

Development of a robust Information Security Management (ISM) System is key for businesses working in the modern world, in order to protect customer, personnel, operational and other information in all relevant formats, against risk of non-availability, loss or malicious disruption.

Whether the objective is to improve ISM arrangements and adherence to legislation, such as the Data Protection Act (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), or if the organisation is seeking recognised third-party certification, Admac can support these aims.

Arising from a string of highly publicised customer data losses by large well-known organisations, the introduction of GDPR and a general increase in data security awareness, the requirement for organisations to demonstrate ISM arrangements to their stakeholders has increased significantly. This can be achieved by obtaining independent third-party certification.

The most basic certification is a government backed **Cyber Essentials** scheme, which takes an organisation through a range of data/ISM issues, with or without on-site assessment.

A significantly more extensive and widely recognised framework for ISM is the international standard **ISO 27001**, against which assessment is conducted by UKAS certification bodies.

Some key features of the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 standard include...

- *Information Security Strategy, Policy, Procedures and control of ISM documentation and records.*
- *Statement of Applicability and Risk Assessment (What is applicable and how could it cause harm)*
- *Resources & Embedding (Ensuring ISM competence and awareness, throughout the organisation)*
- *Defining ISM Roles, Responsibility & Authority and Internal/External Communication Processes.*
- *Management Planning, Objective & Target Setting, Monitoring/Measurement and Review.*
- *Nonconformity and Corrective Actions (Dealing with problems and Continually Improving ISM)*
- *Independent/Impartial Internal Auditing to sample and test the effectiveness of the ISM system.*

Unlike other standards, ISO 27001 then defines 93 key points of control with its '**Annex A**', focusing on specific ISM issues, across a range of electronic/data and physical subject areas.

The first step in establishing a new ISM system is to undertake a gap analysis, ascertaining relative suitability. Once the current situation is clear, we commence with development of necessary activities and documentation, in a format which is not only compliant to requirements, but suitable for the individual industry, organisation and people involved.

Since 1989 we have developed and implemented BS/ISO based management systems for organisations, from a hugely diverse range of public and private industries, from very small businesses, through to companies of over 1000 people. Many of whom still retain our services.

**Cost:-** Due to differing complexity, scale and the timeframe in which certification is desired, our normal approach is to make a brief, free of charge, visit to our clients site, to clarify specific requirements, from which we prepare an individual quotation for our support services.

