General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Compliance Audit



Kindly speak to our advisors at +603 4256 2689 admin@ggc.com

No 10, Jalan Rasmi 7, Taman Rasmi Jaya, 68000 Ampang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

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European Union (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The European Union (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was put into effect on May 25, 2018.

As businesses increasingly rely on technology, it requires to comply with strict obligations, ensure personal data are treated with care and ethical consideration. It covers all businesses operating in the EU, whether they are based inside or outside the EU.

It also applies both to the personal data of individuals living in the EU and also to the export of personal data to countries outside the EU.

The GDPR will levy harsh fines against those who violate its privacy and security standards. Failure to comply with these requirements can result in market losses and fines of up to 4% of global annual turnover or €20 million – whichever is greater.

This constitutes a major legal and financial risk for any company active on the European market.

The 7 Essentials

- Data consent: A company that collects data on individuals must have "unambiguous" consent from those individuals — silence, preticked boxes, or inactivity do not count as consent.
- Data portability: Companies must be willing to move personal data to another location or company, even a direct competitor, if requested by the consumer.
- 3. Data deletion: Companies must delete personal data when requested by an individual.
- Consumer profiling: Individuals can contest, object to, and request explanation for automated decisions or decisions made by algorithms.
- Data protection: The GDPR has strict, specific data security requirements, and stronger enforcement. Data encryption is especially important.
- 6. Data breach notification: The GDPR has a specific definition for what constitutes a breach of "personal" data, along with strict requirements for notifying affected individuals if a breach occurs.
- Data Protection Officer (DPO): All companies that store or process large amounts of personal data must appoint or hire a data protection officer (DPO), who will drive data security and oversee GDPR compliance.

