FAQ – Certification of Your Business Continuity Management According to ISO 22301

DEKRA

On the safe side.

You want to be prepared for an emergency and have the effectiveness of your business continuity management plan certified in accordance with ISO 22301. In anticipation of your queries, we have compiled frequently asked questions and their answers providing you with critical information up front.

1. What is ISO 22301?

This standard was published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in May 2012. It is intended to help companies prepare their business processes for crisis situations and to continue operations even under difficult circumstances. ISO 22301 has established itself as the international standard.

2. What is business continuity management?

Business continuity management (BCM) is part of a company's general risk management and is intended to enable the smooth continuation of business processes under difficult conditions. It helps companies prepare for internal and external events that endanger their operations. In addition, BCM helps companies react appropriately to such incidents and to prevent or reduce damage to business processes. BCM covers the areas of IT, human resources and infrastructure, among others.

3. What critical events should I protect my company from?

The ISO 22301 certified BCM is designed to better prepare your company for external threats and incidents.

These include::

Protection against critical events ISO 22301

Power or IT outages · Natural disasters · Criminal activities · Political unrest · Fires · Diseases among staff

These potential threats should not be taken lightly, as such challenges can quickly threaten the very existence of companies in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world.

4. Why is it so important today to keep central business processes as robust as possible?

Outsourcing, digitization, networking with external partners as well as complex information systems and supply chains can make companies vulnerable to external threats. Therefore, it is extremely important for organizations to secure central operations and internal business processes. If appropriate measures are in place, these may avoid interruptions entirely or be affected for only a short time in the case of an emergency. Ensuring your BCM is robust can thus safeguard the stability of your company.

5. What are the basics of a functioning business continuity management system?

An effective BCM requires a critical Business Impact Analysis (BIA). This analysis consists essentially of two areas: the identification of weaknesses in business processes and the development of contingency plans. On the one hand, the BIA identifies possible critical systems and risks for the company. On the other hand, resources and strategies are defined that can protect your company in an emergency. Here, a holistic and unbiased view of all corporate divisions and their strengths and weaknesses is important. The correct procedure for the BIA is also defined in ISO 22301.

6. What are the benefits of ISO 22301 certification for my company?

ISO 22301 is the framework for crisis-proof business continuity management. A reliable BCM ensures that your company retains its business capability after a negative event has occurred and can resume operations as quickly as possible. Here are some advantages at a glance:

- Planned action in an emergency
- Pre-definition of effective emergency measures
- Higher stability of your business processes
- Greater efficiency due to reduced downtimes and faster recommissioning
- Global risk assessment for the most important business areas
- Identification of potential savings opportunities
- Compliance with international standards
- Quality criteria for customers, company partners and the public

7. How does ISO 22301 certification work?

Business Continuity Management must be individually tailored to your company. ISO 22301 certification helps you to reliably fulfil this important aspect of your company management. This is what our experts do:

1. Verify documents with regard to the requirements of ISO 22301 for BCM
2. Carry out a pre-audit: On-site stocktaking (optional)
3. Prepare the audit plan
4. Perform certification audit
5. Issue the certificate
6. Monitor and carry out recertification audit every 1-3 years

Would you like to find out whether your company already meets the requirements for ISO 22301 certification?
Then put your business continuity management system to the test with our checklist now!

Do you have further questions about the certification of your Business Continuity Management System according to ISO 22301? Then contact our experts now!

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