

Establish, Implement, and Improve Your Information Security Management System (ISMS)

ISO/IEC 27001

What is ISO/IEC 27001?

ISO/IEC 27001 is the world's best-known standard for information security management systems (ISMS). It defines requirements an ISMS must meet.

The ISO/IEC 27001 standard provides companies of any size and from all sectors of activity with guidance for establishing, implementing, maintaining and continually improving an information security management system.

Conformity with ISO/IEC 27001 means that an organization or business has put in place a system to manage risks related to the security of data owned or handled by the company, and that this system respects all the best practices and principles enshrined in this International Standard.

Nowadays, data theft, cybercrime and liability for privacy leaks are risks that **all organizations** need to factor in. Any business needs to think strategically about its information security needs, and how they relate to its own objectives, processes, size and structure. The ISO/IEC 27001 standard enables organizations to establish an information security management system and apply a risk management process that is **adapted to their size and needs**, and scale it as necessary as these factors evolve.

While information technology (IT) is the industry with the largest number of ISO/IEC 27001- certified enterprises (almost a fifth of all valid certificates to ISO/IEC 27001 as per the ISO Survey 2021), the benefits of this standard have convinced companies across all economic sectors (all kinds of services and manufacturing as well as the primary sector; private, public and non-profit organizations).

Companies that adopt the holistic approach described in ISO/IEC 27001 will make sure information security is built into organizational processes, information systems and management controls. They gain efficiency and often emerge as leaders within their industries.

Why is ISO/IEC 27001 important?

- With cyber-crime on the rise and new threats constantly emerging, it can seem difficult or even impossible to manage cyber-risks. ISO/IEC 27001 helps organizations become risk-aware and proactively identify and address weaknesses.
- ISO/IEC 27001 promotes a holistic approach to information security: vetting people, policies and technology. An information security management system implemented according to this standard is a tool for risk management, cyber-resilience and operational excellence.

BENEFIT TO MY ORGANIZATION

Implementing the information security framework specified in the ISO/IEC 27001 standard helps you:

- Reduce your vulnerability to the growing threat of cyber-attacks
- Respond to evolving security risks
- Ensure that assets such as financial statements, intellectual property, employee data and information entrusted by third parties remain undamaged, confidential, and available as needed
- Provide a centrally managed framework that secures all information in one place
- Prepare people, processes and technology throughout your organization to face technology-based risks and other threats
- Secure information in all forms, including paper-based, cloud-based and digital data
- Save money by increasing efficiency and reducing expenses for ineffective defence technology

What is ISO/IEC 27001 certification and what does it mean to be certified to ISO 27001?

Certification to ISO/IEC 27001 is one way to demonstrate to stakeholders and customers that you are committed and able to manage information securely and safely. Holding a certificate from an accredited conformity assessment body may bring an additional layer of confidence, as an accreditation body has provided independent confirmation of the certification body's competence. If you wish to use a logo to demonstrate certification, contact the certification body that issued the certificate. As in other contexts, standards should always be referred to with their full reference, for example "certified to ISO/IEC 27001:2022" (not just "certified to ISO 27001").

As with other ISO management system standards, companies implementing ISO/IEC 27001 can decide whether they want to go through a certification process. Some organizations choose to implement the standard in order to benefit from the best practice it contains, while others also want to get certified to reassure customers and clients.

ISO/IEC 27001 is widely used around the world. As per the ISO Survey 2022, over 70 000 certificates were reported in 150 countries and from all economic sectors, ranging from agriculture through manufacturing to social services.