

# ECM Product Lifecycle Support Policy

In the context of this policy, **validated** refers to a status where software has undergone formal testing and verification by SUSE to ensure compatibility, reliability, and supportability within the specified ecosystem and to provide a level of assurance that the software or support offering will function as expected within the defined scope of SUSE's support commitments.

It is at SUSE's discretion to validate certain configurations and components with the software. Any components not listed in the [support matrix](#) are supported only up to the point where a problem lies with the project's interfaces interacting with that component.

## Operating Systems

### Validation for SUSE's Operating Systems and Services

SUSE validates the following SUSE operating systems: SUSE Linux Micro and SUSE Linux Enterprise.

As standard, SUSE Linux Micro is included as part of the SUSE Rancher Prime, SUSE Rancher Suite and SUSE Virtualization products. SUSE Customers with active subscriptions for these products are entitled to continuous updates for SUSE Linux Micro alongside the regular cloud native product updates.

Binary compatible Linux alternatives and derivatives for SLE, such as [openSUSE Leap](#), are considered validated as part of our SUSE Linux Enterprise testing. Please see the relevant release guides per-OS for more information.

SUSE Multi-Linux Support (previously SUSE Liberty Linux) is a no-migration alternative for CentOS and Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) enterprise support. This support offering is validated as part of the RHEL testing. See [Support for Other Operating Systems and Services](#) for more information on supported RHEL releases.

SUSE validates 2 Minor Releases of SUSE Linux Micro and SUSE Linux Enterprise on a rolling basis.

### Validation for Other Operating Systems and Services

SUSE validates the following third-party operating systems: Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) and Ubuntu.

Binary compatible Linux alternatives and derivatives for RHEL and CentOS, such as [Amazon Linux](#), [Oracle Linux](#), and [Rocky Linux](#), are considered validated as part of our RHEL testing. Please see the relevant release guides per-operating system for more information.

None of the above operating systems are supplied by SUSE as part of the software. Customers need to seek operating system support from the relevant distributor.

All other distributions are not validated and at present we are not looking to add other operating systems to the list. We welcome customer and partner requests and they'll be evaluated at the discretion of the product management team. There is no timeline guaranteed with this evaluation.

SUSE validates 2 Minor Releases of RHEL on a rolling basis and 2 Long-term support (LTS) Ubuntu Major Releases on a rolling basis.

## Kubernetes

### Validation for Kubernetes Distributions

SUSE actively validates the following Kubernetes distributions: RKE2 and K3s. SUSE validates 2 Minor Releases of RKE2 and K3s on a rolling basis. See [Kubernetes Updates](#) for more information.

All other Kubernetes distributions are not validated and at present we are not looking to add other Kubernetes distributions to the list. We welcome customer and partner requests and they'll be evaluated at the discretion of the product management team. There is no timeline guaranteed with this evaluation.

### Kubernetes Updates

SUSE provides its own [Kubernetes Support Lifecycle](#) that closely mirrors the lifecycle followed by the Kubernetes community. You can learn more about the officially supported CNCF Kubernetes release cycle in the [Kubernetes Releases](#) page.

At a minimum, SUSE validates three Minor Releases at any given time with a maximum of six Minor Releases for long-term support.

## CNI Updates

SUSE provides CNI updates for the following options: **Flannel**, **Canal**, **Calico**, **Cilium** and **Multus**. Kubernetes requires installation of one or more CNI Plugins to provide Pod networking.

SUSE's level of control and influence over the CNI varies. SUSE updates a given CNI when an update to the CNI is discovered. This is likely to be provided within 4 months of the update to the CNI or at the discretion of the engineering team.

At present we are not looking to add other CNIs to the list. We welcome customer and partner requests and they'll be evaluated at the discretion of the product management team. There is no timeline guaranteed with this evaluation.

### Built-in Helm Charts Updates

SUSE provides Rancher applications and cluster tools updates. SUSE will validate a Minor Release of Rancher applications and cluster tools until two newer Minor Releases are available.

### UI Extensions

SUSE Rancher UI extensions allow users, developers, partners, and customers to extend and enhance the Rancher UI for the purpose of independent development, release, and integration of new features and functionalities.

SUSE builds its own UI extensions. These UI extensions are built to be compatible with all supported Minor Release of a product.

### Third-party UI Extensions

Third-party UI Extensions are versioned by the creator and have their own independent release cycle. SUSE is not responsible for the maintenance and update of such third-party UI Extensions. Please refer to the [certification criteria](#) for third-party responsibilities.

### Application Collection

SUSE validates the Applications featured in Application Collection against Rancher Kubernetes Engine 2 (RKE2).

Binary compatible Kubernetes distributions, such as K3s, GKE, AKS, and EKS, are considered validated as part of our RKE2 testing.