

Norway Personal Data Act (Personopplysningsloven) — LOV-2018-06-15-38

Norway's Personal Data Act sets rules for processing personal data to protect individuals' privacy and ensure GDPR compliance.



What it is

The Norway Personal Data Act (Personopplysningsloven) is a national privacy and data protection regulation that establishes rules for processing personal data in Norway and ensures compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Its primary purpose is to safeguard individuals' fundamental rights and freedoms regarding the collection, storage, and use of personal information.

Enforced and maintained by the Norwegian Data Protection Authority (Datatilsynet), the Act applies to all organizations that process personal data concerning individuals in Norway. It covers areas including data processing governance, cybersecurity requirements, risk management, incident response, and individuals' privacy rights. The regulation aligns Norwegian national practices with the broader GDPR framework, ensuring a consistent approach to data protection across EEA countries.

At a glance

PUBLISHER Norwegian Data Protection Authority (Datatilsynet)	TYPE Regulation	VERSION Personal Data Act (Personopplysningsloven)
EFFECTIVE July 20, 2018	DOMAIN Privacy	FAMILY Global Privacy Regulations
REGION Norway	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY High

Source: <https://www.datatilsynet.no>

Why it matters

- Strengthen privacy governance** Establishes clear accountability and oversight structures for managing personal data throughout its lifecycle.
- Enhance regulatory alignment** Ensures organizational practices are consistently aligned with GDPR, reducing legal uncertainty and regulatory noncompliance risks.
- Support individual privacy rights** Promotes transparency and enables effective mechanisms for responding to data subject requests and concerns.
- Improve breach detection and response** Mandates timely incident notification and actionable response processes, helping organizations promptly manage and control data breaches.

How SmartSuite supports PPL

Personal Data Inventory and Mapping

Track personal data assets, systems, and data flows across the organization.

Records of Processing and Legal Basis Tracking

Maintain documentation of processing activities and legal bases for processing personal data.

Data Subject Rights Workflows

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

Privacy Risk and Impact Assessments

Track privacy impact assessments, approvals, mitigation tasks, and compliance evidence.

Vendor and Processor Governance

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

Privacy Compliance Reporting and Audit Readiness

Provide dashboards and reports showing privacy program coverage and regulatory readiness.

Common framework mappings

- APEC PF
- CCPA/CPRA
- GDPR
- ISO 27701
- NIST Privacy Framework v1.0
- UK DPA 2018
- UK GDPR

Official resources

Norwegian Personal Data Act (Personopplysningsloven)

Provides the full legal text of the Norway Personal Data Act, outlining personal data protection rules.

datatilsynet.no/regelverk-og-verktoy/lover-og-regler

Guidance on the Norwegian Personal Data Act

Describes detailed guidance on compliance with the Norway Personal Data Act and GDPR principles.

datatilsynet.no/regelverk-og-verktoy/lover-og-regler

Norwegian Data Protection Authority: Regulatory Sandbox

Outlines the sandbox approach for organizations to explore data protection innovations under the Act.

datatilsynet.no/regelverk-og-verktoy/sandkasse-for-kunstig-intelligens

Frequently asked questions

What is the Norway Personal Data Act used for?

The Norway Personal Data Act is designed to regulate the processing of personal data in Norway and ensure alignment with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Its primary purpose is to protect individuals' privacy rights by establishing rules for data collection, storage, usage, and security.

Is compliance with the Norway Personal Data Act mandatory?

Yes, compliance with the Norway Personal Data Act is mandatory for organizations that process personal data within Norway or concerning Norwegian residents. The Act is enforced by the Norwegian Data Protection Authority (Datatilsynet), and violations may result in significant administrative fines or corrective measures.

Who does the Norway Personal Data Act apply to?

The Act applies to all public and private sector organizations that process personal data about individuals in Norway. This includes data controllers and processors, regardless of organization size or industry, as long as personal information about Norwegian residents is handled.

What are the key requirements and artifacts of the Norway Personal Data Act?

Key requirements include establishing a lawful basis for processing, maintaining records of processing activities, implementing security controls, and enabling data subject rights such as access, rectification, and erasure. Organizations must also conduct risk assessments and document incident response procedures.

How do organizations implement the Norway Personal Data Act?

Implementation involves integrating privacy governance into operational processes, performing data mapping and inventory, conducting regular risk assessments, and training staff on privacy obligations. Transparent privacy notices, robust access controls, and procedures for data breach notification are also essential.

How does the Norway Personal Data Act relate to the EU GDPR?

The Norway Personal Data Act serves as Norway's national implementation of the GDPR, ensuring that local data protection standards are harmonized with the broader European Economic Area (EEA) requirements. Most GDPR principles and rights are directly embedded in the Act, enabling cross-border data consistency.

What are the ongoing compliance obligations under the Norway Personal Data Act?

Ongoing compliance requires organizations to monitor and review data processing activities, maintain up-to-date documentation, respond promptly to data subject requests, and conduct regular internal audits. Organizations must also adapt policies to regulatory updates and maintain readiness for potential data breaches.

How would SmartSuite support the Norway Personal Data Act?

SmartSuite supports management of the Norway Personal Data Act by providing tools for risk tracking, centralized control management, and systematic evidence collection. The platform facilitates audit readiness with configurable records, policy governance modules, and automated compliance reporting, ensuring organizations can effectively demonstrate adherence to the Act's requirements.

License included / downloadable: Yes Norway's Personal Data Act is publicly available through official Norwegian government legal resources.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/norway-personal-data-act-personopplysningsloven