

Document1 BS 25999:2007

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Business continuity management

BS 25999-2 specifies requirements for establishing, implementing, operating, monitoring, reviewing, exercising, maintaining and improving a documented Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) within the context of managing an organisation's overall business risks.

As you can see from the preceding statement complying with the standard is really a continual process. It had its genesis in previous disaster recovery guidance which was principally IT related.

To develop a policy you need to identify the events that could cause your business to be impacted to such a degree that it would no longer be able to operate normally. The principal areas of a BCM programme are:

- Business Impact Analysis and Risk Assessment
- BCM policy document and strategy
- BCM response
- Exercise, maintenance and review
- Testing and auditing
- Continual improvement

Whether you decide to seek certification under the standard or not it is a valuable exercise for your business to complete. You may also find that, if you are in a supply chain, that your customers or suppliers require you contribute to their business continuity plans.