

The Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA): A Legal Research Guide

By Craig W. Hiltz

The purpose of FISMA is to define the responsibilities and establish a security framework for federal agencies when acquiring information technology.

About the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA)

The Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) was enacted in 2002 as part of the series of legislation to increase national security following the events of 9/11. The Act establishes a matrix of responsibilities across every federal agency to establish information security.

Scope & Purpose of Guide

The purpose of this research guide is to aid legal researchers in locating and navigating the best resources to understand the obligations under this Act, processes and regulations that must be followed through the acquisition and management of information technology, and the performance and attestation requirements to ensure compliance. The first part of the guide will focus on the newer Act, FISMA, and resources to research it directly. The later portions of the guide will look more broadly at inter-related resources that will be necessary for your research.

This research guide covers an extremely difficult area of law to research—the new law governing contracting with the federal government to provide information services. This intersects both Federal Acquisitions Regulation law (FAR) and the newer area of Federal Information Security Management, which is currently being developed in the wake of 9/11 and more recent hacking scandals.

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1 volume.....\$55.00

Item #1000020

ISBN: 9780837738888

Published: Buffalo; William S. Hein & Co., Inc.; 2013

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