

	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III	TIER IV
ACTIVE CAPACITY COMPONENTS TO SUPPORT THE IT LOAD	N	N + 1	N + 1	N AFTER ANY FAILURE
DISTRIBUTION PATHS	1	1	1 ACTIVE AND 1 ALTERNATE	2 SIMULTANEOUSLY ACTIVE
CONCURRENTLY MAINTAINABLE	NO	NO	YES	YES
FAULT TOLERANCE	NO	NO	NO	YES
COMPARTMENTALIZATION	NO	NO	NO	YES
CONTINUOUS COOLING	LOAD DENSITY DEPENDENT	LOAD DENSITY DEPENDENT	LOAD DENSITY DEPENDENT	CLASS A

The Uptime Institute created the Tier Classifications to consistently describe site-level infrastructure required to sustain data center operations. In Tier IV, Class A continuous cooling requires backup power for the entire cooling plant.

Source: The Uptime Institute