

Navigating Saudi Arabia's Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) with RSM Saudi Arabia

Your Trusted Partner for PDPL Compliance

Data privacy in Saudi Arabia has moved beyond compliance into a strategic business priority. Since 14 September 2024, the PDPL is fully enforced by SDAIA. Organisations that handle personal data with care are building trust, strengthening governance, and gaining competitive advantage. RSM Saudi Arabia combines expert advisory services with enterprise-grade privacy technology to help you protect data, meet every PDPL obligation, and build a lasting data governance capability.

Why PDPL Compliance Is a Business Imperative

PDPL compliance is not just about avoiding penalties – it is about building trust, enabling data-driven operations, and positioning your organisation for long-term success. Fines of up to SAR 5 million, 72-hour breach notification obligations, and doubled penalties for repeat violations make proactive compliance essential. Beyond regulation, organisations with strong data privacy practices earn greater customer trust, meet partner requirements more easily, and are better positioned to expand – while simultaneously building the data governance foundation for NDMO readiness and digital transformation.

Steps to Achieve PDPL Compliance

Data Discovery and Mapping

- Identify and map all personal data held by your organization.
- Understand data flows and classify data based on sensitivity.
- RSM assists in this process with comprehensive data mapping and classification services

Policy and Framework Development

- Develop comprehensive data protection policies aligned with PDPL requirements.
- Include employee guidelines, data retention policies, ROPA's, and data sharing agreements.
- RSM offers tailored policy development solutions to ensure compliance.

DPO Appointment and Management

- Appoint a qualified DPO under PDPL Article 30, or outsource to RSM
- RSM acts as your designated contact with SDAIA and NDMO
- Handles DSARs, breach notifications, and all regulatory interactions

Data Protection Impact Assessments

- Conduct DPIAs for all high-risk and sensitive data processing activities
- Embed DPIA workflows into project intake for new initiatives and vendors
- RSM pilots DPIAs with your team for practical, hands-on implementation

Cross-Border Data Transfers

- Identify all data flows leaving Saudi Arabia across systems and vendors
- SDAIA-recognised safeguards required, GDPR clauses alone are insufficient

Breach Notification and Ongoing Monitoring

- Build a tested framework to notify SDAIA within the mandatory 72 hours
- Regular compliance audits embedded in the internal audit calendar
- Ongoing monitoring, KPI tracking, and data protection reporting

The RSM Saudi Advantage

Partner with RSM Saudi to simplify compliance, strengthen data governance and mitigate risk. Our combined advisory expertise ensures you stay ahead of evolving regulations, while building lasting data governance capabilities across your organisation.



Proven track record of supporting organizations with complex compliance frameworks.



Localized expertise with global reach



Custom-tailored solutions for organizations of all sizes.

RSM Saudi's Comprehensive PDPL Compliance Services

DPO as a Service (Key Differentiator)

- Outsourced DPO function – expert coverage without the overhead of in-house staffing
- Ongoing advisory support and monitoring to address emerging compliance needs
- Designated SDAIA and NDMO contact for regulatory interactions and notifications

Technology-Enabled Compliance Implementation

- Automated data discovery, classification, and mapping across all systems – deployed securely in your environment
- RoPA automation, DSAR workflows, consent tracking, DPIA management, and retention enforcement
- Secure read-only integration with core systems – configuration-based, no code changes required
- Policy development: Data Protection, Breach Response, Retention, Cross-Border Transfers, RoPA
- Staff training programmes: leadership, operations, DPO and privacy champions
- SDAIA registration support and communication protocol setup

Governance, Risk Management & Value-Added Benefits

- Breach Notification Procedures – Ensure timely reporting within 72 hours of detection
- Regular Compliance Audits – Establish an ongoing review cycle to maintain adherence
- Deep data visibility – Data maps, sensitivity tagging, ownership identification across the enterprise
- Ongoing Monitoring & Reporting – Continuous assessment of data protection measures
- Foundation for NDMO readiness – supports data quality, lineage, and governance maturity

Don't wait until it's too late. **Protect your organization from penalties and safeguard your reputation with RSM Saudi Arabia.**

Start Your Compliance Journey Today!

Contact Us Today

[Book A Consultation For DPO services](#)

[Schedule A Readiness Check](#)

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