



Expert commentary

BS EN ISO 22301:2019 — *Security and resilience — Business Continuity Management Systems — Requirements*

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1 Overview

This revision of BS EN ISO 22301:2019 clarifies the requirements of the 2012 edition and aligns its high-level structure with other ISO management systems standards. It is important to note that BS EN ISO 22301:2019 does not introduce any new requirements, and at first sight may appear to eliminate requirements that were previously included. In reality, the requirements have been restated to make them clearer, new terminology has been introduced, and unnecessary terms have been eliminated. The standard has also been restructured to delineate management system and technical requirements more clearly and incorporate the latest principles and rules for structuring and drafting International Standards set out in the ISO/IEC Directives Part 2.

This edition of the standard will benefit organisations that wish to have an effective business continuity management system and those involved in auditing them.

1.1 Reasons for change

International standards undergo systematic review at least every five years to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant. For active standards, ISO member bodies are balloted to determine if their national stakeholders wish to confirm the standard (retain it without technical change) or revise it. Interestingly, the result of the vote in 2017 was twenty-one in favour of confirming the 2012 edition with sixteen in favour of revision or amendment. The decision to revise ISO 22301 was presumably taken in the light of the number comments that were submitted with the ballot and the need for it to align with ISO's high-level structure requirements that had changed significantly since ISO 22301 was first published.

The revision took two years to complete, reflecting intense levels of discussion and deliberation and the will of the project team to clarify requirements, remove duplication, eliminate superfluous and misleading terms and improve the standard as much as possible.

1.2 Summary

Management system standards contain elements that are specific to the functioning of the management system and others that are specific to the technical area of the standard. The management system elements are largely driven by ISO Directives that dictate a high-level structure, identical core text and common terms with core definitions. The requirements that are specific to the technical area of the standard - in this case of ISO 22301 and business continuity management are predominantly included within Clause 8 (Operation).

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- Removal of inconsistencies and duplication;
- Benefits of a business continuity management system (Clause 0.2);
- Treatment of legal obligations;
- Terms and definitions (Clause 3);
- Scope of the business continuity management system (Clause 4.3);
- Risks (Clauses 6.1);
- Business continuity objectives and planning to achieve them (Clause 6.2);
- Planning changes to the business continuity management system (Clause 6.3);
- Resources (Clauses 7.1);