

Spain Royal Decree 1720/2007

Royal Decree 1720/2007 implements Spain's data protection law, specifying obligations and security measures for processing personal data.



What it is

Spain Royal Decree 1720/2007 is a data protection regulation that establishes detailed requirements for processing personal data, supporting compliance with Spain's Organic Law on Data Protection (LOPD). This regulation aims to safeguard individuals' privacy rights by defining procedures, security measures, and obligations for organizations handling personal data.

Issued by the Spanish government, Spain Royal Decree 1720/2007 applies to public and private organizations that collect, store, or process personal information in Spain. The regulation covers privacy governance, data security controls, recordkeeping, breach notification, and procedures to ensure data subjects' rights are upheld.

At a glance

PUBLISHER

Agencia Estatal Boletín Oficial del Estado

TYPE

Regulation

VERSION

2007

EFFECTIVE

21 de marzo de 2008

DOMAIN

Privacy

FAMILY

Global Privacy Regulations

REGION

Spain

ADOPTION MODEL

Regulatory Compliance

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY

High

Source: <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2008-979>

Why it matters

- **Strengthen data protection practices** Support consistent policies and technical measures for legally compliant processing, storage, and transfer of personal data.
- **Enhance regulatory alignment** Enable organizations to align with Spanish and EU data protection mandates, reducing legal exposure and compliance gaps.
- **Increase audit readiness** Establish documentation and operational procedures that facilitate internal reviews and external regulatory inspections.
- **Promote accountability and transparency** Clarify responsibilities for data handling and rights management, fostering greater trust among clients, employees, and partners.

How SmartSuite supports RD 1720/2007

National Cybersecurity Control Library Structure regulatory controls and obligations with ownership, scope, and implementation status.	Risk Assessment and Control Mapping Link cybersecurity risks to regulatory controls to prioritize mitigation and compliance efforts.	Policy and Governance Management Centralize policies, procedures, and approvals aligned to Spanish national cybersecurity requirements.
Authentication and Security Operations Manage authentication, access control, and operational security across systems and environments.	Incident Response and Reporting Workflows Track incidents and manage response and regulatory reporting obligations.	Compliance Monitoring and Executive Reporting Provide dashboards showing control coverage, risk posture, and regulatory readiness.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1

GDPR

ISO 27001:2022

ISO 27002:2022

ISO 27701

NIST CSF 2.0

NIST Privacy Framework v1.0

NIST 800-53 Rev.5

PCI DSS 4.0.1

SOC 2

Official resources

Spain Royal Decree 1720/2007 Regulation Text Official text of the Royal Decree 1720/2007 implementing Spain's Organic Law on Data Protection. boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2008-979	Spanish Data Protection Agency Guidelines Provides guidance by the Spanish Data Protection Agency for compliance with data protection laws. aepd.es/guias-y-herramientas/guias
AEPD Official Portal Outlines resources and documentation available from the Spanish Data Protection Authority. aepd.es	European GDPR and Data Protection References Describes the EU framework including Spain's integration of data protection standards. ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection_en

Frequently asked questions

- What is Spain Royal Decree 1720/2007 used for?**
Spain Royal Decree 1720/2007 provides the detailed regulatory framework for implementing Spain's Organic Law on Data Protection (LOPD). It sets out specific requirements for handling, processing, and securing personal data to ensure the fundamental rights of individuals are protected. Organizations use it as a baseline for establishing data privacy and security practices in line with national law.
- Is compliance with Royal Decree 1720/2007 mandatory?**
Yes, compliance with Royal Decree 1720/2007 is mandatory for all organizations processing personal data in Spain. It enforces legal obligations surrounding data privacy and security, with non-compliance potentially resulting in administrative sanctions and fines from Spanish regulators.
- What is the scope of Spain Royal Decree 1720/2007?**
The decree applies to any entity, public or private, that processes personal data in Spain, regardless of sector or industry. It covers data controllers and processors and applies to both automated and manual files, detailing responsibilities regarding data subject rights, security measures, and data transfer restrictions.

What are the key data protection principles established by Royal Decree 1720/2007?

Key principles include lawfulness, informed consent, purpose limitation, data minimization, and security of processing. The regulation also requires organizations to implement technical and organizational measures, document processing activities, and uphold data subject rights like access, rectification, and erasure.

How does an organization implement the requirements of Royal Decree 1720/2007?

Organizations should conduct a data mapping exercise, classify data files per their risk levels, and implement security measures proportionate to the risks identified (basic, medium, or high). Documentation such as security policies, access controls, and incident response procedures are also required to demonstrate ongoing compliance.

How does Royal Decree 1720/2007 relate to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)?

Royal Decree 1720/2007 predates and complements the GDPR, providing specificity for national implementation. While GDPR is directly applicable across the EU, the Decree covers additional administrative procedures and security measures that organizations in Spain must still observe alongside GDPR requirements.

What ongoing compliance activities are required under Royal Decree 1720/2007?

Ongoing tasks include regular security audits, updates to risk assessments, revision of internal policies, and maintaining up-to-date records of processing activities. Organizations must also manage data subject requests promptly and ensure all personnel are trained in data protection obligations.

How would SmartSuite support Spain Royal Decree 1720/2007?

SmartSuite can help organizations manage compliance by enabling robust risk tracking, centralized control management, and systematic evidence collection for audits. Its platforms streamline the documentation of security measures, facilitate access request tracking, and generate compliance reports, supporting ongoing audit readiness and regulatory conformity.

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Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/spain-royal-decree-1720-2007-regulation-implementing-organic-law-on-data-protection