

GOOD PRACTICE IN CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT

Business Continuity Management (BCM) is a well-known concept designed to unify organizational disciplines through a strategic and operational framework. However, most organizations believed that BCM solely involved disaster recovery and there was confusion regarding the actual process. Recognizing the need for clarification, the Business Continuity Institute and Insight Consulting approached BSI to create PAS 56, Guide to Business Continuity Management.

Leading Business Continuity

The BCI promotes the highest standards of professional competence and commercial ethics in the provision and maintenance of business continuity planning and services. It provides recognition and professional qualifications for business continuity practitioners. In order to ensure all BCI members met consistent levels of BCM, the BCI required a tool to educate and measure its members.

Faced with many options, the Business Continuity Institute realized they wanted a professional document representing the industries best practice. They also sought to add authority to the BCM process. In return the BCI would gain recognition for creating a credible industry standard and thought leadership.

BSI Professional Standards Services was able to meet the BCI's needs and provide expert knowledge in writing standards in the relatively short development time of just six to nine months. Working closely with all parties involved, BSI consulted key industry members to develop an unbiased, consensus-based document. BSI also provided the BCI with a well-recognized brand that added credibility, increasing acceptance of the guide.

Guiding Business Continuity Management

PAS 56 clearly establishes the process, principles and terminology of BCM applicable to all organizations, regardless of size or industry sector. It describes the activities and outcomes that establish a BCM process and provides recommendations for good practice. PAS 56 provides a generic BCM framework for incident anticipation and response, and describes evaluation techniques and criteria.

It is intended for use by those charged with defining, developing, implementing and managing a BCM programme in their organization.

Taking it One Step Further

Today good BCM fully recognizes that an organization's resilience depends equally on its management and operational staff as well as technology and requires a holistic approach to be taken when establishing a BCM capability. The guide is purely a tool aimed at increasing organizations understanding of the full scope of Business Continuity Management. Furthermore, successful adoption of PAS 56 and influence from influential organizations, such as the UK Financial Services Authority, BSI and BCI are now working to convert this guide into a full British Standard.

Learn more about Business Continuity Management. Visit the BCI web site at www.thebci.org.