thrivePCI

COURSE 06

Sustaining the Program

The work between assessments



Release 0.1.8+20 261 120T222 000Z | Draft for review

Learning objectives

01

Separate program planning from required frequencies

02

Identify changes needing responsible review

03

Prepare an owner and knowledge handover

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Business-as-usual program work

01

Control operation continues between assessments

02

Monitoring and follow-up keep changed facts visible

03

Specific requirements still govern each activity

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Three types of timing information

Required frequencies need an authoritative basis
Internal planning dates support coordination

Timing category	Basis to retain
Explicit standard frequency	Applicable requirement and exact timing
Permitted risk-based frequency	Applicable requirement and documented TRA
Internal planning date	Owner’s coordination decision
Review after relevant change	Applicable trigger and actual changed facts

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Relevant changes need review

01

Payment processes and provider services can change

02

Owners and system arrangements can change

03

The responsible parties need current facts

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A change review conversation

Describe what changed and the affected service
Record the responsible review and follow-up

Conversation field	Useful factual input
Changed arrangement	Previous and current service or process
Affected records	Scope, provider and operating documentation
Responsible review	Named authorized business and technical owners
Follow-up	Documented actions, evidence and unresolved questions

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Operating evidence over time

01

Authentic records support what actually occurred

02

Unresolved exceptions need follow-up

03

Historical documents need current context

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A sustainable program review

Changed facts and upcoming obligations
Exceptions, dependencies and accountable decisions

Review topic	Useful outcome
Changed environment or service	Responsible review and affected records
Upcoming required activities	Named owner and correct frequency basis
Exceptions and missing support	Specific action and escalation
Ownership or personnel changes	Updated duties and knowledge handover

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Practice scenario

01

A provider service changed

02

The application owner left

03

The tracker still shows last year’s evidence as complete

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Scenario debrief

Current facts need current responsible owners
Prior evidence remains historical unless its relevance is established

Changed fact	Next preparation action
Provider service changed	Vendor owner correlates current service records
Application owner left	Authorized owner reassigns and communicates duties
Last year’s tracker status persists	Coordinator separates historical support from current work
Change impact is unresolved	Responsible owners document review and follow-up

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Knowledge check

Which statement is accurate?

A. Last year’s result establishes current operation

B. A monthly meeting satisfies every required frequency

C. A TRA can change any requirement’s frequency

D. Each activity needs its own applicable timing basis

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Answer and explanation

01

D is accurate

02

Internal coordination and required activity timing have distinct purposes

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Your program continuity brief

01

Record each activity’s owner and timing basis

02

Link current procedures and authentic records

03

Hand over open decisions and dependencies

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Sources and course boundary

PCI DSS v4.0.1: sections 5 and 10

Requirements 12.1.2–12.1.3, 12.3.1, 12.5.2–12.5.2.1

Requirements 6.5.2 and 12.8.4–12.8.5

Educational guidance. No compliance guarantee.

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Current standard and assessment timing

The phase-in has elapsed

Requirements and specified bullets previously phased in on March 31, 2025 are effective. Apply their entity, technology and other applicability conditions.

Use the current successors

6.4.1 6.4.2 | 8.3.10 8.3.10.1 | 10.7.1 10.7.2. The superseded requirements are N/A for current reporting; retain them only for historical context.

Keep timing and evidence distinct

An effective date does not create a recurring control interval or an evidence freshness limit. Use the applicable requirement and testing procedures to establish those obligations.

Source: PCI DSS v4.0.1; PCI SSC FAQs 1593 and 1176. Source checked November 21, 2026.

PCI DSS v4.0.1 / corpus 1.1.0+20261121T170000Z