



A Guide to the Malaysia PDPA Amendment 2024

Mastering Data Protection for a
Data-Driven Future in Malaysia



Why This Guide?

Malaysia’s recent PDPA Amendment 2024 is reshaping data protection standards, raising the bar for privacy, accountability, and security. This quick-reference cheat sheet condenses the most critical changes and actionable steps your organisation can take to stay compliant and ahead of cyber threats in a more digitalised landscape.



The Malaysia Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2024

- Effective 1 April 2025
- Effective 1 June 2025

Aspect	Original	Amendment
● Terminology For Data User	Used to be "Data User" and "Data Users"	Replaced with "Data controller" and "Data controllers"
● Sensitivity of Biometric Data	Biometric data was not included under the definition of "sensitive personal data"	Biometric data is now considered "sensitive personal data"
● Data Processor Obligations	Data Processors not obliged to comply with the Security Principle	Data Processors are now obliged to comply with the Security Principle and will be subject to penalties if there is a breach
● Penalties for Non-compliance with the PDPA	Fines up to RM300,000 and/or two years of imprisonment	Higher fines up to RM1,000,000 and/or longer imprisonment terms up to three years
● Cross-Border Data Transfer Rules	Follows the white-list regime, where a Data User shall not transfer any personal data to a place outside Malaysia unless it is to a place specified by the Minister	The white-list regime will be removed, allowing data transfers to countries with equivalent data protection standards (i.e. laws substantially similar to the PDPA or provides similar level of protection as the PDPA) or with the Data Subject’s consent
● Data Protection Officer Appointment	Not mandated	Data Controllers and Data Processors are now required to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) to oversee compliance, ensuring that data protection practices are consistently monitored and improved
● Data Breach Notification	Not mandated	Data Controllers are now required to notify the Personal Data Protection Commissioner (PDPC) and affected individuals in the event of a data breach
● Data Portability Rights	No provision	Data Subjects have been granted the right to Data Portability, allowing individuals to request transfers of their data between Data Controllers

How to Use This Guide

For quick reference:

Keep this guide at your desk as a checklist to ensure every aspect of your data protection strategy meets the new PDPA Amendment standards.

For Training & Awareness:

Use the insights shared here to inform and educate your team, particularly those directly involved in data processing and policy compliance.

Join now and transform your approach to data governance to ensure you're not just compliant but leading the way in data protection excellence.

Enrol in the DPO Hands-on Course Today!

LEARN MORE

