Supply Chain Analysis: Checklist for Infectious Disease Threat

Protecting your supply chain against the threat of infectious disease (pandemic)

In the event of pandemic influenza, businesses need to gather and quantify information regarding key components of their critical supply chain.

Aon has developed the following pandemic preparatory checklist which can assist companies in determining the resiliency of key suppliers to withstand the effects of a disruption resulting from an infectious disease outbreak. Many portions of this list will also be helpful in preparing for other emergencies. We encourage companies to work closely with business continuity management, key business and product stakeholders, fulfillment and operations, as well as other applicable internal parties as identified.

Business Continuity Strategy

✓ In the event of a disaster or significant disruption, does the supplier have documented plans for business unit continuity and/or information technology disaster recovery (IT DR)?
✓ What duration of time is assumed for the outbreak and is therefore planned for (hours, days, weeks, months, etc.)?
✓ Does the supplier’s Business Unit Continuity Plan or IT DR Plan identify critical business processes and their recovery priority?
✓ Does the supplier’s planning efforts take into consideration the absence of a large number of critical staff over an extended period of time?
✓ What is the expected recovery time for the supplier’s “mission-critical” business processes?
✓ Does the plan account for interdependencies both internal and external to the organization?
✓ Do the supplier’s current plans address all the locations from which it provides services to the inquiring company?
✓ Is the supplier’s primary IT facility or data center located in the same building or office complex occupied by its main business or operations staff?
✓ Does the supplier have other locations which can (or could) provide the goods or services currently being used by the inquiring business?

Crisis Communications

✓ Does the supplier have a Crisis Management Team currently in place consisting of senior management personnel and focused on addressing significant crises such as an infectious disease outbreak?
✓ Does the Crisis Management Team and Plan address both internal and external communications during a disaster event?
✓ How and to whom would the supplier notify at the inquiring company of an outage that affects its operations?
Business Unit Continuity & Information Technology Disaster Recovery Exercises

✓ If the supplier has Business Unit Continuity or Information Technology Disaster Recovery plans, how often are they exercised?

✓ Would the supplier agree to share results of the Business Unit Continuity or Information Technology Disaster Recovery plans exercises with the inquiring business?

✓ Do internal or external auditors review the results of supplier’s Business Unit Continuity or Information Technology Disaster Recovery plans exercises?

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