

Critical Entities Resilience (CER) – Are you Ready?

19 DEC 2025 – Wet betreffende de weerbaarheid van kritieke entiteiten / Loi relative à la resilience des entités critiques

In today’s **BANI (Brittle-Anxious-Non-Linear-Incomprehensible)** world, the **resilience** of essential services is critical to safeguarding Europe’s social and economic stability. To address growing physical threats, including terrorism, sabotage, and natural disasters, the European Union has introduced the **Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive**. Complementing key regulations such as **NIS2** (Network and Information Systems Directive) and **DORA** (Digital Operational Resilience Act), the CER Directive reinforces the EU’s commitment to **protecting vital infrastructure and strengthening collective resilience across public and private sectors, taking an all-hazard approach**.

The countdown has begun. Belgium has officially implemented a landmark law on the resilience of critical entities, transposing EU CER Directive 2022/2557 into national legislation.

If your organization operates in one of the below sectors, this is not a future concern—it’s an immediate priority.

-  Banking
-  Financial market infrastructure
-  Digital infrastructure
-  Transport
-  Energy
-  Health
-  Drinking water
-  Wastewater
-  Public administration
-  Space
-  Production, processing and distribution of foods

AS A SECTORAL AUTHORITY

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Sectoral authorities will **designate**, within their respective sector, **critical entities**.

NOTE: Entities designated critical under CER are automatically considered essential entities under NIS2.

The Belgian transposition of the CER Directive introduces a set of **mandatory obligations** for designated critical entities, focusing on the continuity of essential services through proactive risk management and resilience planning.

Understanding these core requirements is the first step towards building a robust compliance framework.

AS A CRITICAL ENTITY

- Within 6 months after notification**
Appoint a dedicated **CE Point of Contact** (art. 16)
The PoC coordinates with the competent authorities, manages all CER-related obligations internally and is available 24/7.
- Within 9 months after notification**
Conduct a comprehensive all hazards **risk assessment** (art. 17)
When assessing risks, the CE takes into account the sectoral risk assessment as well as threat analysis by OCAM and accounts for interdependencies with other sectors.
- Within 10 months after notification**
Develop a CE **Resilience Plan (WPE/PRE)** (art. 18)
Based on the results of the risk assessment, the CE develops and implements a robust plan including the inventory of critical infrastructure and covering prevention, protection, response and recovery.
- After completion of WPE/PRE**
Regularly conduct **exercises and simulations** (art. 18)
Such exercises and tests validate the effectiveness of the WPE/RPE and ensure organizational readiness for real-world incidents.
- From the start**
Establish an **incident notification** process (art. 20)
CE must notify competent authorities without delay and at latest within 24 hours of an incident that significantly disrupts or could disrupt the provision of essential services.

Resilience = a critical entity’s ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, resist, mitigate, absorb, accommodate and recover from an incident.

Critical Entity = a public or private entity designated by a Member State that provides an essential service.

Essential Service = a service which is crucial for the maintenance of vital societal functions, economic activities, public health and safety, or the environment.

Critical Infrastructure = an asset, a facility, equipment, a network or a system, or a part of an asset, which is necessary for the provision of an essential service.

You don't have to navigate this alone. We've been closely monitoring this legislative development and are ready to guide you through every step. Building genuine organizational resilience requires more than ticking boxes. It demands a structured, comprehensive approach



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