

A photograph of a factory floor with several large industrial engines or machinery units on an assembly line. The text "Manufacturing Risk Advisor" is overlaid in large white font, with "March/April 2018" below it in a smaller white font.

Manufacturing Risk Advisor

March/April 2018

Securing Supply Chains from Cyber Attacks

As connectivity in the manufacturing industry continues to increase due to technology, such as Internet of Things (IoT) devices, adaptive analytics models and cloud services, businesses may not be aware of new risk exposures in their supply chains. Even if your own business is secure, it's possible for hackers to infiltrate a third-party supplier and use the information they gain to bypass normal security measures. Here are some strategies you can use to secure your supply chains from cyber attacks:

- Clearly define the scope of liability in your contracts, and consider including language that protects you in the event of a cyber attack.
- Conduct regular audits of your suppliers' cyber security plans, especially if they rely on IoT devices or cloud services to conduct regular operations.
- Create a contingency plan in case hackers target one of your suppliers. A quick response can help secure your own systems and limit any business interruptions.

Call us at 920-921-5921 today for more help managing your supply chain and improving cyber security.

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OSHA Compliance Updates in 2018

Although the Trump administration's emphasis on deregulation has limited the amount of new and updated OSHA standards, there are still a number of upcoming compliance updates that manufacturers should be aware of. The following is a list of anticipated compliance dates and other updates for 2018:

- Most provisions of OSHA's [final rule on beryllium exposure](#) will become enforceable on March 12, 2018.
- The [final rule on respirable crystalline silica](#) for the general and maritime industries has a compliance date of June 23, 2018.
- Establishments affected by the [electronic reporting rule](#) must submit data from their calendar year 2017 OSHA 300A, 300 and 301 Forms by July 1, 2018.

Manufacturing Grows Despite Widening Trade Deficit

The U.S. trade deficit rose to \$566 billion in 2017, the largest such figure since 2008. The trade deficit measures the difference between a country's imports and exports, and is often used as a general indicator of economic health. Despite the growing trade deficit, the manufacturing industry grew for the 17th consecutive month in January, according to a report from the Institute for Supply Management. The report attributed the growth to rising orders and increased productivity, but also noted that employment is growing at a slower rate.