

USDA RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
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DM 3540-000

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENTAL MANUAL		NUMBER: 3540-000
SUBJECT: USDA Risk Management Program	DATE: February 17, 2005	
	OPI: OCIO, Cyber Security	

CHAPTER 8
GENERAL INFORMATION

1 PURPOSE

This Departmental Manual chapter establishes the policy and procedures for the use of a Risk Management Program in the security protection of Information Technology (IT) assets within USDA. A comprehensive Risk Management Program includes the use of a standardized Risk Management Methodology, Risk Assessments, Risk Checklists and Mitigation Strategies.

Part 1, Risk Management Methodology. This part provides a standardized process to evaluate the possible risks or threats to USDA systems and determine potential mitigations. It provides a methodology and model for conducting risk assessments at both the application and system level.

Part 2, Risk Assessments and Risk Checklists. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) require a review of security controls during the development of a system, whenever significant modifications are made to the system or every three years. Likewise, 44 U.S.C. 3533 (a) (6) and 3543 (a) (5) require an annual review of Federal security programs.

Risk assessment checklists have been developed to comply with these requirements and to support OCIO's risk-based approach to cyber security. When executed, these checklists identify potential vulnerabilities that could lead to the loss of mission-critical information assets. This part establishes policy and procedures for performing Risk Assessments and using USDA's Security Checklists.

2 CANCELLATION

This Departmental Manual will be in effect until superseded.

3 REFERENCES

See Appendix B, CS Legal and Regulatory References

4 SCOPE

This manual chapter applies to all USDA agencies, programs, teams, organizations, appointees, employees and other activities.

5 Abbreviations

AIS	- Automated Information Systems
CIO	- Chief Information Officer
CM	- Configuration Management
CS	- Cyber Security
IRM	- Information Resources Management
IT	- Information Technology
OMB	- Office of Management & Budget
OCIO	- Office of the Chief Information Officer
RA	- Risk Assessment
RM	- Risk Management
SLC	- System Development Life Cycle
USDA	- United States Department of Agriculture