Government recommendations for IT resilience and cybersecurity

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On 27 August 2018 the Federal Office for National Economic Supply (FONES) published the Minimum Standard for Improving ICT Resilience (minimum ICT standard), together with a self-assessment tool. Compliance with this standard should allow organisations to successfully fend off cyberattacks and mitigate cyber-risks.

The minimum ICT standard primarily targets critical infrastructure providers (ie, providers of services which are necessary for the supply of basic services such as electricity and water). However, because cybersecurity is a universal concern and the standard's scope is broad, FONES expects that the standard will be useful for all businesses and organisations operating in Switzerland.

The minimum ICT standard is greatly influenced by, and follows a similar structure to, the US Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework. Therefore, the standard offers measures to "identify, protect, detect, respond and recover" from cyber-risks. However, as the standard is not meant as a comprehensive guide, but rather as a set of recommended minimum steps, it is neither as complete nor as detailed as the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.

In addition to the NIST Framework, the minimum ICT standard also relies on a variety of other recognised standards and sources, including:

- the International Organisation for Standardisation 2700x family of cybersecurity standards;
- the Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology; and
- the German BSI 100-2 standard.

FONES will complement the minimum ICT standard with more detailed, sector-specific standards, given that such standards are already available in the power and food supply sectors.

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