

Data Destruction Standards Reference

An overview of leading data destruction standards including NIST SP 800-88, DoD 5220.22-M, and key industry frameworks. This guide outlines what each requires and how to determine which standard applies to your organization.

NIST SP 800-88 (Guidelines for Media Sanitization)

- 1 Developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- 2 Defines three sanitization methods: Clear, Purge, and Destroy.
- 3 Applies to all media types including HDDs, SSDs, and mobile devices.
- 4 Focuses on risk-based decision making and verification.
- 5 Widely accepted as the global benchmark for data destruction.

DoD 5220.22-M (National Industrial Security Program)

- 1 Originated from the U.S. Department of Defense.
- 2 Specifies multi-pass overwrite methods for data erasure.
- 3 Historically used for classified and defense-related data.
- 4 Less commonly used today compared to NIST standards.

Other Industry Standards

- 1 R2v3 Certification – Focuses on responsible recycling and data security.
- 2 ISO 27001 – Information security management systems.
- 3 NAID AAA – Secure data destruction service provider certification.

Which Standard Applies to You?

- 1 Enterprise organizations: Typically align with NIST SP 800-88.
- 2 Government/Defense: May require DoD 5220.22-M or higher.

- 3 Global corporations: Combine NIST with ISO 27001 compliance.
- 4 Sustainability-driven programs: Include R2v3 certification.

Best Practice: Adopt a NIST-aligned approach with full audit trails, certified destruction processes, and documented chain of custody.

