

SUMMARY

Cyber security is the most visible, and perhaps most complex, challenge that IT organizations have faced in recent years. The cyber threats continuously evolve, becoming more sophisticated and more damaging. Daily headlines and high profile breaches at even the most secure organizations reinforce the fact that we are all vulnerable. While the cyber challenges cannot be eliminated as long as computers are used, the risks can be reduced.

To reduce the risks, the Port of Los Angeles (Port of LA) implemented a Cyber Security Operations Center (CSOC) in 2014. Realizing that a cyber security program is not only about the technology, the Port of LA built upon the CSOC with improvements to its Information Security Management System (ISMS). The Port of LA's ISMS improvements included significant staff development, formalized policies and procedures, and new hardware and software. In June 2015, the ISMS was certified to the ISO 27001:2013 international information security standard. In June 2016, it passed the Annual Surveillance Audit to maintain the certification. The Port of LA is believed to be the only port authority, and one from a small group of organizations from any industry, to have this certification.

Achieving an ISO 27001 certified ISMS was a challenging and valuable effort that helped the Port of LA to further reduce cyber risks with a complete information security management system that has been independently verified against a recognized, international information security standard. This effort resulted in numerous benefits, demonstrated creativity, produced beneficial results, was cost effective, and can be applied to any port in the world.

The Port of LA would be happy to further discuss its experiences with any port that is interested in also achieving an ISO 27001 certified ISMS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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