Continuity Blueprint Services
Evaluation of Plan Maturity

Many organizations have devoted considerable manpower and resources in the development and implementation of their business continuity plans. Increased governance scrutiny of senior management by stakeholders and professional bodies suggests business continuity plans be audited and maintained in accordance with accepted practices and guiding principles such as Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII) - Professional Practices for Business Continuity, 2013; Business Continuity Institute (BCI) – Business Continuity Management Good Practice Guidelines, 2013; National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1600 - “Standard on Disaster / Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs”, 2013 and ISO 22301: Societal Security – Business Continuity Management Systems, 2012. To assure transparency, many organizations have found it beneficial to provide overviews of planning, auditing, maintaining and testing of their business continuity plans within annual reports and/or 10-K’s. In addition, suppliers and key customers are requesting, in greater frequency, evidence that plans are in place, maintained and executable.

Aon’s Business Continuity Management services has the expertise and resources necessary to assess your program’s maturity and provide an unbiased evaluation of plan(s) to assure they conform to current accepted standards and best practices.

Business Continuity Management Program Maturity Assessment

Achieving Business Continuity Management (BCM) Program maturity is a gradual process developed over time and requires senior management commitment and diligent program management. Periodic program assessments provide organizations with improvement opportunities to strengthen and update their program and plan(s), help ensure your investment in business continuity planning will be effective in a disaster, and your company’s responsibilities to other entities and its ability to fulfil those commitments.

Business Continuity professional bodies outline very specific planning components for the development and implementation of a business continuity management program including:

- Policy & Program Management;
- Plan Development;
- Developing and Implementing BCM Strategies;
- Developing and Implementing Response and Recovery;
- Exercising, Maintaining and Auditing BCM Plans;
- Integrating BCM into the Organizations Culture

We offer several plan assessment options which range from simple desktop reviews for undeveloped or beginner programs, to comprehensive assessment using our Maturity Assessment Benchmark Workbook for well-established programs. The appropriate assessment option is determined through discussions and cursory review of existing documents.

Our evaluation utilizes a selection of 166 requirements within our data set to quantify Policy, Program Management and Planning capabilities within these components. Categories within each component provide specific areas of refinement relative to best practices.

The Maturity Assessment Report for lesser developed programs will include a high level summary of the program maturity accompanied by recommendations to support the assessment. For well-established programs, the Maturity Assessment Report will provide specific detail by plan component and category using a scoring matrix accompanied by recommendations to support our assessment and a graphic output as follows:

![BCM Assessment Summary](bcm_assessment_summary.png)

The evaluation scoring is based on a 0-5 scale evaluating the planning maturity framework. The framework consists of the BCM planning components and categories detailing the level of maturity. Scores are assigned to each category, with an overall planning component score. The Maturity Level description measures the Program Policy, Program Management and Program Categories i.e., Business Impact Analysis (BIA), Risk Assessment, Strategy Implementation etc. against identification, assessment, response and/or management of business interruptive events.

**Aon’s Capabilities and Approach**

Aon’s global business continuity activities include over 120 consultants situated in 14 countries. Our U.S. team have developed, tested and evaluated many plans resulting in improvements in recovery and resilience. Our consultants are committee members of NFPA 1600 supporting the development of business continuity industry standards.

Our Business Continuity Management (BCM) consultants are dedicated, credentialed professionals with an average of 25 years’ experience in a wide area of business and industry. The BCM practice advises major US and international organizations and leverages Aon’s global capabilities and industry expertise to deliver integrated and sustainable solutions with an unparalleled breadth of resources.

Our methodology is grounded in a strong foundation of knowledge and aligned with accepted standards, professional practices and industry guidelines. When implemented correctly, BCM mitigates interruption of mission-critical services and is instrumental in re-establishing full functionality.