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Supply Chain Risk Management Program

“A security perspective fosters compliance”



Minnkota Power
COOPERATIVE

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Reason For Brief

- MPC completed 2022 MRO Audit
- Program took different **perspective** than others requiring explanation
- Audit team appreciated MPC's efforts: Requested we explain our process & note **areas** where some plans fall short

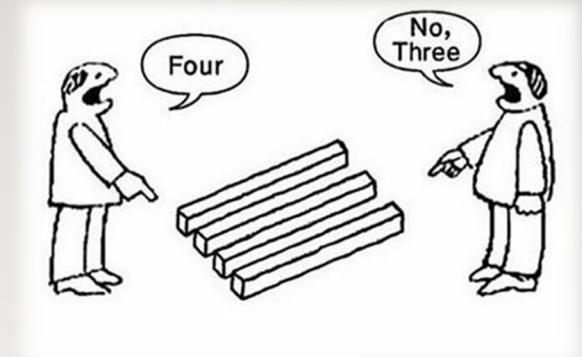


Fig 1. Perspective. Retrieved from https://rentapress.com/images/uploaded/3v4_disagreement.jpeg

MPC's CIP-013 Fast Facts

- MPC employs 390 people, 2 High-, 6 Medium- & 35 Low-Impact cyber systems
- Created Risk Assessment Working Group (RAWG): ~10 people as cross section of MPC
- Did not hire outside assistance or additional personnel

Defined Risk to MPC

- Kept things simple for corporate buy-in
- Single risk: Threat of malicious code
- Goal to expand program in future, not to just meet short-term compliance
- Treated Low-Impact same as higher systems

Vendor & Risk List

- Listed all potential vendors used across cyber systems, assessed 62
- Included TCAs, inventory, patches & freeware
- After defining applicability, larger list pared down to ~35 in-scope vendors

Supply Chain Risk Mgmt Program

- Did not want an **overwhelming** program doc
- Broke into 4 parts:
 1. Assessment Tools
 2. Risk Identification Methodology
 3. Supply Chain Risk Management Plan
 4. Guideline



Fig 2. Forklift w/books. Retrieved from <https://st2.depositphotos.com/1187563/7129/i/950/d...5813-stock-photo-forklift-with-stack-of-books.jpg>

1. MPC's Assessment Tools

- Built tools to assess/document vendor risk
 - a. Vendor Questionnaire
 - b. Vendor Assessment Workbook
 - c. CIP-013 Cybersecurity Contract Addendum

a. Tools- Questionnaire

- Vendor Questionnaire- Called VQ
- Fillable form w/under 45 questions
- Main focus is malicious code risk

b. Tools- Vendor Workbook

- Consolidates all vendor assessment data, including risks and mitigations
- Main tool used by everyone procuring something

Vendor Risk Summary

- Located in Vendor Assessment Workbook
- Summary of how vendor is used by MPC
- Provides brief info on overall risk to BES
- Fosters understanding by anyone in company



Fig 3. Word Collage. Retrieved from <https://tbgsecurity.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/vendor-risk-management-538x218.jpeg>

c. Tools- Cybersecurity Addendum

- Not all vendors use/require contracts
- Addendum document treated as an additional mitigation tool
- Addresses all of R1.2 requirements
- All addendum items mapped to questionnaire & mitigations

2. Risk Identification Methodology

- CIP-013 allowed a lot of latitude: How to efficiently narrow the focus?
- Methodology explains how MPC defined risk
- Aligned our tools with NATF checklist & documented MPC rationale for each question
- Philosophy: Leverage security & reliability best practices = inherently meets compliance

3. Risk Management Plan

- Affectionately called SCRiMP
- Directly addresses all CIP-013 requirements
- Defines what a “procurement” is

MPC's Procurement Definition

- Procure means to get possession of something; to obtain by particular care and effort. A procurement may or may not involve the exchange of money. Therefore, this plan must be followed for applicable procurements made by any means, including but not limited to the following:
 - Requisitions/Purchase orders
 - Auto-Generated Inventory Replenishment
 - Loans, Trades and Freeware
 - Credit Card Purchases
 - Vendor Transitions
 - Emergency Procurements

Procurement Applicability

- For each of previous procurement types, **explain when the plan is applied** which defines the start point
- **Focus is needed on:** vendor transfers, renewal agreements, extensions, and/or service subscriptions
- All interactions with vendor treated like procurement

Emergency Procurements

- Process should be scalable and applicable in “emergencies”
- Simply assess vendor with public info to understand risk & assign mitigations
- Document these actions in plan



Fig 4. Emergency Exit. Retrieved from <https://images.smartsign.com/img/sm/S/fire-no-emergency-exit-sign-s-1518.png>

4. Guideline

- A detailed “living” document for anyone involved in Procurement processes
- Includes anyone involved in mitigations:
 - Warehouse personnel
 - Patch managers
 - Supervisors & more

Focus On Residual Risk

- All vendors have **inherent risk**, so what risks can we minimize?
- All **residual risk** then requires mitigation

Inherent risk vs. residual risk

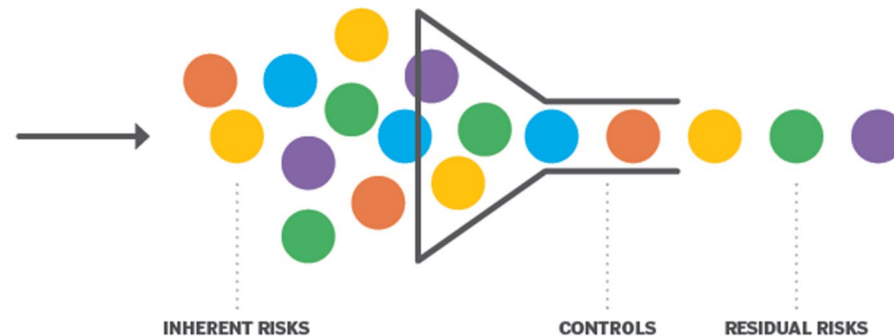


Fig 5. Risk Funnel. Retrieved from https://cdn.ttgtmedia.com/rms/onlineimages/inherent_risk_vs_residual_risk-f.png

Risk Mitigation

- VQ questions have pick list of mitigations based on MPC processes
- All 4 & 5 risk scores (out of 5) are assigned mitigations
- Procurement process requires that mitigations are reviewed before purchase

Internal Controls

- Integrate Supply Chain Risk Management into corporate procedure
- Living process requires **rebalance**
- Created recurring internal controls
 - CIP-013 triggers in Procurement system
 - Annual mitigation pick list review with SME's
 - Forecast for 3-yr vendor reassessment dates
 - Periodic training & document reviews



Fig 6. Risk Balance. Retrieved from <https://www.corporatecomplianceinsights.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/risk-blocks.jpg>

Summary

- High level info: specifically left out a lot of program details
- Focused on **potential weak areas** MRO has noted in past audits
- Ideas easily integrated into any program:
 - Risk Summaries for vendors
 - Apply process to similar low impact vendors & TCAs
 - Internal Controls for reassessments

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