.0 quiz**. Here's how it works for both current and prospective CCSSA candidates:



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For Current CCSSA Holders (Certified on v8.1):

1. **Transitional Quiz:**

- To upgrade your certification to include v9.0, you'll need to take and pass a short 9.0 quiz, available starting December 20th.
- This quiz is free for a limited time after you receive your certification.

2. **Two Attempt Rule:**

- You have **two tries** to pass the quiz. If unsuccessful, you will retain your v8.1 certification but will need to pay to retake the full exam to certify on v9.0.

For New Prospective CCSSA Candidates:

1. **Dual Access:**

- New candidates will receive access to both the CCSSA 8.1 exam and the 9.0 quiz.

2. **Optional Quiz:**

- To certify on the latest version (v9.0), candidates must first pass the 8.1 exam and then take the optional 9.0 quiz, starting December 20th.
- If you choose to skip the quiz, you'll be certified under v8.1 only.



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