ISO 27001 Information Security Features and Benefits

ISO 27001 is the only auditable international standard which defines the requirements for an information security management system (ISMS). The standard is designed to ensure the selection of adequate and proportionate security controls. ISO 27001 helps to protect information assets and give confidence to interested parties including an organisation's customers. The standard adopts a process approach for establishing, implementing, operating, monitoring, reviewing, maintaining, and improving an organisation's ISMS.

BUSINESS RISK	BUSINESS NEED	FEATURE OF STANDARD	ADVANTAGES (How will it help?)	BENEFITS (What's in it for my business?)
Failure to protect customer information.	To reduce risk of incidents.	Procedure for the identification of relevant risks, understanding of how the risk is formed and evaluation of improvements.	Better awareness and understanding of applicability of the risk. Better management of risk. Fewer incidents and accidents.	Fewer incidents. Fewer disruptions. Less time spent on responding to accidents and incidents. More time to spend on proactive measures. Lower client audit requirements.
Loss of customers and investors through damaged reputation from information breach.	To protect and enhance reputation. To win more tenders. To attract more investors.	Operational controls to be in place.	Reduced incidents and accidents. Better management of incidents and accidents.	Less negative press meaning less time and money spent on damage limitation measures. Less resource spent on finding new customers and investors. Opportunities for positive PR.

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Insufficient understanding or threats to the business.	Informed business decision making.	Roles and responsibilities to be defined. Staff to be trained and competent. Worker communication, participation and consultation in the ISMS required.	Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in looking after their own information security. Staff are more likely to spot and avoid potential hazards. Less time lost through incidents.	Greater productivity. Less time and money spent on responding to incidents.
Interruption to internal operations as a result of IS procedures.	To control information but not unduly affect business processes.	Operating controls to be in place. Procedures for overview and testing to be in place.	Less likely to have an incident. Better prepared in the event of an incident meaning quicker response and lessened impact. More efficient operations.	Understanding of business information processes. Better able to reassure customers and internal parties.

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