

# SUPPLY CHAIN AND THIRD-PARTY ASSURANCE

## THE CHALLENGE

Business these days is an interconnected experience; supply chains are no longer linear but are complex and convoluted, more like a business ecosystem. Information is the lifeblood of this model. More than a third of businesses identify third parties as the most likely cause of data breach and more than half reporting that they are not highly effective in preventing the leakage of confidential documents by third parties. At the same time, data sharing and interlinked communication with your supply chain (like order management), and using a third party to host in the cloud - is increasing. This creates a big increase in the potential for data loss and breach.

## WORKING WITH US – USING ISO27001 TO MINIMISE RISK

The most comprehensive and internationally recognised standards for supply chain assurance, are available from ISO 27001. This includes cloud-based services for customers and suppliers (ISO 27036).

- Sharing data or outsourcing or moving to the cloud for the first time? Advent IM can evaluate all your risks and recommend the best and most appropriate responses.
- Renewing contracts? All existing supplier or cloud contract renewals should have a review and update of data security terms and conditions. Advent IM can help you draft the right standards you should expect a supplier to have in place, and audit the supplier to help them achieve it.
- Appointing new suppliers (or shortlisted suppliers) on new projects? Advent IM will work with you to ensure your data risks have the appropriate response in your contract and will audit all shortlisted suppliers.
- Are you a supplier that wants to win new business? Working to the standards of ISO 27001 is a clear competitive advantage, when tendering.
- Advent IM can audit any supplier you deem necessary at any time, to ensure your specified data security standards are in place.
- Additional supplier checks can be done on GDPR compliance, physical and environmental controls, business recovery plans, and network management.
- Penetration testing and red teaming is also available.

The investment to review and implement the best data security standards within your supplier base is minimal, and is an on-going business discipline. The benefit for your partners is that if they operate to these standards, their security competence will be recognised by their other customers.

There is a growing requirement to show evidence of security posture for a variety of contracts, so choosing this route to assurance has solid commercial benefits in addition to the practical organisational resilience considerations.

