



“It is neither the strongest, nor the most intelligent that will survive, but the most responsive to change.”

(C. Darwin)

BCM Review and assessment

All organizations whether large or small have aims and objectives such as to grow, to provide services and to acquire other businesses. These aims and objectives are generally met via strategic plans to achieve an organization's short, medium and long term goals. Business Continuity Management (BCM) will ensure that these aims and objectives are not compromised by unexpected disruptions.

Definition of Business Continuity Management:

“A holistic management process that identifies potential impacts that threaten an organization and provides a framework for building resilience with the capability for an effective response that safeguards the interests of its key stakeholders, reputation, brand and value creating activities.”

(The Business Continuity Institute)

Business Continuity Life Cycle

Business Continuity Management (BCM) is a continuous process and encompasses six distinct steps:

- BCM programme management
- Understanding the organization
- Determining BCM strategies
- Developing and implementing a BCM response
- **Exercising, maintenance & review**
- Embedding BCM in the organization's culture

Aszure's BCM Services have been designed to match with these steps (one or more BCM Services for each BCM step), hereby assuring compliance to the most recent BCM standards and good practises.

Exercising, maintenance & review

Within this BCM step, Aszure is offering following services:

- BCM Exercise/test
- BCM Review and assessment

The aim of “Exercising, maintenance &review” is to review, at regular intervals, the organization's BCM capability, to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness.

The review should be documented and can be conducted in a number of ways:

- Internal/external audit
- Self Assessment

The organization should provide for the independent audit (internal or external) of its BCM competence and capability to identify actual and potential shortcomings. It should establish, implement and maintain procedures for dealing with these.

About Aszure

Aszure is specialized in operational risk management consultancy and staffing. Operational risk management, information security, business continuity and compliance to laws and regulations are major cornerstones of our services.

Aszure assists its customers with the incorporation of operational risk management at all levels and in all areas of their organization, including day-to-day operational decisions. No decision should be taken in any organization without applying proper operational risk management. It can be applied throughout the entire life cycle of any activity or project. In order to minimize risk, it is however preferable to apply operational risk management is applied at the beginning phase of a project or operational activity.

About Aszure Academy

Aszure offers, through the Aszure Academy, an extensive education and awareness program, covering several open classes, events and customized education experiences.

Contact

For further and additional information, please contact us on Tel. +32 (0)9 243 10 20 or info@aszure.com

On all Aszure services our general terms of delivery apply.

Self Assessment reviews

Self assessment reviews are a responsibility of the BC Manager; he must ensure that the timing and frequency of the self assessment reviews is meeting the specifications from laws and regulations, while also respecting requirements of stakeholders.

Self-assessment reviews are to be conducted against the organization's objectives and take into account relevant industry standards and good practices.

The review addresses the possible need for changes to policy, strategy, objectives and other elements of the BCM management system in the light of such things as exercise results, changing circumstances and the commitment to continual improvement.

A self-assessment of the organization's BCM programme verifies that all steps of the BCM lifecycle are appropriately addressed:

- all key products and services and their supporting critical activities and resources have been identified and included in the organization's BCM scope;
- the organization's BCM policy, strategies, framework and plans accurately reflect its priorities and business objectives;
- the organization's BCM competence and capability are effective and fit-for-purpose and will permit management, command, control and coordination of an incident;



- the organization's BCM plans, solutions and arrangements are effective, up-to-date and fit-for-purpose;
 - BCM maintenance and exercising programmes have been effectively implemented;
 - BCM change management is introduced and experiences from incidents and exercises are considered for improvement;
 - the organization has an ongoing programme for BCM training and awareness;
 - BCM procedures have been effectively communicated to relevant staff, and that staff understand their roles and responsibilities.
- provide expert knowledge on BCM standards and good practise;
 - review the organization's BCM Policy, standards and guidelines for specifications;
 - set-up a battery of questions;
 - design and create questionnaires (office document based or even on-line questionnaires);
 - process responses;
 - present (individual or grouped) results in a structured way that appeals to your organization or set-up:
 - Deming circle (Plan-Do-Check-Act);
 - BCM Lifecycle steps;
 - Any other representation that adds meaning or value to your organization;
 - Compare results to peers or generate historical evolution of scoring;
 - Create a dashboard overview of the state of BCM within your organisation.

Next step

Based upon the results from the Self Assessment review, appropriate corrective actions can be started to improve on weak areas.

When the results of the self assessment reviews are very positive, the organization might even consider going for certification against BS25999-2.

Interested in world-class education and training on business continuity, crisis management, disaster recovery or pandemic planning: visit the website of the BCM Academy Belgium (www.bcmacademy.be).

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