

Resilience within Supply Chain Security

Supply Chain Security is always important, It's usually seen as when companies move their finished articles to their valued customer's, however it starts a lot earlier than that within the supply chain.

Supply Chain processes and procedures are required from the very start of a company receiving "Goods In" Many small companies do not follow the simple guidelines of checking all of the items received and noting any shortfall in the delivery, or any damage to the packing surrounding the goods that could relate to possible pilferage within transit. Companies are more inclined to get the goods in and then to deal with the trivial details later these "Details" are of course sometimes forgotten. Any shortfalls or possible pilferage should be recorded and where possible backed up by photographic evidence to pass on to the Logistic Service Provider, or to the company that despatched them to you. This information should again be easily at hand in a simple process or procedure for your employees.

Resilience in the supply chain can be simply improved by ensuring that all your employees are aware of what action to take to protect the company from any of the above mentioned shortfalls. Simple processes and Procedures to take them step by step through any incident that may occur can protect your company and ensure that product to market is as seamless as possible, the last thing any company needs to hear is the "I'm sure it arrived at Goods In, where is it?" and if it's a vital component to a major customers shipment it could very well jeopardise a vital contract for a company, no matter how big or small they may be.

Despatch of the finished article is also a vital part of resilience within the supply chain. Again, process and procedures come into play, has the item or items been packed to the required company standard, has this been checked and recorded? Does the Logistic Service Provider know what size vehicle it's required to use, does it have the required tail lift, or will it be loaded by folk-lift? These are all details required to be documented. Within some small companies the employees know these details by word of mouth and on the job training, but when a temp from an agency arrives to cover employee holidays, are the full details passed on correctly. Processes and procedures are vital in all aspects of business, no matter how small of large, but using these documents ensures resilience within the supply chain.

Process and Procedures can be seen to be a waste of time, or well down the list of "Things to do" but they are vital to all companies. Supply Chain Security usually falls into one of the above categories. We at CoDRIM have the expertise to produce these Processes and Procedures, or to review them on your behalf. Don't leave it too late to be caught out, act now.

Derek Gardner

Supply Chain Security Specialist

CoDRIM Ltd

+44 (0)1252 673419