



United States  
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Agriculture

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TO: Agency ISSPMs

FROM: Roberta Spitzberg, Director  
Security Policy Division  
Office of Chief Information Officer

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SUBJECT: IT Contingency Plan Test and Exercise Methodology

To assist agencies with testing contingency plans, Cyber Security developed the Mission and Contingency Plan Test and Exercise Methodology (MCPT&E) which is risk-based and consistent with the approach in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-37, "Risk Assessment." The MCPT&E will:

- Identify the criticality of USDA IT systems in relation to the business processes supported, and
- Establish the level of the testing and exercising required based on the criticality identified.

Once the level is determined, the user should reference the IT Contingency Plan Maintenance Guide to identify the requirements of each of the test types.

If there are any questions, please contact Evelyn Davis at 301-504-4153 or via email [evelynd.davis@usda.gov](mailto:evelynd.davis@usda.gov) or [cyber.communication@usda.gov](mailto:cyber.communication@usda.gov).

Attachments