

## Critical infrastructures: Ready for cooperation?

*Operators of critical infrastructures (CRITIS) must provide particularly strong protection for their IT. The obligations are regulated by the IT Security Act (IT-SiG). A new version has been in force since May 2021. It increases the requirements and broadens the list of addressees. Who the new IT-SiG 2.0 applies to and what it means for companies and organizations.*

CRITIS operators, telecommunications companies, providers of web services, and, according to the IT Security Act 2.0, now also so-called “companies of special public interest” (Unternehmen im besonderen öffentlichen Interesse UNBÖFI), as well as service providers and suppliers for critical infrastructures: All these companies must secure their systems, cloud infrastructures, and networks at a “state of the art” level against attacks and threats. This means that numerous additional companies and organizations will have to put their IT security to the test due to this regulation.

### CRITIS operators as well as UNBÖFI must ...



identify themselves  
and register with  
the BSI



implement  
IT security  
requirements



take reporting  
obligations into  
account

### IT-SiG 2.0 – what is important now:

- Thresholds for CRITIS classification lowered
- More systems affected
- New protective measures required
- Many companies outside the CRITIS sector affected (UNBÖFI)
- Higher sanctions



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# An overview of the duties, powers, and addressees under the IT-SiG 2.0:

## New areas of impact:

### • Infrastructures in the special public interest

The current regulations will also apply to areas that do not belong to the CRITIS sectors, such as the defense industry and companies with a particularly high economic significance. They must register with the BSI, prove their IT security, and report incidents.

### • Suppliers and service providers to CRITIS operators or infrastructures of particular public interest

Numerous companies, for example from the German SME sector, that work with the relevant companies and institutions must observe the law's requirements and create conditions to meet the required IT security standards.

## New systems: "Attack detection and management"

CRITIS operators and other companies covered by IT-SiG 2.0 are required to set up and operate systems to actively detect and defend against cyber attacks – such as a security incident & event management.

## New duties and powers: BSI as the national authority for EU cybersecurity certifications.

The scope of the BSI's duties and its control, testing, and certification powers will be expanded. It will be able to certify IT and telecommunications processes in accordance with uniform EU cybersecurity guidelines. It will be given the right to check interfaces to public telecommunications networks, detect security gaps, and order measures to

avert threats if the provider does not take action itself. Consumer protection with a new IT security label for tested products is now also one of the BSI's tasks.

## New CRITIS sector: Waste disposal

The provisions of the IT Security Act 2.0 will also apply to municipal waste disposal operations. Because if this fails, there is a risk of environmental pollution and epidemics.

## Security check: From cloud contract to defense strategy

Companies that belong to the group of new addressees of the IT Security Act 2.0 should now review their IT security and cloud strategy in the short term. This includes, among other things, submitting contracts with cloud providers to a specialist lawyer, as well as setting up both a comprehensive information security management system (ISMI) and an incident management system. They also need to check whether their cloud provider meets specific criteria, such as offering sufficiently secured assets, back-up and defense mechanisms, a disaster recovery strategy, and geo-redundancy.

### Contact:

Germany: 0800 33 0444

International: +800 33 044770

Contact Form: [open-telekom-cloud.com/en/contact](https://open-telekom-cloud.com/en/contact)

Internet: [open-telekom-cloud.com/en](https://open-telekom-cloud.com/en)

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Germany



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