

Overview of FIBS PUB 199- **Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems**

FIPS Publication 199 is a set of standards that define requirements for categorizing information and information systems according to a range of risk levels (low, medium, high) based upon their confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

It is one of 3 publications to help in FISMA compliance. The other 2 will:

- Help agencies identify the types of information and information systems appropriate for each information risk category.
- Describe minimum sets of security controls for information and information systems for each defined category.

Implications for FSA:

The Department currently has a method to determine overall system risk level that is also based upon the levels of confidentiality, integrity, and availability. There are calculations to determine what the risk level is if there is a difference in the level ratings of the 3 determinants. In FIPS 199, the risk level is determined by the highest rating level of the determinants. For example, if confidentiality is low, integrity is low, but availability is medium, then the risk level is associated to the medium level- i.e. moderate level of risk, not low.

This could affect a number of FSA systems by changing their Tier level to a higher level.