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**AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2016-1101**

**To:** Agency IT Leadership, Technical Contacts  
**From:** Jim Barnhart   
Acting Chief Information Officer  
**Date:** November 29, 2016  
**Subject:** CIO-093 – Risk Assessment Policy

In order to better protect the state's IT systems and network from diverse internal and external cyber security threats, the Commonwealth aligned its IT security program with that used in the Federal government in 2013. That security model is defined in National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-53, Security and Privacy Controls. (See [CIO-091](#) for details.) At the time of that policy's adoption, it was anticipated that succeeding policies and procedural changes would be required to support the development of this framework.

Accordingly, and effective immediately, *CIO-093 – Risk Assessment Policy* has now been adopted. CIO-093 requires agencies to categorize each of their IT systems according to the Federal security classification schema and to conduct annual risk assessments concerning the vulnerability and criticality of those systems.

Additional details about the requirements of this policy are included in the attached policy. Please review the policy statement carefully and ensure that senior agency leadership are aware of its requirements.

It is acknowledged that system by system categorization and risk assessment will require an investment of time and resources. Staff from the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer are therefore prepared to assist agencies in this vital undertaking, and should be contacted at [COT Risk and Compliance](#).

Please direct any questions you may have to your agency [Business Relationship Manager](#).