SmartSuite

Framework / Privacy / Global Privacy Regulations

Malaysia PDPA 2010

Malaysia's PDPA 2010 is a law regulating private-sector processing, protection, cross-border transfer, and individuals' rights over personal data.



What it is

The Malaysia Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) 2010 is a national data protection regulation that helps organizations safeguard personal data in commercial transactions and ensure responsible data management practices. Its primary purpose is to regulate the processing of personal data in the private sector and provide individuals with rights over their personal information.

Enacted and overseen by the Malaysian government, specifically the Department of Personal Data Protection (JPDP), PDPA 2010 is applicable to private sector organizations operating within Malaysia that process personal data. The Act addresses key areas such as data collection, use, disclosure, security measures, data subject rights, and cross-border data transfers, making it a core component of privacy governance and compliance oversight for businesses in Malaysia.

At a glance

PUBLISHER Personal Data Protection Department (Malaysia)	TYPE Framework	VERSION Personal Data Protection Act 2010
EFFECTIVE November 15, 2013	DOMAIN Privacy	FAMILY Global Privacy Regulations
REGION Malaysia	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY Moderate

Source: https://www.pdp.gov.my

Why it matters

- **Strengthen data protection practices** Establish clear requirements for handling personal information, reducing risks of unauthorized access, misuse, or disclosure.
- **Enhance customer trust and confidence** Demonstrate commitment to safeguarding data privacy, helping organizations build stronger and more transparent relationships with clients.
- **Support regulatory compliance** Align organizational processes with national legal obligations and minimize potential penalties arising from non-compliance with data protection laws.
- **Increase audit readiness** Maintain documentation and controls to support both internal and external privacy audits, simplifying regulatory reporting requirements.

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How SmartSuite supports Malaysia PDPA 2010

Personal Data Inventory and Classification

Maintain records of personal data categories, purposes, and processing activities.

Consent and Purpose Limitation Management

Track consent collection, data usage restrictions, and lawful processing requirements.

Data Subject Rights and Access Requests

Manage access and correction requests with tracking, approvals, and audit trails.

Personal Data Security Measures

Track implementation of security measures protecting personal data confidentiality and integrity.

Data Incident and Regulatory Response Management

Monitor data incidents and manage response workflows and regulatory obligations.

PDPA Privacy Compliance Reporting

Provide dashboards showing privacy posture, control coverage, and PDPA compliance readiness.

Common framework mappings

APEC PF | CCPA/CPRA | GDPR | ISO 27001:2022 | ISO 27701 | NIST Privacy Framework v1.0 | Singapore PDPA

Official resources

Personal Data Protection Act 2010

Provides the full legal text of the Malaysia PDPA 2010 outlining personal data protection requirements.

pdp.gov.my/jpdpv2/guidelines/personal-data-protection-act-2010

PDPA 2010 Compliance Guide

Defines official guidance for organizations to comply with the Malaysia PDPA 2010.

pdp.gov.my/jpdpv2/guidelines/pdpa-2010-compliance-guide

Data User Registration Guidelines

Outlines the registration process for data users under the Malaysia PDPA 2010.

pdp.gov.my/jpdpv2/registration

Data Protection Policy Template

Provides a template for creating data protection policies in compliance with the PDPA 2010.

pdp.gov.my/jpdpv2/templates/data-protection-policy

Frequently asked questions

What is the Malaysia PDPA 2010 used for?

The Malaysia Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) 2010 is designed to regulate the processing of personal data in commercial transactions in the private sector. Its main purpose is to safeguard individuals' personal information and promote responsible data management by organizations.

Is compliance with the Malaysia PDPA 2010 mandatory?

Yes, compliance with the PDPA 2010 is mandatory for most private sector organizations that handle personal data within Malaysia. Non-compliance can result in enforcement actions and significant penalties by the Department of Personal Data Protection (JPDP).

Who does the Malaysia PDPA 2010 apply to?

The PDPA applies to private sector entities established in Malaysia or utilizing equipment in Malaysia to process personal data, especially when processing is related to commercial transactions. It does not generally apply to federal or state government agencies.

What are the key principles or requirements of the PDPA 2010?

The PDPA 2010 is built on statutory privacy principles including notice and consent, data disclosure, access and correction rights, data accuracy, retention limits, security, and cross-border data transfer restrictions. Organizations must operationalize these principles in their internal data protection practices.

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How should organizations implement PDPA 2010 requirements?

Organizations should establish privacy policies, conduct data protection impact assessments, map and inventory personal data processing activities, implement consent and access request procedures, and develop breach response plans. Routine risk assessments and ongoing monitoring support compliance.

How does the Malaysia PDPA 2010 relate to other data protection frameworks?

While the Malaysia PDPA 2010 shares similarities with frameworks like the EU's GDPR, it is tailored to Malaysian legal and regulatory contexts. Organizations handling cross-border data should align practices with PDPA requirements as well as applicable global standards.

What are the ongoing compliance requirements for the PDPA 2010?

Maintaining compliance requires continuous monitoring of data processing activities, periodic reviews of privacy notices and policies, regular training for employees, timely response to data subject requests, and prompt breach reporting as mandated by the Act.

How would SmartSuite support Malaysia PDPA 2010?

SmartSuite enables organizations to efficiently manage Malaysia PDPA 2010 compliance by mapping statutory principles to control libraries, maintaining a centralized risk register, and automating evidence collection for audits. It streamlines compliance tracking, remediation workflows, vendor risk management, and reporting, supporting audit readiness and continuous compliance.

License included / downloadable: Yes Malaysia's Personal Data Protection Act is publicly available through official Malaysian government publications.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/malaysia-personal-data-protection-act-pdpa-2010

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