Cyber Essentials

If you are looking to bid for government tenders there is something that should be aware of.

## Requirement

The government is improving cyber security in its supply chain. Since 1 October 2014, all suppliers must be compliant with the new Cyber Essentials controls if bidding for some government contracts which involve handling of sensitive and personal information. Cyber Essentials was developed by government, in consultation with industry. It offers a sound foundation of basic cyber hygiene measures which, when properly implemented, can significantly reduce a company’s vulnerability.

This means that in order to win some government tenders you will need to show that you have met a standard for cyber security

## About the Scheme

The scheme has a set of 5 critical controls and is applicable to all types of organisations, of all sizes. It gives protection from the most common forms of cyber threat. In applying for certification there may be some changes needed to your policies and internal system setup. Small businesses are only required to have the basic level of certification while larger businesses are required to have Cyber Essentials Plus. Cyber Essentials Plus offers a higher level of assurance through the external testing of the organisation’s cyber security approach.

## The 5 critical areas are

* **Boundary firewalls** – Ensuring the bad guys don’t get in through the front door
* **Secure configuration** – Ensuring that systems are setup in the most secure way for your business
* **Access control** – Ensuring only the right people have the right level of access to systems
* **Malware protection** – Ensuring that virus and malware protection is installed and is it up to date
* **Patch management** – Ensuring the latest software updates the necessary security fixes have been applied.

## Benefits for your business include

* Improved peace of mind that your systems are protected from the most common type of threats
* Prevent many forms of cyber attack from damaging your business
* Ability to apply for some government tenders. More tenders are now having Cyber essentials certification as a mandatory requirement.
* Cyber insurance protection

The Bratton Group are currently preparing for; and going through; the process of certification managed by our Technical Director Steven.

https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk/cyberessentials/