SmartSuite

Framework / Privacy / APEC Privacy Framework

APEC Privacy Framework (2015)

The APEC Privacy Framework (2015) sets nine information privacy principles that APEC economies use to protect personal information while keeping data flowing across the region.



What it is

The APEC Privacy Framework (2015) is a set of nine Information Privacy Principles that APEC member economies endorse as a common base for protecting personal information while keeping information flowing across the Asia-Pacific region. It is guidance to economies, not a law and not a certification: each economy gives effect to it through legislation, administration, industry self-regulation, or a mix of them (paragraph 37).

APEC issued the first Framework in 2005, modeled on the 1980 OECD Guidelines. The 2015 update draws on concepts from the 2013 OECD Guidelines. The principles apply to personal information controllers in the public and private sectors: persons or organizations that control the collection, holding, processing, use, disclosure, or transfer of personal information.

At a glance

PUBLISHER Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	TYPE Framework	VERSION APEC Privacy Framework (2015 update of the 2005 Framework)
EFFECTIVE 2015	DOMAIN Privacy	FAMILY APEC Privacy Framework
REGION Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	ADOPTION MODEL Voluntary	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY Medium

Source: apec.org/publications/2017/08/apec-privacy-framework-(2015)

Why it matters

- **A common baseline** Nine principles give multinational teams one structure to compare against the differing privacy laws of APEC economies.
- **Proportionate duties** Safeguards and remedies scale to the likelihood and severity of harm, the sensitivity of the information, and the context in which it is held (paragraphs 20 and 28).
- **Accountability for transfers** Before transferring personal information, a controller should obtain consent or exercise due diligence so the recipient protects it consistently with the principles (paragraph 32).
- **A route to certification** The Framework refers to the CBPR system as an implementing measure, so principle-level work carries over to CBPR certification.

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How SmartSuite supports APEC PF

Principle-to-control library

Map each of the nine principles to policies, controls, and owners in Compliance Management.

Data inventory and flows

Record what personal information is collected, why, and where it travels, using Privacy Management data inventories.

Notice, choice, and use limits

Track privacy notice content, choice mechanisms, and purpose-compatibility decisions for each use of personal information.

Access and correction requests

Manage access and correction requests with reasonable-time targets and a record of exceptions, using Privacy Management requests.

Transfer due diligence

Record the consent or due diligence step for each transfer, with recipients tracked through Third Party Risk Management.

Privacy management program reporting

Use Enterprise Reporting to show oversight, incidents, and review dates that evidence the program to a regulator or accountability agent.

Common framework mappings

APEC CBPR System | Convention 108+ | GDPR | ISO 27701 | ISO 29100 | NIST Privacy Framework v1.0 | OECD Privacy Guidelines

Official resources

APEC Privacy Framework (2015)

Outlines principles for managing cross-border privacy risks among APEC economies.

apec.org/Publications/2017/08/APEC-Privacy-Framework-(2015)

APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules System

Provides guidelines for privacy certification facilitating data flows across borders.

cbprs.org

ENS portal (Centro Criptológico Nacional)

The CCN's official ENS portal: regulation, conformity process, certified entities and the STIC guides.

ens.ccn.cni.es/es

Frequently asked questions

Is the APEC Privacy Framework a law or a certification?

Neither. It is guidance endorsed by APEC economies, which give effect to it through legislation, administration, industry self-regulation, or a mix of them. The APEC CBPR system is the related certification, and it is voluntary.

What are the nine APEC Information Privacy Principles?

Preventing Harm, Notice, Collection Limitation, Uses of Personal Information, Choice, Integrity of Personal Information, Security Safeguards, Access and Correction, and Accountability. They are to be read as a whole rather than in isolation.

How does the APEC Privacy Framework relate to the CBPR system?

The CBPR system, endorsed by APEC Leaders in 2011, is a voluntary, accountability-based scheme that facilitates privacy-respecting information flows among APEC economies. The Framework names it, with the CPEA, as an implementing measure.

What is a privacy management program under the Framework?

Paragraph 44 says it should be tailored to the controller's scale and the sensitivity of its information, provide safeguards based on risk assessment, set up internal oversight and incident response, be overseen by trained accountable personnel, and be monitored and updated regularly.

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What changed between the 2005 and 2015 versions?

The 2005 Framework was modeled on the 1980 OECD Guidelines. The 2015 update draws on concepts from the 2013 OECD Guidelines, with due regard for the legal features and context of the APEC region.

License included / downloadable: Yes APEC publishes the APEC Privacy Framework (2015) as a free PDF on apec.org. The text is not included with the platform.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/apec-privacy-framework-2015

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