

A S I S I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Auditing Management Systems: Risk, Resilience, Security, and Continuity—Guidance for Application

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an American National Standard

AUDITING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS: RISK, RESILIENCE, SECURITY, AND CONTINUITY—GUIDANCE FOR APPLICATION

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American National Standards Institute, Inc.

ASIS International

Abstract

This *Standard* provides guidance for conducting resilience, security, crisis, continuity and other risk based audits within the context of management systems and includes practical advice on conducting audits. It provides guidance on the management of audit programs, conduct of internal or external audits of risk and resilience based management systems such as security, crisis, continuity, and emergency management, including the competence and evaluation of auditors.



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This conformity assessment standard provides generic auditable criteria and informative guidance.

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0 INTRODUCTION

0.1 General

This *Standard* provides guidance for management system audits for risk based disciplines of risk, resilience, security, crisis, continuity, and recovery management. The *Standard* uses an approach for auditing and conformity assessment consistent with the current versions of ISO 19011 *Guidelines for auditing management systems*, and ISO/IEC 17021 *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*.

The guidance in this *Standard* provides additional information for using the ISO 19011 and ISO/IEC 17021 standards for applications in evaluating risk and resilience based management systems addressing operational risks (including reputation). It describes establishing and managing an audit program as well as conducting individual audits. The competence of auditors is the foundation for conducting effective and credible audits; therefore, this *Standard* provides competence criteria for auditors conducting conformity assessment of a management system to a risk and resilience based management systems standard.

Auditors understand much of their activities involve interactions between people, therefore there is a need to build rapport, trust, and confidence while avoiding the creation of an adversarial atmosphere. An audit is a positive experience if the people being audited feel the audit adds value and may lead to opportunities for improvement. Good auditing techniques lead to a positive audit experience.

This *Standard* provides generic concepts of auditing a risk and resilience based management system. Organizations should adapt this guidance to fit the specific needs, size, nature and level of maturity of their risk and resilience based management system. This *Standard* can be used by anybody involved in the conformity assessment of a risk and resilience based management system.

0.2 Risk and Resilience Based Management System Audits

A management system audit determines if the organization is conforming to the relevant requirements, including standards, regulations, contracts, policies, procedures, controls, and specifications. A management system audit is a documented process to impartially collect, examine, and evaluate pertinent evidence. The process determines if all the elements of a management system standard have been developed, documented, implemented, and tested in accordance with defined requirements and are effectively meeting their prescribed objectives. An audit should provide the management of an organization unbiased empirically-based information necessary to:

- a) Determine effectiveness of the management system, its elements, and how the management system supports the objectives of the organization;
- b) Identify inefficiencies, deficiencies, and weaknesses in the management system;

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- c) Provide awareness of actual and potential risks;
- d) Assess training effectiveness;
- e) Promote risk and resilience awareness;
- f) Evaluate and communicate practices relative to accepted industry practices; and
- g) Identify opportunities for improvement.

The audit should assess conformance to the management system by determining if and how it is adhering to the requirements as articulated in the organization's policies, procedures, task specifications, and/or work instructions. A management system audit is not simply a checklist of evidence of the existence of elements of the management system. The audit confirms that the organization is indeed doing what it says by evaluating the effectiveness, efficiency, performance, and intended outcomes of its implementation of the management system. An auditor should have the necessary and relevant professional knowledge, skills, and qualifications relative to the specific standard being audited as well as types of risks and organization being audited. Therefore, to conduct an audit the auditor should understand:

- a) The requirements of the relevant standard(s);
- b) Principles of a risk and resilience based management systems approach and auditing;
- c) Legal and other requirements applicable to the organization and its operations;
- d) Risk from a business, operational, and organizational perspective;
- e) Industry and business specific information pertinent to the organization; and
- f) Concepts of risk and resilience based management.

In determining the conformance to the management system standard, the auditor will verify if the requirements of the standard are being properly implemented by the management system. An effective audit is non-adversarial and conducted from the perspective of assessing what the organization is doing effectively and identifying opportunities for improvement. The audit should add value to the organization by identifying areas where management system elements are not being effectively implemented and providing an understanding of the reasons why. The auditor collects objective evidence to establish whether conformance is achieved. The audit evaluates if the process and the individual activities are effective, and provides a basis to identify opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency.

0.3 Audits versus Inspections

As defined in the ISO 17000:2006 *Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles* an audit is:

A systematic, independent, documented process for obtaining records, statements of fact or other relevant information and assessing them objectively to determine the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled. NOTE: Whilst "audit" applies to management systems, "assessment" applies to conformity assessment bodies as well as more generally.

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An inspection is defined as:

An examination of a product design, product, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgement, with general requirements. NOTE: Inspection of a process may include inspection of persons, facilities, technology and methodology.

Table 1: Differences between audits and inspections.

Audits	Inspections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic, independent, documented process for obtaining records, statements of fact or other relevant information and assessing them objectively to determine the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled. (Source: ISO 17000:2004) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of a product design, product, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgement, with general requirements. (Source: ISO 17000:2004)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluates fulfillment of requirements and effectiveness of a management system. • Determine whether systems are in place and working effectively. • Compare physical and operational conditions with systems and standards. • Follow a pattern and interrelationships between elements of the standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination conformity of a product, process or service with specific requirements. • Examine extent of physical or operational conformance to set standards. • Generally do not consider systems issues or only in limited scope.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the effectiveness of risk treatments based on risk assessment and objectives of the organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can identify risks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document areas of non-conformance and identify opportunities for improvement. • Involve management team, decision-making, and human-technology interface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record as-inspected condition. • Report non-conformances for corrective action.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time cycles linked to business management cycles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time cycle not linked to the management and fiscal cycle of the organization but rather product, process or service requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally takes days to conduct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally take hours to conduct.

0.4 Types of Management System Audits

Depending on the relationships between participants, an audit usually takes one of two forms:

- a) Internal or first-party audit; and
- b) External - or second or third-party audit.

0.4.1 First-party Audits

Auditors working on behalf of the organization, either its own auditors or subcontracted auditors, conduct first-party audits. A company auditing a sister company is also considered a first-party audit if they belong to the same parent company. The organization is evaluating its conformance and the effectiveness of the management system standard to an adopted external standard and/or

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requirements mandated by the organization. When conducting internal audits, care should be taken to ensure the independence of the auditors and avoid conflicts of interest. This can be accomplished through a separate internal group tasked with auditing or by outsourcing the audit activities to an external auditing organization. In either case, auditors should be well trained and able to maintain objectivity and impartiality. Internal auditors should not audit their own work. By assigning individual owners for sections of the management system, a conflict of interest can be avoided by having auditors review sections they do not own. Some internal auditors can emphasize identifying root causes of strengths and weakness of the management system to identify accepted industry practices and opportunities for improvement.

0.4.2 Second-party Audits

Second-party audits are conducted by an external party within a contractual relationship. Second-party audits are typically customer or supplier audits and are often necessary to assess risks in a supply chain process. Second-party audits are usually more formal than first-party audits given that they are conducted within an existing or potential contractual relationship. It is important to understand the relationship between the parties of the audit to ensure that it is being conducted in an unbiased fashion, as well as to identify areas of potential bias. Second-party audits may focus on specific elements of the management system standard most relevant to the terms of the contract.

0.4.3 Third-party Audits

Third-party audits are conducted by an independent external organization which does not have a business interest in the organization being audited. Third-party audits are free of conflicts of interest associated with customer and supplier relationships and audits conducted by auditors working on behalf of the organization. Third-party audits provide the basis for conformity assessments for certification to a standard by a certification body or registrar. Government agencies working with regulated industries also use them for regulatory compliance assessments. Third-party audits may also be performed on one organization on behalf of another organization. In such cases, the relationship between the organizations should be clearly defined. Third-party audits are particularly useful if an organization is subject to multiple second-party audits, or if action is lacking from first-party audits to correct non-conformances and opportunities for improvement.

0.5 Conformity Assessment and Certification

As defined in the in the ISO 17000:2006 *Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles* a conformity assessment is:

Demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled.

There are three types of conformity assessment:

- a) First party - carried out by the organization itself, or by someone working on behalf of the organization. It is a self-assessment and self-declaration;

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- b) Second party - performed by person or organization that has a user interest in the organization being audited; and
- c) Third party - performed by a body that is independent of the organization that provides the product/services and is not a user of the product/services. An independent certification body certifies that another organization complies with the standard and issues it with a certificate to this effect.

Certification of a management system ("certification") is a third-party conformity assessment activity. Bodies performing this activity are therefore third-party conformity assessment bodies ("certification body").

NOTE 1: Certification of a management system is sometimes also called "registration", and certification bodies are sometimes called "registrars."

NOTE 2: A certification body can be non-governmental or governmental (with or without regulatory authority).

Conformity assessment and certification to a relevant management system standard is a means of providing assurance that an organization of any type has implemented a system for the management of risk and resilience in line with the standard, as well as the organization's policy and procedures. The conformity assessment references of this *Standard* are sector specific guidance based on the ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and provides additional recommendations for conformity assessment in those areas which are deemed necessary and relate specifically to risk and resilience management.

The conformity assessment references of this *Standard* have been specifically developed to assist in the certification of risk and resilience based management systems that fulfil the requirements of ANSI/ASIS SPC.1-2009 *Organizational Resilience: Security, Preparedness, and Continuity Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use*. The contents of this *Standard* may also be used to support certification of resilience, security, crisis, and business continuity management systems that are based on other or additional sets of specified requirements.

The conformity assessment references of this *Standard* are intended for use by bodies that carry out audit, conformity assessment, and certification of risk and resilience based management systems. It gives generic recommendations for such certification bodies performing audit, conformity assessment, and certification of organizations' management systems. Such bodies are referred to as "certification bodies" or "registrars."

Certification activities involve the audit of an organization's management system. The form of attestation of conformity of an organization's management system to the management system standard or other specified requirements is normally a certification document or a certificate.

The organization being certified develops its own management systems tailored to its needs and resources and, other than where relevant legal requirements specify to the contrary, it is for the organization to decide how the various components of the management system will be arranged. The degree of integration between various management system components will vary from organization to organization. It is therefore appropriate for certification bodies that operate in accordance with the assessment references of this *Standard* to take into account the culture and

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practices of their clients with respect to the integration of their management systems within the wider organization.

Auditing Management Systems: Risk, Resilience, Security, and Continuity—Guidance for Application

1 SCOPE

This *Standard*:

- a) Is a sector specific standard based on the ISO 19011: 2011 and ISO/IEC 17021:2011;
- b) Provides guidance for conducting conformity assessment of the ANSI/ASIS SPC.1-2009 *Organizational Resilience: Security, Preparedness, and Continuity Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use* standard, as well as similar risk and resilience based management system standards (e.g., ISO 22301:2012, *Societal security - Business continuity management systems – Requirements*; ANSI/ASIS/BSI BCM.01-2010, *Business Continuity Management Standard*; ISO 28000:2007, *Specification for security management systems for the supply chain*; ASIS/ANSI PAP.1-2012, *Security Management Standard: Physical Asset Protection*; etc.);
- c) Provides guidance on auditing risk and resilience based management system standards for the disciplines of risk, resilience, security, crisis, continuity, and recovery management, including principles of auditing, managing the audit program, and conducting audits, as well as evaluation of competence of persons involved in the audit process;
- d) Describes the process of attestation of fulfillment of the requirements of a risk and resilience based management system standard for the disciplines of risk, resilience, security, crisis, continuity, and recovery management;
- e) Provides guidance on the management of audit programs, conduct of internal or external audits of the management system and risk, resilience, security, crisis, continuity, and recovery management, as well as on competence and evaluation of auditors;
- f) Provides guidance for bodies providing auditing and third party certification of risk and resilience based management system standards for the disciplines of risk, resilience, security, crisis, continuity, and recovery management; and
- g) Provides confidence and information to stakeholders that the requirements of standards for risk, resilience, security, crisis, continuity, and recovery management are being met.

Organizations, of all types and sizes can use the concepts and guidance of this *Standard*. It is recommended that organizations implementing risk and resilience based management system standards use the procedures described in this *Standard* in conjunction with the ISO 19011:2011 to conduct their internal audit activities.