

Enhance Your Cybersecurity



While major corporate data breaches and huge ransomware paydays dominate the headlines, over half of all victims are categorized as small businesses. Why? Cyber criminals view small and medium-sized manufacturers as prime targets precisely because many of these companies do not have adequate preventative measures in place. For most small manufacturers, the security of information, systems, and networks is not the highest priority, but a cybersecurity incident can be detrimental to the business, customers, or suppliers. It's important that manufacturers understand and manage the risk and establish a cybersecurity protocol to protect critical assets.

In 2010 the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was tasked with developing the guidelines for use in federal agencies. This effort eventually became NIST Special Publication 800-171 which was finalized in 2015. For those who are Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA) or NASA contractors, compliance with NIST SP 800-171 became a requirement as of December 31, 2017. For those of you who supply materials to any manufacturer who is required to comply you can expect to see those requirements flow down through the supply chain. Since the DOD has begun to assess contractor compliance with NIST SP800-171 during the contract award process, compliance is a must to win work. The solicitation must include self-attestation of compliance with DFARS 252.204-7012 and implementation of NIST SP 800-171.

Even if it doesn't become a requirement for you, it still represents the most straightforward way to protect your business from malicious cyber-attacks.

Contact TMAC for assistance in reducing your cybersecurity vulnerabilities and for help in demonstrating compliance with NIST SP 800-171 by completing a formal Gap Assessment, creating a Plan of Action, and a Site and Systems Security Plan.

The Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) accelerates the profitable growth of manufactures by implementing methods, innovation, technology and best practices to develop and improve products, processes and people. TMAC South Central Region operates out of Southwest Research Institute® (SwRI®) in San Antonio, TX. TMAC is an affiliate of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

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