



A framework regulating cross-border personal data transfer

A few days preceding the entry into force of the Personal Data Protection Law (the “PDPL”) on September 14, 2023, the Saudi Authority for Data and Artificial Intelligence (SDAIA) issued the Regulation on Personal Data Transfer Outside the Kingdom (the “Regulation”).

The Regulation mainly provides additional purposes allowing data transfer abroad, in addition to the ones listed under Article 29(1) of the PDPL, and eases the requirements provided for under Article 29(2)(B) of the PDPL, allowing cross-border data transfer even when there is not an adequate level of protection for personal data outside the Kingdom, subject to the limitations set out in the Regulation.

SDAIA is expected to issue guidelines providing further clarity on the implementation of the Regulation. Noting that the latter came into force on September 14, 2023.



A regulation intended to enhance data centers’ services

In a major step towards encouraging digital transformation turning the Kingdom into a regional hub and digital station capable of attracting digital content and investment by leading multinational companies, the Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST) issued in August 2023 the Kingdom’s first Data Centers Services Regulation (the “Regulation”).

The scope of the Regulation encompasses both wholesale and retail data center service providers offering data center services in the Kingdom. Data center service providers are required to register through the CST electronic portal in one of the four different categories

that corresponds to their respective level of development: the qualifying category, the limited category, the standard category, and the advanced category.

Moreover, data center service providers who fail to abide by the Regulation, are subject to the fines and penalties provided for under the Telecom and Information Technology Law and related regulations.



A newly established Insurance Authority

The Council of Ministers approved by Resolution No (85) dated 28/01/1445H. the establishment of the Insurance Authority (the “**Authority**”) responsible for the regulation, development, and supervision of insurance works and services in the Kingdom.

The newly established Authority intends to regulate, supervise, and monitor the insurance sector in a manner that supports and enhances its effectiveness, develop insurance awareness, protect insured and beneficiaries’ rights, contribute to financial stability, strengthen and develop the insurance sector, and consolidate the principles and pillars of the insurance contractual relationship.

The Authority’s charters come into force 90 days following its publication in the Official Gazette on August 25, 2023.



A Regulation to improve passengers’ experience and protect their rights

The board of directors of the General Authority for Civil Aviation (GACA) approved by decision No (36/574) dated 18/11/1444H. the Regulation for the Protection of Passengers’ Rights (the “**Regulation**”).

The Regulation mainly intends to improve air transport services and enhance their efficiency, organize services provided to passengers, improve passengers’ experience, and ensure organized and safe transportation. It addresses diverse incidents such as flight delays, flight cancellations, reservation issues, lost and damaged luggage, and others.

The Regulation comes into force 90 days following its publication in the Official Gazette on August 25, 2023.