Baseline Informatiebeveiliging Rijksdienst (BIR 2012) standard Netherlands

Microsoft cloud services help public sector agencies in the Netherlands comply with the BIR 2012 standard.

Microsoft and BIR 2012

While Microsoft is not subject to BIR 2012 compliance, customers from the government sector seeking to use cloud services can use existing Microsoft certifications to determine their compliance with this standard. Microsoft Azure and Microsoft Office 365 undergo various periodic independent certifications and attestations, some of which are closely related to BIR 2012. When using Azure or Office 365, part of the BIR 2012 controls for these cloud services are managed by Microsoft in line with the shared responsibility model in cloud computing. Organizations that need to comply with BIR 2012 are therefore required to determine if the underlying Microsoft services they are using are compliant with BIR 2012.

Microsoft in-scope cloud services

- Azure
  Learn more

- Intune

- Office 365
  Learn more

Audits, reports, and certificates

- Azure and Office 365 BIR-2012 Baseline Coverage
- Azure and Office 365 BIR-2012 Baseline Coverage User Guide (Dutch)

How to implement

- Get help understanding the Office 365 and Azure BIR coverage report.
  Learn more (Dutch)

About the BIR 2012 standard

Organizations operating in the Netherlands government sector must demonstrate compliance with the Baseline Informatiebeveiliging Rijksdienst standard (BIR 2012). The BIR 2012 provides a standard framework based on ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27002. The BIR coverage report provides guidance where the BIR standards are covered by existing ISO/IEC 27001 certifications that are available for Microsoft Online Services. Where there are additional BIR controls that are not covered by ISO/IEC 27001, references are made to other independent attestations, audit documentation, or contractual statements.

Frequently asked questions

Is Microsoft BIR 2012 certified?

The responsibility for BIR compliance is applicable to the government sector. It requires the organization to implement an information security management system and to address risk with appropriate technical and organizational measures. For Microsoft in its role as cloud service provider, BIR compliance is not the objective, nor is it technically feasible. When a customer implements or uses Microsoft Online Services, those services may be in scope of a BIR evaluation. However, the organization must add its own (additional) controls, choices, and processes, which are part of the overall BIR evaluation. The objective of the report is to demonstrate that a government agency can adopt Microsoft Online Services in a manner that is compliant with BIR 2012.

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Is a customer that uses Microsoft Online Services compliant with BIR 2012?

Demonstrating BIR compliance is the responsibility of the customer. When using a cloud services vendor, customers typically demand assurances from the vendor, and add their own (additional) technology and organizational decisions, choices, and processes. This results in an overall assessment by the customer on its BIR compliance, which can be submitted for review or certification to a third-party auditor. The BIR coverage report provides insight into what BIR controls are covered by Microsoft Online Services, but as such does not cover end-to-end compliance.

The report does not show 100% coverage; is BIR 2012 compliance not feasible?

Microsoft Online Services provide many controls that help organizations within the Netherlands with their BIR compliance needs. However, an organization needs to complement those vendor assurances with their own implementation choices, additional technology controls, and administrative processes. The report shows already over 91% direct coverage of the full list of applicable controls. For the remaining controls, Microsoft provides guidance in the report on how compliance with those controls can be demonstrated.

Is the BIR coverage report a legal binding document?

No. It is a supporting tool for the customer's internal BIR assurance process and helps to establish confidence and trust that BIR compliance is feasible. The report has a descriptive status and includes a legal disclaimer.

Can we share this report?

The report is provided to customers under a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), on the basis that it is only for customer information and that it will not be copied or disclosed via other channels than the Microsoft Service Trust Portal. Customers can share the report with their own internal or external auditors as part of their compliance or assurance processes.

Additional resources

Security Regulation for the National Service 2013

Decree on information security for the civil service 2007

Microsoft and ISO/IEC 27001

Microsoft Online Services Terms

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