

# **Role of the National Institute of Standards and Technology**



## **SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT NEEDS ON CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT**

WTO TBT  
Committee  
Oct. 2013

# National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act



Defines Federal agency use of standards in regulation and procurement

Directs Federal agencies to:

- Use private sector consensus standards when practical
- Minimize development of agency-unique standards and report such instances
- Participate in the development of private sector consensus standards to meet agency needs
- Reduce complexity of conformity assessment activities
- Coordinate with private sector

# NIST Responsibilities under NTTAA



Coordinate Federal agency standards activities encouraging where possible the use of private sector consensus standards

- Guide Federal implementation of the NTTAA
- Provide guidance to Federal agencies
- Provide annual reports to Congress

Coordinate government conformity assessment activities with the private sector reducing unnecessary duplication and complexity

Chair the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy

# NIST in Documentary Standards



## NIST Standards Services for U.S. industry and government

Standards  
information  
for U.S  
industrial  
success

Standards  
policy,  
technical and  
education  
services for  
government

Coordination  
with private  
sector  
standards  
community

# NIST Advisory Role in Conformity Assessment



NTTAA directs NIST to coordinate Federal agencies in:

- Reducing unnecessary duplication and complexity (industry burden)
- working with private sector

Federal agencies maintain their authority and responsibility to make regulatory, procurement and federal assistance decisions

NTTAA does not indicate a preference for any specific approach in conformity assessment

NIST advises Federal agencies on development of appropriate options in conformity assessment including the use of international CA standards

# Keys for Effective Conformity Assessment



## Develop sustainable systems

- Program must be viable after initial government focus on issues
- Conserve government resources
- Leverage private sector resources where applicable

Conformity assessment program must meet the confidence needs of regulators, market and/or public

Minimize burden on industry



# NIST Recommends a Risk-Based Approach to Conformity Assessment System Design



Consider risks associated with non-compliance when determining the necessary rigor of a system

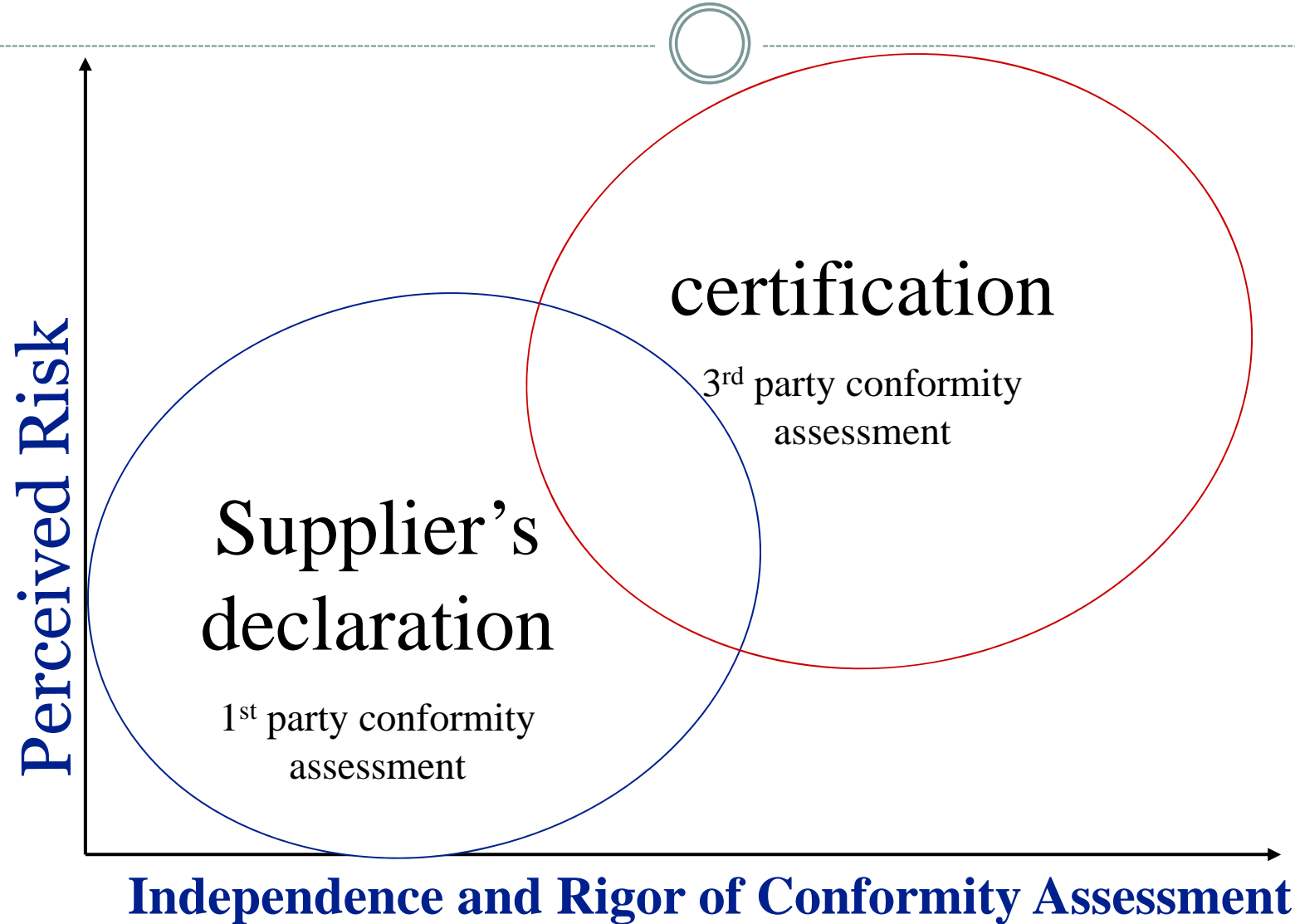
- Over-design can be costly; may delay products to market
- Under-design reduces confidence; may prevent market acceptance of the product



Marketplace consequences, regulatory penalties and effective recall processes may be considered in determining needed level of rigor in conformity assessment systems

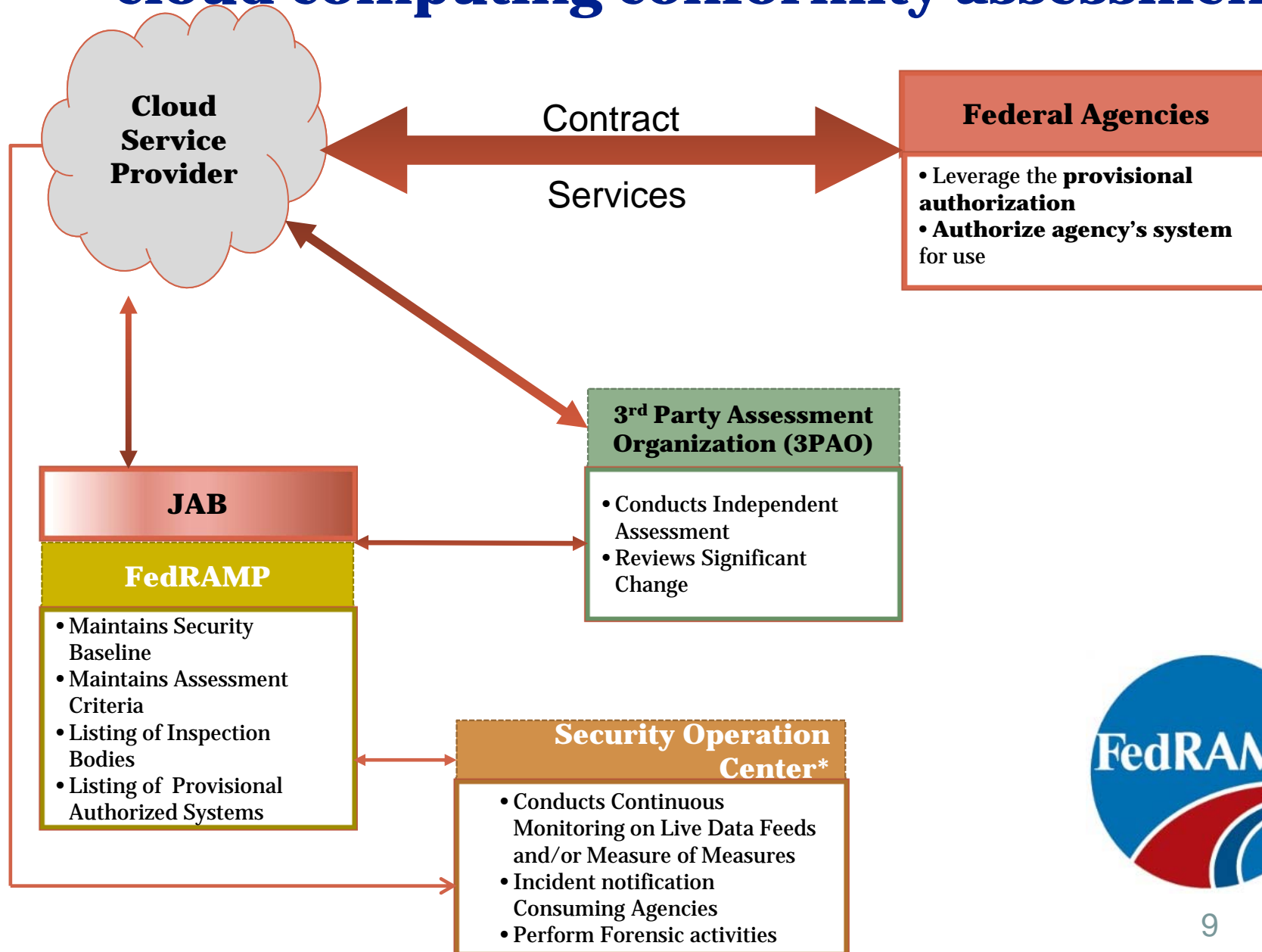
# Risk and Conformity Assessment

## How much confidence is needed?

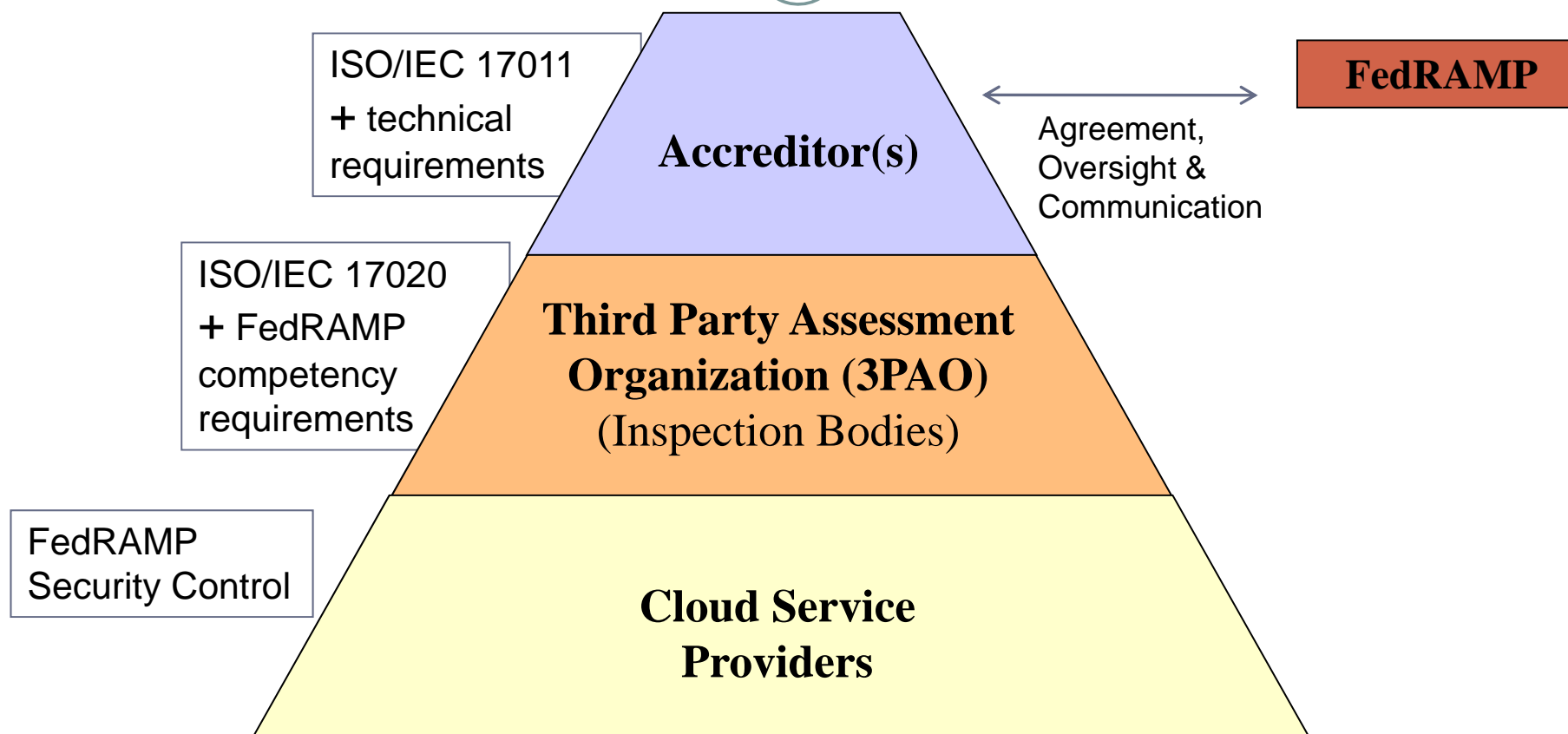




# FedRAMP – General Services Administration cloud computing conformity assessment



# FedRAMP 3PAO and Accreditation



ISO/IEC 17011; Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies  
ISO/IEC 17020; General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

# Contact Information



**GORDON GILLERMAN**  
**CHIEF**  
**STANDARDS SERVICES**  
**(301) 975-8406**  
**GORDON.GILLERMAN@NIST.GOV**