

WHY AN INTERNAL AUDIT IS NECESSARY FOR YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN

Did you know?

A supply chain isn't a stand-alone feature rather it forms a strong network in every aspect of your business. The strength of the network is determined by a strong relationship management mechanism between one department and the other.

The performance of the supply chain has a direct impact on a company's ability to provide services to their customers and create additional value through effectively offering the services.

Simply put, a robust supply chain is one that produces efficiencies over the flow of goods and services until the end

Internal audit helps an organization to accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes," as defined by The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).

Even the most educated guesses can't predict the weather or a broken-down truck. This means that within every supply chain, there will always be an element of risk.

With recent advancements in information technologies, supply chain management has become a complex activity aimed at value creation, competitiveness and managing risks. With the rise in digitalisation, production and distribution systems have been redefined to have greater control over information, finance and good flows. For the very reason of increasingly complex logistics, technologies and automation, there is an imperative need to manage risk when evaluating your supply chain.



An internal audit of a supply chain will have the following advantages:

- It will support managers in process optimisation which will enable to prevent or reduce negative effects.
- It will help in cost reductions through increased efficiencies.
- It will extend the strategic capability and reach of business (through new markets).
- It can build and improve on business relationships.
- It can increase a Company's credibility and reliability.



How does internal audit help to formulate a supply chain risk management program?

An internal audit can provide business leaders with the necessary framework to develop an appropriate supply chain risk management program.

Identify and document risks

With lessons learned from past events and a keen eye on current issues, assessing future risk is the most challenging. Consider factors such as location of the company, suppliers, distributers, manufacturers and retailers.



Evaluate the risks

Assess the likelihood of the risks identified in the supply chain so the right ones are prioritised at the right time. Evaluate the need for developing contingency plans and "Plan B's"



Monitor the results

Companies should be able to respond quickly so as to reduce delays, interruptions, and long-term damage. This is why regular monitoring is crucial.



Develop strong defences

Consider matters like logistics risk management planning, data collection (to predict future trends), technology robustness, and real time operation dashboards. Data is king.

While all risks can't be completely avoided, the majority can be mitigated if the right review mechanisms are in place. A thorough review of a company's supply chain makes it more dependedable and empowered. That, coupled with intelligent technology gives comapnies the best opportunity to maintain their supply chains despite the risks and even come out on top because of quick response.

How can we help you?

Are you satisfied with your current internal control framework? Has the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted your supply chain as well as your crucial sleep? It is time we adapt change and stay ahead by planning ahead.

At RSM Eastern Africa, we can help in designing supply chain risk management program as described above as well as conduct reviews of an established supply chain management to assess its effectiveness and highlight any control gap.

CAVEAT

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