

Austrian Data Protection Act (DSG) — 2018

Austria's Data Protection Act sets national legal requirements for processing personal data to implement the EU GDPR and protect privacy.

DSG

What it is

The Austria Data Protection Act (Datenschutzgesetz, or DSG) is a national data protection regulation that establishes legal requirements for handling personal data, supporting the implementation and enforcement of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) within Austria. The law aims to ensure that organizations respect individuals' privacy rights and apply robust measures to protect personal information.

Published and maintained by the Austrian Federal Government, the DSG is applicable to all organizations processing personal data in Austria or targeting Austrian residents. It covers critical areas such as data processing principles, data subject rights, security obligations, and oversight by the Austrian Data Protection Authority. The DSG operates alongside GDPR, adding national provisions and clarifying local interpretations relevant to cybersecurity, data governance, and regulatory compliance.

At a glance

PUBLISHER Rechtsinformationssystem des Bundes (RIS)	TYPE Regulation	VERSION Austria Data Protection Act (DSG)
EFFECTIVE January 1, 2000	DOMAIN Privacy	FAMILY Global Privacy Regulations
REGION Austria	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY Moderate

Source: <https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10001597>

Why it matters

- **Strengthen data protection practices** Support consistent, organization-wide safeguards to protect personal information and uphold individuals' privacy rights.
- **Enhance regulatory alignment** Ensure business activities are fully aligned with both Austrian DSG and EU GDPR data protection obligations.
- **Improve audit readiness** Maintain comprehensive records and controls, enabling organizations to demonstrate compliance during audits and regulatory reviews.
- **Support rapid incident response** Improve preparedness for detecting, reporting, and mitigating data breaches or privacy incidents in line with legal requirements.

How SmartSuite supports DSG 2018

Personal Data Inventory and Mapping

Track personal data assets, systems, and processing activities across the organization.

Consent and Processing Governance

Maintain records of processing activities, legal bases for processing, and consent documentation.

Data Subject Rights Management

Automate access, correction, and deletion requests with deadlines and full audit trails.

Privacy Risk and Impact Assessments

Track privacy impact assessments, approvals, mitigation actions, and compliance documentation.

Vendor and Processor Oversight

Monitor vendors and processors that handle personal data on behalf of the organization.

Privacy Control Coverage and Regulatory Readiness Reporting

Provide dashboards and reports that show privacy control coverage and regulatory readiness.

Common framework mappings

APEC PF

GDPR

ISO 27001:2022

ISO 27701

NIST Privacy Framework v1.0

OECD Privacy Guidelines

Official resources

Austria Data Protection Act (DSG) Text

Provides the full legal text of the Austria Data Protection Act (DSG).

[ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?](https://ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10001597)

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Austrian Data Protection Authority Guidance

Outlines guidance from the Austrian Data Protection Authority on implementing the DSG.

dsb.gv.at

GDPR and DSG Complementary Measures

Describes how the DSG complements the EU GDPR in Austria.

ris.bka.gv.at

DSG Amendment Documents

Provides updates and amendments related to the Austria Data Protection Act.

[ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?](https://ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10001597)

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Frequently asked questions

What is the Austria Data Protection Act (DSG) used for?

The Austria Data Protection Act (DSG) establishes national requirements for processing personal data and ensures the protection of individuals' privacy rights in Austria. It functions alongside the EU GDPR to clarify and enforce data protection obligations specific to Austrian organizations and residents.

Is the Austria Data Protection Act (DSG) mandatory?

Yes, compliance with the DSG is mandatory for all organizations that process personal data in Austria or target Austrian residents, regardless of size or sector. Non-compliance can result in regulatory investigations and administrative penalties imposed by the Austrian Data Protection Authority.

Who does the DSG apply to?

The DSG applies to any public or private entity that processes personal data in Austria or offers goods or services to Austrian citizens. This scope covers businesses, government agencies, and non-profits that handle personal information.

What are key compliance requirements under the Austria DSG?

Key requirements include following data processing principles, safeguarding personal data with appropriate technical and organizational measures, maintaining records of processing activities, and supporting data subject rights such as access and erasure.

Organizations must also conduct data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) for high-risk processing.

How does an organization implement the Austria DSG?

Organizations should integrate privacy controls into their information security and compliance processes, map processing activities to DSG and GDPR obligations, conduct risk assessments, perform DPIAs, and ensure staff training on data protection responsibilities. Regular reviews and updates to privacy policies and security measures are also necessary.

How does the Austria DSG relate to the EU GDPR?

The DSG complements the EU GDPR by adding national interpretations and provisions specific to Austria, such as local enforcement procedures or sectoral requirements. Organizations subject to GDPR in Austria must also comply with any stricter or additional requirements set by the DSG.

What are the ongoing compliance and documentation requirements for the Austria DSG?

Ongoing obligations include maintaining up-to-date records of processing activities, responding promptly to data subject requests, monitoring for security incidents, and notifying breaches in accordance with regulatory timelines. Regular internal audits and staff training help ensure sustained compliance.

How would SmartSuite support Austria Data Protection Act (DSG)?

SmartSuite assists with DSG compliance by enabling organizations to map controls and processing activities, track risks, manage evidence collection for regulatory reviews, and maintain a comprehensive audit trail. Built-in tools for policy management, incident reporting, and compliance dashboards facilitate ongoing monitoring, audit readiness, and documentation for Austrian data protection requirements.

License included / downloadable: Yes Austria's Data Protection Act is publicly available through official Austrian government legal resources.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/austrian-data-protection-act-dsg-2018