

Rules of Engagement Template

Minimum operating rules for authorized testing

Rules of Engagement

This template defines the minimum operational rules for an authorized security assessment.

- Written authorization is required before testing begins.
- Only explicitly listed assets are in scope.
- Denial-of-service, destructive testing, persistence and social engineering are excluded unless separately authorized.
- Credentials and sensitive data discovered during testing must be handled securely and only for the engagement purpose.
- Critical findings should be communicated promptly rather than held until the final report.
- Testing should respect agreed windows and production safeguards.
- Evidence should be minimized and securely stored.
- Testing ends when the agreed window expires or the client requests termination.

Emergency handling

If testing causes unexpected instability or reveals an immediate material risk, pause the relevant activity, notify the designated contact and document the event.