

Government-grade Microsoft 365 on the cloud your team already knows.

Microsoft 365 GCC runs on the same commercial Microsoft cloud infrastructure as Microsoft 365 Commercial, with government data handling and screened U.S. personnel. It is built for government entities and the contractors and partners that serve them.

Walk through this checklist with your Sierra Experts rep. It takes about 10 minutes and points you toward Microsoft 365 Commercial, GCC, or GCC High.

GCC AT A GLANCE

- ♦ Same commercial Microsoft cloud infrastructure
- ♦ Government data handling with screened U.S. personnel
- ♦ Some features arrive later than in Commercial
- ♦ Microsoft validates eligibility before tenant provisioning
- ♦ Typical timeline: a few weeks, mostly waiting on Microsoft validation
- ♦ Not usually enough for CUI, DFARS 7012, or ITAR/EAR data

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT	SIERRA EXPERTS REP	DATE
How to use: check every box that applies. Each item carries a tag: E Eligible C Leans Commercial G Points to GCC H Points to GCC High ! Talk to us first			

1 WHO QUALIFIES: OUR ORGANIZATION IS...

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A U.S. federal government agency or department E | ☐ A state, local, or tribal government entity E |
| ☐ A contractor or partner holding a government contract E | ☐ A contractor or partner pursuing a government contract E
Be ready to show Microsoft supporting documentation. |

Microsoft validates eligibility before it provisions a GCC tenant. If none of these apply, you likely won't qualify for GCC.

2 DATA YOU HANDLE

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ We handle Federal Contract Information (FCI) G
Contract information not intended for public release. | ☐ A government customer or contract asks us to use a government cloud for their data G |
| ☐ We handle Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) H | ☐ We handle ITAR or EAR export-controlled data H
Technical data, drawings, or specs covered by export rules. |
| ☐ Our data is commercial only ; no government contract data C | ☐ Not sure which data types we handle !
We'll help you sort it out with your compliance advisor. |

3 CONTRACT CLAUSES & CMMC

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ We are working toward CMMC Level 1 (protects FCI) G | ☐ Our contracts involve FCI, with no CUI clauses we know of G |
| ☐ Our contracts include DFARS 252.204-7012 H | ☐ We are working toward CMMC Level 2 (protects CUI) H |
| ☐ A prime contractor flows down CUI or DFARS 7012 to us H | ☐ Not sure which clauses are in our contracts ! |

4 EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ We regularly meet in Teams with outside companies G
Generally closer to Commercial than GCC High. | ☐ We rely on guest access and B2B sharing with commercial organizations G
Confirm your specific sharing scenarios with us. |
| ☐ We depend on specific third-party or Marketplace apps !
in Teams or Outlook
Some apps may not be available in GCC yet; we'll check yours. | ☐ We want new Microsoft 365 features the day they release C
Some features arrive in GCC later than in Commercial. |

5 SEATS, BUDGET & TIMELINE

- ☐ We know our seat count: _____ users
 G
- ☐ Our budget is set for government licensing; we'll review quotes with Sierra Experts
 G
- ☐ We can plan for **a few weeks** while Microsoft validates eligibility
 G
- ☐ We need a new environment **within days**
C
- GCC timing depends mostly on Microsoft validation.

6 GCC VS. GCC HIGH: QUICK COMPARE

	MICROSOFT 365 GCC	MICROSOFT 365 GCC HIGH
Cloud environment	Same commercial Microsoft cloud infrastructure, with government data handling and screened U.S. personnel	Separate, sovereign cloud environment
Typical data fit	FCI; CMMC Level 1	CUI, DFARS 252.204-7012, ITAR/EAR; CMMC Level 2
Outside collaboration	Closer to Commercial	More limited with outside commercial tenants
New features	Some arrive later than in Commercial	Some arrive later than in Commercial
Licensing & cost	Government licensing; Sierra Experts will quote	Specialized licensing; cost and seat minimums usually higher
Typical timeline	A few weeks, mostly waiting on Microsoft validation	About 2 to 3 months: full migration and cutover to a separate tenant

6 WHERE YOU LAND

Count your checked boxes: **E** ☐ **C** ☐ **G** ☐ **H** ☐ **!** ☐

Any H box checked (CUI, DFARS 7012, CMMC Level 2, or ITAR/EAR)	Look at GCC High If CUI, DFARS 7012, or ITAR/EAR data is in play, GCC usually isn't enough. GCC High is typically the right fit. Ask your rep for our GCC High checklist.
At least one E box, G boxes checked, and no H boxes	Microsoft 365 GCC is likely your fit Next step: we help you prepare for Microsoft's eligibility validation, then plan your move to GCC.
No E boxes, or mostly C boxes and no H boxes	Microsoft 365 Commercial You may not qualify for GCC, or may not need it. A well-secured Commercial tenant may serve you best. We'll confirm.
Any ! box checked	Talk to us before you decide We'll review your contracts, data, and apps with you and your compliance or legal advisors.

Matching security monitoring: Microsoft Sentinel in Azure Government (FedRAMP High). Ask us how it fits your Microsoft 365 GCC environment.

Talk to Sierra Experts before you choose a cloud.

Call 412.722.0707 · sierraexperts.com

SIERRA EXPERTS INC.

Veteran-owned managed IT

Microsoft CSP Direct Bill Partner

REACH US

412.722.0707

sierraexperts.com

HEADQUARTERS

2 Robinson Plaza, Suite 300

Pittsburgh, PA 15205