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Implementing a Security Management System (SeMS): An Overview

CAP 1273



Documents

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The purpose of a Security Management System

The purpose of a Security Management System (SeMS) is to enable an entity to identify and manage its security risks and be assured right up to Board level that the security measures taken to manage those risks are effective.

Current regulatory compliance activity, such as observations and inspections, cannot provide an entity with the continuous assurance of the performance of its security measures. The combination of governance, threat and risk management and performance measurement, achieved through a SeMS, can provide that assurance. It is a system with many similarities to quality management systems.

In essence, a SeMS provides the necessary organisational structure, accountabilities, policies and procedures to ensure effective security oversight.

SeMS Principles

A SeMS will provide an entity with a structured approach to managing security as an integral part of their overall business. It also serves as a tool for systematically integrating security risk management into an entity's day to day operation in close alignment with other risk management systems such as Safety Management Systems (SMS). The concept is that:

- security risks are **managed at the right level**, overseen by company boards
- **activities are measured** to provide management information on security performance;
- there are people in the entity who are **accountable** for maintaining rigorous security standards, using the management information; and
- there is a positive security **culture** that promotes high-security standards throughout the entity.

SeMS in practice

A SeMS requires several practical components to be in place. Many of these may already exist within an entity but may need to be made more robust, reliable, consistent, repeatable, and effective. A SeMS is a practical approach to assessing these components and removing loopholes, vulnerabilities, gaps and duplications.

An entity could work out the components of a SeMS by analysing what would be required to *"identify and manage security risks and be assured that the security measures are*