

FACT SHEET ON FLU PANDEMIC BUSINESS CONTINUITY PROGRAMME

About the programme

After the Influenza A H1N1 outbreak in April 2009, many enterprises now see flu pandemic as a threat to business continuity. The Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Programme is to help businesses prepare to deal with the flu pandemic situation. It is also a stepping stone to encourage businesses to move towards full adoption of Business Continuity Management (BCM).

The programme is managed by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and supported by SPRING Singapore. The target is for 1,000 enterprises from a broad base of industries to be flu pandemic prepared by the end of 2010.

How does it benefit businesses?

The programme will help enterprises to ascertain their ability to ensure continuity of their business operations in the event of a flu pandemic outbreak.

Their preparedness to weather adversity will help give enterprises a competitive edge as they could better assure their customers on their ability to operate as a more reliable and dependable supplier or service provider.

How does it work?

Interested enterprises have to engage a certification body from the list of certification bodies found on SBF website, www.sbf.org.sg. These certification bodies are appointed by SPRING Singapore and accredited to Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) Quality Management System (QMS) Scheme.

The certification bodies will use the Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Guide: 2009 to verify the enterprise's flu pandemic preparedness. The guide is available on the SBF and SPRING websites.

The entire verification process will take about two man-days. Typically, half to one man-day will be spent to give feedback and clarification to the enterprise on its processes for flu pandemic preparedness. The enterprise will be given some time to close any gaps before the final verification, which will take one to one-and-a-half man-days.

Upon successful verification by the certification body, SBF will issue the verification certificate to the enterprise. Each verification certificate has a unique serial number. The verification certificate confirms that the enterprise is prepared and able to continue its business during a flu pandemic outbreak.

How much does it cost?

Each verification is fixed at \$2000 which is an equivalent of two man-days. 80% of the cost is subsidised and enterprises need to pay only \$400.

Who can apply?

The programme is open to all Singapore-based enterprises.

How to apply?

Interested enterprises can approach the National Business Continuity Management (BCM) Centre at SBF at bcm@sbf.org.sg or call 6827 6867, or visit SBF website at www.sbf.org.sg for more information.

The list of appointed SAC accredited QMS certification bodies can be obtained from SBF's website.

About the Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Guide

The Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Guide: 2009 was developed by SPRING Singapore. It is based on the principles of the SS 540 Business Continuity Management standard.

The guide not only provides a basis for enterprises to implement processes to ensure business continuity in the event of a flu pandemic, it also serves as a stepping stone to full BCM adoption. The Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Guide-Guidance for Verifiers: 2009 follows closely the framework of the SS 540 so enterprises which have been verified would have already been assessed using the SS 540 BCM framework. This would make it easier for enterprises to take up the BCM adoption.

The guide can be found on SBF and SPRING websites. It is available in both English and Chinese.

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