

Data Protection Officer Requirements by Country

Increasingly, privacy and data protection laws around the world require organizations to designate a data protection officer to translate legal protections into practical reality. This chart catalogues those requirements but does not include the many additional instances in which a DPO is recommended but not required. If you are aware of additional material that should be included here, please email the Westin Research Center at research@iapp.org.

	Legal instrument	Terminology	Scope	Tasks	Structure	Training/expertise	Registration/notification
Australia	Privacy (Australian Government Agencies — Governance) APP Code 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a privacy officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the agency advice on privacy matters. Handle internal and external privacy enquiries, complaints and requests for access to and correction of personal information. Maintain a record of the agency's PI holdings. Assist with the preparation of privacy impact assessments and maintain the agency's register of PIAs. Measure and document the agency's performance against the privacy management plan at least annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An agency may have one or more privacy officers. The privacy officer may serve as the required privacy champion, or the two positions may be separate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's "Privacy Officer Toolkit" describes useful skills and expertise and offers resources for privacy officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the OAIC contact information for the privacy officer in writing.
Bermuda	Personal Information Protection Act Part 2, Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a representative ("privacy officer"). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take responsibility for compliance with the act. Communicate with the commissioner. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish name of privacy officer in privacy notice.

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Brazil	General Data Protection Law Article 41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a DPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllers (could be circumscribed by data protection authority rules). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive and respond to complaints. Communicate with the DPA. Educate staff and contractors on personal data protection practices. Conduct other duties as prescribed by controller or set forth in DPA rules. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish identity and contact information.
Canada	Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act Schedule 1, 4.1 Principle 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate an individual or individuals who are accountable for the organization's compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered entities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account for the organization's compliance with act's principles. Handle complaints or inquiries from individuals. 			
China	Personal Information Security Specification 11.1(b)(d-e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a person and a department responsible for personal information protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take responsibility for data protection. Participate in important decisions on data processing. Coordinate data security efforts. Develop data protection plan. Develop/maintain data protection policies and procedures. Maintain list of personal data processed and access rights. Conduct data security assessment. Organize data security trainings. Conduct product testing to avoid unknown personal data collection, use, sharing and other processing. Handle complaints. Conduct security audits. Liaise with management and report personal data incident handling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to the principal of organization. Resourced as necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant management experience. Data protection expertise. 	

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Colombia	Law 1581/2012 Decree 1377 Articles 13(4) & 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate one person or area to assume the role of personal data protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllers and processors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assume the role of personal data protection. Handle data subjects' requests. <p>Non-binding SIC guidance lays out additional tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist organizations implementing policies and procedures to comply with the data protection regulation. Monitor compliance and the data protection program. Train staff and conduct internal audits. Serve as contact point for DPA. Submit information related to processing operations to the National Registry of Databases of the Colombian DPA. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include designated person or area responsible for data protection in privacy notice.
Egypt	Personal Data Protection Law Articles 8-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a competent employee to be responsible for the protection of personal data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllers and processors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take charge of application of the law. Monitor compliance. Receive and respond to data subject requests. Evaluate personal data protection systems, document results and issue recommendations. Maintain personal data records. Take corrective actions for violations. Train staff. Implement security procedures. Liaise with DPA, notify DPA of infringements and implement decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent employee of entity. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with DPA.

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EU member states (27)	General Data Protection Regulation Articles 37–39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a DPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public authority or body processing data, except courts. Controllers or processors whose core activities require regular and systematic monitoring of data subjects on a large scale. Controllers or processors whose core activities include processing on a large scale of special categories of data. Where required by EU member state law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and advise on data protection requirements. Monitor compliance. Advise organization on data protection impact assessments. Cooperate with DPA. Serve as contact for individuals and DPA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff member or contractor. Resourced to carry out tasks and maintain expertise. Report to highest management level. No instructions or dismissal with regard to tasks. Bound by confidentiality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional qualities. Expert knowledge of data protection law and practices. Ability to fulfill legally mandated tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish contact information and communicate it to DPA (see how to do so by country).
Mauritius	Data Protection Act Section 22(2)(e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate an officer responsible for data protection compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take responsibility for data protection compliance. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform data subject of DPO identity at time of collection. Maintain DPO contact details in record of processing.
Mexico	Federal Law on Protection of Personal Data Held by Private Parties Article 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a personal data person or department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process requests from data subjects. Promote data protection within the organization. 			

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New Zealand	Privacy Act Part 9 Section 201	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint as privacy officers for the agency one or more individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered entities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handle individual requests. Liaise with DPA on investigations. Ensure compliance with the act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff member or contractor. 		
Nigeria	Data Protection Regulation Section 3.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a DPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adherence to the regulation. Follow the controller's data protection directives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff member or contracted firm or individual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires continuous capacity building for DPOs and personnel involved in data processing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide contact information to data subjects prior to collection.
Philippines	Data Privacy Act Section 21(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate an individual or individuals who are accountable for the organization's compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account for the organization's compliance with the act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or more individuals. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make identity of designated individual(s) available to data subject upon request. Register with DPA.
Russia	Data Protection Act Section 22.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a person responsible for organizing the processing of personal data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operator, which is a legal entity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize the processing of personal data. Exercise internal control over compliance with personal data-related legislation. Educate the operator and employees regarding personal data-related requirements. Handle data subject requests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountable to operator's executive body. 		

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San Marino	Law 171/2018 Articles 38-40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a DPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public authority or body processing data, except courts. Controllers or processors whose core activities require regular and systematic monitoring of data subjects on a large scale. Controllers or processors whose core activities include processing on a large scale of special categories of data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and advise on data protection requirements. Monitor compliance. Advise organization on data protection impact assessments. Train staff. Cooperate with DPA. Serve as contact for individuals and DPA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff member or contractor. Resourced to carry out tasks and maintain expertise. Report to highest management level. No instructions or dismissal with regard to tasks. Bound by confidentiality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional qualities. Expert knowledge of data protection law and practices. Ability to fulfill legally mandated tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish contact information and communicate it to the DPA.
Singapore	Personal Data Protection Act Section 11(3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate one or more individuals to be responsible for ensuring the organization complies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered entities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure compliance with the act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person or team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PDPC DPO Competency Framework and Training Roadmap. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish contact information.

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South Africa	Protection of Personal Information Act Chapter 5, Part B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate an information officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and private bodies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage lawful processing of personal information. Handle individual requests. Liaise with regulator on investigations. Ensure compliance with the act. Other duties, as prescribed. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with regulator.
South Korea	Personal Information Protection Act Article 31(1) Enforcement Decree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a privacy officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered entities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage data processing. Establish data protection plan. Survey and improve data processing. Address grievances with data processing. Build controls to prevent misuse of personal data. Educate staff about data protection. Protect, control and manage data files. Implement corrective measures for violations and report them to head of organization. Establish and implement a privacy policy. Maintain materials related to data protection. Destroy personal data once processing purpose is complete or retention period expires. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not be disadvantaged without justifiable grounds. 		

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Thailand	Personal Data Protection Act Sections 41 & 42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a DPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data controllers and processors which are (1) public authorities; (2) engaged in regular monitoring of individuals on a large scale; (3) processing sensitive data as a core activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give advice with respect to compliance with the act. Investigate data processing for compliance with the act. Cooperate with the regulator. Maintain confidentiality of personal data. Other duties as assigned that do not conflict with duties under the act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliated controllers and processors can designate a single DPO. Staff member or contractor. Must be provided adequate tools, equipment and data access. Report to chief executive and protected from dismissal for performing tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulator may prescribe qualifications related to knowledge or expertise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate in writing. Provide contact details to data subjects and regulator.
Uganda	Data Protection and Privacy Act Article 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a person as the DPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions (i.e., covered entities other than individuals or public bodies). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure compliance with the act. 			
Ukraine	Data Protection Law Article 24(2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a unit or responsible person to organize the work related to personal data protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State and local governments; controllers and processors processing data of particular risk to the rights and freedoms of data subjects. Excludes sole traders, including doctors, attorneys and notaries, which are personally responsible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize the work related to personal data protection. Inform and advise the controller or processor on observance of the legislation. Cooperate with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and appointed officials on compliance. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights of responsible person, who will then publish the information.

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United Arab Emirates	ADGM Data Protection Regulations Articles 35–37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a DPO. 	Control or processing of data from within the Abu Dhabi Global Market, when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing by public authority or body, except courts. Core activities require regular and systematic monitoring of data subjects on a large scale. Core activities include processing on a large scale of special categories of data. Entities with fewer than five employees are excluded unless conducting high risk processing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and advise on data protection requirements. Monitor compliance. Raise organizational awareness and train staff. Advise organization on data protection impact assessments. Cooperate with the Commissioner of Data Protection. Serve as contact point for data subjects and commissioner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff member or contractor. Resourced to carry out tasks. Reports to highest management level. No instructions or dismissal regarding tasks. Bound by confidentiality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional qualities. Expert knowledge of data protection law and practices. Ability to fulfill legally mandated tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the Commissioner of Data Protection DPO contact details within one month of appointment and inform Commissioner of a DPO resignation and reason for it within same timeframe.

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United Kingdom	U.K. General Data Protection Regulation Articles 37–39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a DPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing by public authority or body, except courts. Data controllers or processors whose core activities require regular and systematic monitoring of data subjects on a large scale. Data controllers or processors whose core activities include processing on a large scale of special categories of data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and advise on data protection requirements. Monitor compliance. Advise organization on data protection impact assessments. Cooperate with the Information Commissioner’s Office. Serve as contact for individuals and ICO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff member or contractor. Resourced to carry out tasks and maintain expertise. Reports to highest management level. No instructions or dismissal regarding tasks. Bound by confidentiality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional qualities. Expert knowledge of data protection law and practices. Ability to fulfill legally mandated tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish contact information and communicate it to ICO.
United States	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Section 164.530(a)(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a privacy official. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIPAA-covered entities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement the policies and procedures of the entity. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain written or electronic record of designation.
Uruguay	Law 19670 Article 40 Decree 65/020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a DPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public entities. Fully or partially state-owned private entities. Private entities that process sensitive data as their main business and those that process large volumes of data (concerning more than 35,000 people). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on the formulation, design and application of data protection policies. Supervise compliance with regulations. Propose measures to conform to the regulations and international standards on data protection. Liaise with the regulator. Other tasks as assigned, which do not conflict with mandated duties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have technical autonomy and receive no instructions on performance of DPO function. Can be staff or contractor. Must have full access to personal databases and processing operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possess necessary qualifications to perform tasks. Knowledge in law, specialized in the protection of personal data, which must be accredited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate appointment to regulator within 90 days.