

Northeast Fraud Prevention Checklist for Businesses

ADOPTION OF A FORMAL CODE OF ETHICS		CYBERSECURITY MEASURES	
ADOPTION OF A FORMAL CODE OF ETHICS			CIBERSECORIT MEASORES
	Implement and comprehensive code of ethics for all finance officers.		Ensure all systems and software are up to date with the latest security patches.
	Regularly update the code to reflect new regulations and best practices.		Use firewalls, antivirus, and anti-malware software to protect against cyber threats.
	Ensure that all employees are aware of and understand the code.		Require the use of complex passwords and change them regularly.
FINANCIAL CONTROLS			Enforce multi-factor authentication for all access points.
	Separate responsibilities for financial transactions among different employees to reduce the risk of fraud.		Conduct regular training sessions on cybersecurity best practices, including recognizing phishing attempts and avoiding unsafe websites.
	Conduct regular reconciliations of bank statements, credit card statements, and accounting record.		Encrypt sensitive data both in transit and at rest to protect it from unauthorized access.
	Establish clear approval processes for all		
	financial transactions, including expenditures, invoices, and payroll.	PHYSICAL SECURITY	
	Implement strict procedures for managing accounts payable and receivable to prevent unauthorized transactions		Use security badges, access codes and surveillance systems to monitor and control access to the workplace.
			Store sensitive documents in locked
EMPLOYEE CONTROLS			cabinets and restrict access to authorized personnel only.
	Conduct thorough background checks on all new hires, especially those handling financial transactions or sensitive information.		Shred confidential documents before disposal.
	Implement monitoring systems to track employee activities and detect any unusual behavior.		

VENDOR & THIRD-PARTY MANAGEMENT		INCIDENT RESPONSE	
	Conduct due diligence when selecting vendors and third-party partners, including background checks and reference verification.		Create a comprehensive fraud response plan outlining steps to take in the event of a fraud incident.
	Perform regular audits of vendor invoices and contracts to ensure accuracy and legitimacy.		Designate a team responsible for managing and investigating fraud incidents.
	Include fraud prevention clauses in contracts with vendors and third parties, outlining consequences for fraudulent		Document all fraud incidents thoroughly and report them to relevant authorities and stakeholders.
	activities.	After an incident, review the response and	
	FINANCIAL REPORTING & AUDITS		pdate policies and procedures to prevent future occurrences.
	Schedule regular internal and external audits to review financial statements and business operations.	POLICIES & PROCEDURES	
	Develop and maintain strong internal controls to detect and prevent fraud.		Establish detailed procedures for all financial transactions.
	Maintain detailed audit trails for all financial transactions to facilitate tracking and investigation of discrepancies.		Ensure transparency and accountability in the processing of financial transactions.
CUSTOMER & CLIENT INTERACTIONS			Regularly review and update policies to address any emerging issues.
	Implement verification procedures for new customers and large transactions to prevent identity theft and fraud.		Create a safe and anonymous reporting system for unethical behavior.
	Use secure payment processing systems and avoid storing sensitive payment information.		Encourage employees to report any suspected unethical practices.
	Educate customers about common fraud schemes and how to protect their information.		Implement a zero-tolerance policy for retaliation against whistleblowers.