APAC

ASIA PACIFIC
ACCREDITATION COOPERATION

Competence | Acceptance | Equivalence

Accreditation:
Supporting Business Continuity

Business continuity is the capability of an organization to continue the delivery of products and services within acceptable timeframes, at predefined capacity, during a disruption.

BCMS and Accreditation

Business continuity is the capability of an organization to continue delivery of products and services within acceptable timeframes, at predefined capacity, during and after a disruption.

A Business Continuity Management Systems allows the organization to

» Analyze its risks, develop and rehearse controls and contingency plans

» Understanding the organization's needs and the necessity for establishing business continuity policies and objectives

» Operating and maintaining processes, capabilities and response structures for ensuring the organization will survive disruptions

» Monitoring and reviewing the performance and effectiveness of the BCMS

» Continual improvement based on qualitative and quantitative measures and

» Make effective communications to stakeholders in response to disruptions.

To help organizations establish their BCMS the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) have published ISO 22301:2019 Security and resilience — Business continuity management systems — Requirements.

Organizations often choose to have their BCMS independently certified by a certification body which has been accredited by a member of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC).

Accredited certification of BCMS provides organizations and their stakeholders with the confidence that the organization is managing its risks to resilience and will provide continuity whenever disruptions occur. Stakeholders can include investors and shareholders, directors and top management, customers and purchasers, supply chain partners and regulators.

BCMS CERTIFICATION

Organizations can provide confidence about the implementation of their BCMS to stakeholders by being independently certified.

Independent certification will check that the organization has appropriately fulfilled ISO 22301 requirements, including:

Policy

Competent people with defined responsibilities

Documented information supporting operational control and enabling performance evaluation.

Management processes relating to:
- **Policy**
- **Planning**
- **Implementation and operation**
- **Performance assessment**
- **Management review**
- **Continual improvement**

Benefits of implementing BCMS

FROM A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:
- Supporting its strategic objectives
- Creating a competitive advantage
- Protecting and enhancing its reputation and credibility
- Contributing to organizational resilience

FROM A FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE:
- Reducing legal and financial exposure
- Reducing direct and indirect costs of disruptions

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INTERESTED PARTIES:
- Protecting life, property and the environment
- Considering the expectations of interested parties
- Providing confidence in the organization's ability to succeed

FROM AN INTERNAL PROCESSES PERSPECTIVE:
- Improving its capability to remain effective during disruptions
- Demonstrating proactive control of risks effectively and efficiently
- Addressing operational vulnerabilities

Accreditation of BCMS Certification

When selecting a certification body, the organization should choose an accredited certification body. Accredited certification bodies have been independently assessed to ensure their certification services are provided in a competent, consistent and impartial manner. Accreditation bodies assess certification bodies' fulfilment of requirements in ISO/IEC 17021-1 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements and ISO TS 17021-6 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 6: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of business continuity management systems.

Benefits of selecting an accredited certification body include:

BUSINESS

Increased certainty and value - Certification body has fulfilled requirements of relevant international standard

Operational efficiency - Increasing organization efficiency by avoiding the need to duplicate information during supplier audits or approval processes.

CUSTOMER

Acceptance and reputation - ·accreditation facilitates international acceptance of organisation's BCMS certificates allowing increased market access.

QUALITY

Due diligence - Providing the means to demonstrate an appropriate level of due diligence in the case of investor or security exchange communications, organizational changes and compliance to requirements of policy makers and regulators.

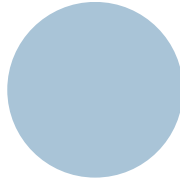**Accreditation and accredited BCMS certificates are accepted globally.**

Accreditation bodies that are signatories of the APAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APAC MRA) mutually accept the conformity assessment results (e.g. BCMS certificates) of certification bodies accredited by other APAC MRA signatories. This means that an organization's accredited BCMS certificate can be accepted in other economies in the Asia Pacific region without the need for re-certification in each economy. This saves the certified organization a substantial amount of time, money and effort.

What is APAC?

The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) is an association of accreditation bodies from the Asia Pacific region. It was established on 1 January 2019 with the amalgamation of two former regional accreditation cooperation - the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC).

To know about Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), please click here