



Industry Security Notice

Number 2016/01

Subject: MOD Implementation of Cyber Essentials Scheme

Introduction:

1. This Industry Security Notice (ISN) sets out MOD's requirement from January 2016 for suppliers of contracts involving 'MOD identifiable information' to achieve Cyber Essentials Scheme certification ahead of the implementation of the new Cyber Security Model later in the year.

Issue:

2. The MOD is committed to ensuring Defence and its supply chain are appropriately protected from the cyber threat. The MOD has been working jointly with Industry and other Government departments in the Defence Cyber Protection Partnership (DCPP) to develop a proportionate means of achieving this. As a first step, the MOD will be implementing the Government's Cyber Essentials Scheme through a compliance question in its supplier selection Pre-Qualification Questionnaire.
3. Procurement Policy Note 09/14: Cyber Essentials scheme certification issued in October 2014 mandated the requirement for suppliers to achieve Cyber Essentials certification for any contract involving personal information of citizens or government employees, the supply of ICT systems and services and any other contract where the authority consider it appropriate.
4. MOD secured an exemption from this PPN in anticipation of the implementation of our Cyber Security Model and the wish to keep the two approaches aligned. As we near the date at which the CSM will go live the decision has been made that the time is right to remove this exemption. The PPN will be accordingly reissued with the MOD exemption removed.
5. For all new requirements advertised from 1st January 2016 which entail the transfer of MOD identifiable information from customer to supplier, or the generation of such information by a supplier specifically in support of the MOD contract, MOD will require suppliers to have a Cyber Essentials certificate by the contract start date at the latest, and for it to be renewed annually. This requirement must be flowed down the supply chain.
6. It is expected that this scoping will apply to most direct MOD contracts; however, the supply chain will also need to apply the same test as it flows work down into sub-contracts and it is recognised that the scoping statement may not be applicable at some of these lower levels e.g. items procured on a regular basis where allocation is unknown at the time of purchase. The more extensive requirements of the DCPP Cyber Security Model will be implemented in a phased approach from Q2 2016.
7. Whilst the requirement is only to achieve Cyber Essentials, as post CSM implementation any contract attracting a cyber risk of Low, Moderate or High will need to achieve Cyber Essentials Plus (as a minimum) suppliers may wish to consider achieving that level straight away.

Action by Industry:

8. This ISN is issued for information and guidance for MOD contractors for internal use and promulgation as appropriate.

Validity / Expiry Date:

9. There is no expiry date to this ISN.

MOD Point of Contact Details:

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