FEMA’s Self-Assessment Tool to determine State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Governments Logistics Readiness.

The Logistics Capability Assessment Tool2 (LCAT2) was created and updated to help SLTTs conduct self-assessments to determine their readiness to respond to disasters. The survey-style tool provides a detailed evaluation of core logistics functions; helps jurisdictions identify specific strengths and weaknesses; and constructs a systematic roadmap for SLTTs to improve upon current logistics processes and procedures.

Using a standardized approach and validated measurement criteria, the LCAT2 objectively evaluates an Emergency Management Organization’s capability to perform basic logistics response and recovery functions and targets specific areas that need improvement. In addition to providing an objective assessment of preparedness, LCAT2 results may provide support to obtain FEMA Grant funding to help improve logistics capabilities in the future.

The LCAT2 features over 100 survey-style questions, grouped in accordance with the National Incident Management System’s (NIMS’) 7-Step Resource Management Process. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together seamlessly and manage incidents involving all threats and hazards—regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity—in order to reduce loss of life, property and harm to the environment.

Each question provides an in-depth, graduated set of possible responses. In a collaborative, workshop setting, meeting participants are encouraged to consider and discuss each question and agree on a current level of process maturity. Once complete, the LCAT2 team provides a detailed analysis report, which includes evaluation responses, overall results, and key observations and recommendations. These results and analyses will be made available only to the applicable SLTT providing the data, the associated FEMA Region, and FEMA Headquarters Logistics Management Directorate.

An added benefit of the LCAT2 and the Workshop concept is the inherent collaboration and common operating picture achieved among SLTT, other agency, and private sector partners who participate in the two-day implementation sessions. Stakeholders end-to-end gain a more complete understanding of roles, responsibilities, and dependencies; strengthen and build upon existing relationships; and foster new logistics response partnerships. Implementing the tool requires personnel to work closely with counterparts from other internal agencies, FEMA Region and other stakeholder organizations. Sharing information about logistics plans, operational SOPs, and federal, public, and private partner roles & responsibilities not only enhances transparency, but also builds trust among the partners.

“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”
Development of the LCAT was congressionally mandated and provides feedback resulting in FEMA’s actions to improve the agency’s disaster readiness, to increase its response capability, and to maximize the management and impact of homeland security resources at the SLTT levels.

The LCAT program originated in March of 2008, and Region-led implementations continue, with Headquarters support. The program was updated in 2015 with a question re-write and a tool upgrade. All 10 FEMA Regions have the LCAT2 software and Workbooks available for interested parties. FEMA has conducted 48 LCAT workshops in 33 SLTTs.

The LCAT2 Content Guide is applicable to SLTTs. The guide incorporates FEMA and DHS federal guidance documents, existing disaster logistics best practices, and extensive supply chain and logistics industry experience. The tool was created with assistance from state & Regional logistics chiefs for their benefit.

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