

Third-Party Risk Management Checklist



Vendor Management Governance Documentation

Below are examples of governance documentation to be created or updated:

- ☐ Vendor management policy (requirements and responsibilities)
- ☐ Vendor management program (how policy is executed)
- ☐ Vendor management procedures (steps/directions to accomplish policy)

Foundational Documents/Baseline Due Diligence

These should be used from the vetting process through ongoing oversight and monitoring:

- ☐ Mutual non-disclosure agreement (MNDA) or confidentiality agreement
- ☐ Basic information (full legal name, address, all physical locations, website URL)
- ☐ Biographies of key managers and ownership (if needed)
- ☐ Ownership structure and affiliated companies
- ☐ Tax ID (can be found in the W9)
- ☐ State of incorporation
- ☐ Certificate/Articles of incorporation
- ☐ Secretary of State check
- ☐ Business license
- ☐ Certificate of good standing
- ☐ Credit report
- ☐ OFAC/PEP checks
- ☐ Any "doing business as" or "also/previously known as" (d/b/a, aka, pka)
- ☐ Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) report
- ☐ Vendor complaints research findings
- ☐ Vendor negative news search findings
- ☐ List of critical or pertinent subcontractors/fourth parties
- ☐ Picture or map view of facility (if required)
- ☐ Conduct check of CFPB Complaint Database and/or Better Business Bureau rating

**Some of the other documents listed in this checklist may also be a foundational document request (e.g., financials, SOC report, business continuity plan).*



Due Diligence Often Required (in addition to foundational/baseline requirements)

These should be used from the vetting process through ongoing oversight and monitoring:

FINANCIALS

- ☐ Audited financial statements/annual report (2-3 years; including income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement)
- ☐ Audit letter/opinion
- ☐ Management discussion and analysis on financial performance
- ☐ Outstanding legal/litigation matters (as available)
- ☐ Ongoing mergers & acquisitions/corporate restructuring matters (as available)

EXAMINATIONS AND REPORT

- ☐ External audit reports
- ☐ Regulatory regional office record of audit reports (FI's must request directly)
- ☐ Security testing (vulnerability, penetration and social engineering)
- ☐ Business continuity testing results
- ☐ Disaster recovery testing results
- ☐ SSAE 18, SOC 1, 2 or 3 and bridge letter

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- ☐ Any required licenses (e.g., state money transmitter license)
- ☐ PCI Attestation of Compliance (AoC)
- ☐ ISO certification(s)
- ☐ NIST certification
- ☐ Professional certifications (CISSP, CISA, CRISC, CPA, etc.)

INSURANCE

- ☐ General liability
- ☐ Cyber insurance
- ☐ Employee malfeasance
- ☐ Specific insurance standards required by business lines

INTERNAL EDUCATION

- ☐ Compliance education schedule
- ☐ Change management education schedule

DIAGRAMS

- ☐ Network diagram
- ☐ Data flow diagram, including any third party/fourth party
- ☐ Organization chart of affiliated companies and holding company
- ☐ Organization chart
- ☐ Interactive voice response (IVR)/call routing flows
- ☐ Service roadmap
- ☐ Application architecture

SLAs

- ☐ Provide record of outages and SLA violations (usually a contractual obligation)

SITE VISITS

The following may need to occur as part of your due diligence.

- ☐ Office walk through
- ☐ Data center walk through
- ☐ On-site documentation review

POLICIES AND PLANS

- ☐ Anti-money laundering (AML) detection policies
- ☐ Compliance policies
- ☐ Change management policy
- ☐ Information security policy
- ☐ Business continuity policy (including disaster recovery and pandemic plans)
- ☐ Record retention/data destruction policy
- ☐ Hiring policies (drug testing, background check)
- ☐ Social media policy
- ☐ Vendor management policy
- ☐ Complaint management policy
- ☐ Privacy policy
- ☐ Service delivery policy

**The above is a list of common due diligence requirements we often see and should only be used as a reference. Specific due diligence requirements should be based on your organization's policy and the vendor relationship's criticality and risk level.*

Risk Assessments

- ☐ Determine the vendor's criticality and inherent risk level
- ☐ Determine the residual risk level (after due diligence and inherent assessment are completed)

Contracts

Provisions to include:

- ☐ Scope of service
- ☐ Rights/responsibilities of the parties
- ☐ Pricing methods
- ☐ Term/renewals/termination
- ☐ Performance standards
- ☐ Liability
- ☐ Indemnification
- ☐ Proprietary information
- ☐ Security and confidentiality
- ☐ Internal controls
- ☐ Reports
- ☐ Business continuity
- ☐ Subcontracting
- ☐ Compliance with applicable laws and regulatory expectations
- ☐ Right to audit

Contract Management

- ☐ Person(s) involved in internal planning
- ☐ Person(s) responsible for negotiation/creating/drafting
- ☐ Person(s) authorized for approving/executing
- ☐ Storing (central repository with tracking of significant dates)
- ☐ Managing (e.g., service delivery, performance, ongoing relationship)

Reporting

It's recommended to provide reports on a regular, recurring basis to senior management, the board and your compliance and audit committees. A typical report contains the following with a page dedicated to each topic:

- ☐ Executive summary providing reporting highlights and any actions or decisions requested
- ☐ Overall inventory (e.g., actively managed vendors, percentages of critical and non-critical vendors) with trends showing increase/decrease over same period previous year
- ☐ New regulatory requirements (e.g., any that require changes to governance documents)
- ☐ Due diligence and vendor selection (e.g., status of current and ongoing vendor selection processes)
- ☐ Risk assessments (e.g., number of vendors with risk assessments completed, significant changes)
- ☐ Vendor risk issues (e.g., concerns with a contract, vendor isn't meeting SLA performance)
- ☐ Reporting timeline (e.g., timeline of the reports and meetings for the lines of business)
- ☐ Industry highlights (e.g., big news headlines like vendor announcements, vendor data breaches)
- ☐ Closing to wrap up by providing your contact information

Audit

Here's the how-to from start to finish:

- ☐ Review the audit notification
- ☐ Look over talking points provided by the auditors
- ☐ Evaluate the plan (e.g., opening meeting, periodic updates, closing)
- ☐ Determine where the auditors will work
- ☐ Decide who will answer the auditors' questions
- ☐ Establish a single point of contact
- ☐ Ensure your work product matches what is outlined in your program
- ☐ Create or update the vendor management governance documents
- ☐ Review your vendor list (be prepared to discuss the different vendor types)
- ☐ Review the document request lists
- ☐ Fully understand the scope of vendor monitoring practices
- ☐ Review your prior examination report for unaddressed items
- ☐ Address any prior examination items that have been missed
- ☐ Compare the prior examination to the new notice for changes in scope
- ☐ Communicate with your team regarding expectations
- ☐ Identify any potential concerns or clarify why you've done something a particular way, if needed
- ☐ Reciprocate auditor feedback
- ☐ Keep record of what you've provided
- ☐ Create an audit tracker (with findings, management's response, action items)

Download free sample assessments of vendor controls and see how Venminder can help you reduce your third-party risk management workload.



SAVE CHECKLIST

PRINT CHECKLIST