

ISO 22301:2019

ISO 22301 is a business continuity management standard helping organizations prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptions.



What it is

ISO 22301 is an international business continuity management standard that helps organizations prepare for, withstand, and recover from operational disruptions and unexpected incidents. The standard provides a systematic framework to ensure the continuity of critical business processes, supporting broader risk management and resilience objectives.

Published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO 22301 is used by organizations of all sizes and sectors, including finance, healthcare, and critical infrastructure. It sets requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining, and continually improving a Business Continuity Management System (BCMS), covering areas such as risk assessment, incident response, and recovery planning.

At a glance

<div>PUBLISHER</div> <div>International Organization for Standardization (ISO)</div>	<div>TYPE</div> <div>Standard</div>	<div>VERSION</div> <div>2019</div>
<div>EFFECTIVE</div> <div>October 2019</div>	<div>DOMAIN</div> <div>Operational Resilience</div>	<div>FAMILY</div> <div>ISO Management Systems</div>
<div>REGION</div> <div>International</div>	<div>ADOPTION MODEL</div> <div>Risk Management</div>	<div>IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY</div> <div>High</div>

Source: <https://www.iso.org/standard/75106.html>

Why it matters

- **Promote operational resilience** Strengthen the ability to maintain essential services and quickly recover in the face of disruptive events.
- **Support regulatory compliance** Facilitate adherence to legal, industry, and customer requirements for business continuity and risk management.
- **Increase audit readiness** Provide documented processes and regular testing, allowing organizations to demonstrate preparedness during internal and external audits.
- **Enhance crisis response capabilities** Enable more effective planning, communication, and execution during incidents, reducing confusion and costly downtime.

How SmartSuite supports ISO 22301

BCMS Program Structure Organize continuity policy, scope, roles, and objectives in a single operational system.	Business Impact Analysis and Dependencies Capture BIAs, dependencies, RTO/RPO targets, and critical service requirements with traceability.	Continuity Plans and Playbooks Build, version, and manage BC/DR plans with clear owners, approvals, and distribution.
Testing, Exercises, and Lessons Learned Schedule exercises, document outcomes, and track corrective actions through closure.	Incident, Crisis, and Communications Workflow Coordinate response tasks, stakeholders, and communications with a complete audit trail.	Audit-Ready BCMS Reporting Report BCMS status, testing coverage, open issues, and readiness across the organization.

Common framework mappings

- EU DORA
- ISO 27001:2022

Official resources

ISO 22301:2019 Security and Resilience — Business Continuity Management Systems — Requirements Defines requirements for establishing and maintaining effective business continuity management systems. iso.org/standard/75106.html	ISO 22313:2020 Security and Resilience — Business Continuity Management Systems — Guidance on the use of ISO 22301 Provides implementation guidance to support the ISO 22301 specification. iso.org/standard/75107.html
ISO Business Continuity Management Overview Describes ISO's approach and standards for business continuity management and resilience. iso.org/iso-22301-business-continuity.html	

Frequently asked questions

What is ISO 22301 used for?

ISO 22301 is used to establish, implement, maintain, and continually improve a Business Continuity Management System (BCMS). Its main purpose is to ensure organizations can prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptive incidents while maintaining critical business operations.

Is ISO 22301 certification mandatory?

ISO 22301 certification is not mandatory, but many organizations pursue it to demonstrate robust business continuity management practices to stakeholders, customers, and regulators. Certification provides formal recognition that an organization meets the standard's requirements through independent auditing.

Who does ISO 22301 apply to?

ISO 22301 applies to organizations of all sizes, sectors, and industries that want to manage business continuity risks and improve resilience. The scope can be tailored to cover the entire organization, specific locations, or key business functions based on organizational context and risk appetite.

What are the key requirements of ISO 22301?

Key requirements of ISO 22301 include conducting a business impact analysis, risk assessments, developing and maintaining business continuity plans, establishing roles and responsibilities, and defining recovery strategies. Regular testing, training, and review of continuity plans are also essential artifacts for compliance.

How does ISO 22301 implementation work in practice?

Implementation involves assessing the organization's context, securing leadership commitment, identifying critical activities, and mapping related risks. Organizations must document recovery procedures, regularly update business continuity plans, conduct exercises, and integrate ongoing evaluation into operational processes.

How does ISO 22301 relate to other standards like ISO 27001?

ISO 22301 complements standards such as ISO 27001 by focusing specifically on operational resilience and continuity rather than information security alone. Organizations often align ISO 22301 with broader risk management frameworks to achieve comprehensive governance, audit readiness, and regulatory compliance.

What are the ongoing compliance requirements for ISO 22301?

Ongoing compliance with ISO 22301 requires continuous monitoring, regular testing of business continuity plans, conducting internal audits, evidence collection, and periodic management reviews. Organizations must demonstrate continual improvement and maintain documentation to support audit and regulatory demands.

How would SmartSuite support ISO 22301?

SmartSuite supports ISO 22301 by centralizing control management, maintaining risk registers for business disruptions, and streamlining document governance. The platform enables automated evidence collection, facilitates audit readiness, and provides real-time reporting dashboards for compliance monitoring and performance tracking.

License included / downloadable: No ISO 22301 requires purchase through authorized standards organizations. License not included with platform

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/iso-22301-business-continuity-management-systems-bcms