

vSEC, LLC

Cyber Security Consulting

FINRA Releases its 2023 Examination and Risk Monitoring Report

FINRA released its [2023 Report on FINRA's Examination and Risk Monitoring Program](#) in January 2023. The report provides an overview and update on critical operational, control and compliance topics for securities brokers, with a summary of relevant rules, recent issues, and recommendations for members. There are new sections this year, including *Financial Crimes*, which covers *Cybersecurity and Technology Governance*. As FINRA states, “**cybersecurity remains one of the principal operational risks facing broker-dealers**”, and FINRA ‘**expects firms to develop and maintain reasonably designed cybersecurity controls consistent with their risk profile, business model and scale of operations**’.



vSEC, a cybersecurity consulting firm with deep financial industry experience, can help members develop, implement and manage a cybersecurity program for their business, achieving cybersecurity operations consistent with FINRA guidelines. Support includes:

- **Risk Assessments.** Use FINRA and / or other security frameworks to assess cybersecurity risk and design, implement or update a cybersecurity program based on prioritized findings.
- **Cybersecurity Awareness Training.** Implement annual training and ongoing awareness tests.
- **Access Controls for Systems and Data.** Implement and manage access control policies and procedures to protect key systems and confidential data. FINRA observed the importance of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for systems access, and Data Loss Prevention (DLP) monitoring for data.
- **Vendor Risk Management.** Establish and manage a vendor risk management program, focusing on vendors providing business critical services and with access to confidential data.
- **Incident Response Plans.** Develop and test policies and procedures to prepare for cybersecurity incidents. This includes plans to restore systems and data after a ransomware attack, as well as protecting files to support forensic analysis.

Cybersecurity is a critical requirement, and vSEC helps businesses implement effective programs to meet their needs, consistent with FINRA and other regulatory guidelines.

Contact info@vsecllc.com to learn how we can help with your cyber security needs.