

Cyber Security Rules for Power Sector

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Why in news?

Recently the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) notifies new regulations to protect power sector from cyber-attack.

- **Effective from** - April 1, 2027.
- Power sector faced nearly 2 lakh cyberattacks during Operation Sindoor, all of which were discontented.
- **Coverage** - Applies to entities owning, operating or managing
 - Operational Technology (OT) infrastructure linked to the interconnected power system.
 - IT infrastructure physically or logically connected to OT systems.
- For generating companies, captive plants and energy storage systems - 50 MW and above.
- **Key data security measures** -
 - Sensitive data, including cloud-hosted and historical data, must be encrypted, securely stored, protected from unauthorised access.
 - Requirements also apply to vendors and cloud service providers.
- **Cyber Incident Reporting**
 - Cybersecurity incidents must be reported to CSIRT-Power and CERT-In within 6 hours.
 - Cyber sabotage involving critical systems: Report within 24 hours.
- **IT-OT Security**
 - Mandatory segregation of IT and OT systems.
 - OT equipment/services must be procured from trusted sources.
 - Remote OT operations, where required, must:
 - Be conducted within India.
 - Use a dedicated communication channel isolated from the internet.
- **Cybersecurity Audits** - New critical systems must undergo cybersecurity audits, vulnerability Assessment, penetration Testing (VAPT) before commissioning.
- **Vulnerability remediation**
 - Critical/High - Within 1 month
 - Medium/Low - Within 3 months
- **Institutional Requirements**
 - Appointment of Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and Alternate CISO.
 - 24×7 information security function.
 - Annual self-audits and maintenance of:

- Cyber-risk assessments
- Asset registers
- Incident-response plans.
- **Capacity Building & Monitoring**
 - Mandatory cybersecurity training for personnel handling critical systems.
 - Continuous monitoring of IT and OT systems.
 - Periodic cybersecurity exercises.
- **Institutional Support**
 - CSIRT-Power was established at CEA in April 2023 as an extended arm of CERT-In.
 - Helps power utilities detect, respond to and manage cyber incidents.



Reference

[Times of India| Cyber Security Rules for Power Sector](#)