

European Data Protection Laws

Country	Legislation	Date enacted	Date in force	COE Ratified [see note]	Registration /notification	Manual Records	Legal Persons	Data export licence required
Austria	Data Protection Act	18 Oct 78	01 Jan 80	Yes	All data	Yes	Yes	Some data
Denmark	Private Registers Act	08 Jun 78	01 Jan 79	Yes	Some data	Yes	Yes	Some data
Finland	Data Protection Act	04 Feb 87	01 Jan 88	No	Some data	Yes	No	Some data
France	Data Processing, Data Files & Individual Liberties Act	06 Jan 78	01 Jan 80	Yes	All data	Yes	Yes	No
Germany	Data Protection Act	27 Jan 77	01 Jan 79	Yes	Some data	Yes	No	No
Guernsey	Data Protection Act	30 Jul 86	11 Nov 87	Yes	All data	No	No	No
Iceland	Systematic Recording of Personal Data Act	05 Jun 81	01 Jan 82	Yes	All data	Yes	Yes	All data
Ireland	Data Protection Act	13 Jul 88	19 Apr 89	Yes	Some data	No	No	No
Isle of Man	Data Protection Act	16 Jul 86	17 Oct 90	Yes	All data	No	No	No
Israel	Protection of Privacy Act	23 Feb 81	11 Sep 81	No	All data	No	No	No
Jersey	Data Protection Act	30 Apr 87	11 Nov 87	Yes	All data	No	No	No
Luxembourg	The Use of Name-Linked Data in Computer Processing Act	31 Mar 79	01 Oct 79	Yes	All data	No	Yes	No
Netherlands	Data Protection Act	28 Dec 88	01 Jul 89	No	Some data	Yes	No	No
Norway	Personal Data Registers Act	09 Jun 78	01 Jan 80	Yes	Some data	Yes	Yes	Some data
Portugal	Protection of Personal Data Act	29 Apr 91	04 May 91	No	All data	No	No	All data
Sweden	Data Act	13 May 73	01 Jul 74	Yes	All data	No	No	Some data
UK	Data Protection Act	12 Jul 84	11 Nov 87	Yes	All data	No	No	No

NOTES

- ✎ This table is intended to provide a summary of certain aspects of each law. It is not intended to be comprehensive or to render legal or other professional advice.
- ✎ Several laws have been amended since they were enacted. The table is based on information available at 1st June 1991 and is believed correct as at that date.
- ✎ All European data protection laws, subject to various exemptions, cover automated data in both public and private sectors relating to physical persons, give data subjects a right of access to records on themselves, together with a right of correction or a right to file a note of disagreement. All give powers to a Data Protection Authority to impose orders restricting the export of data in certain circumstances, and all contain provisions for imposing penalties on those who breach the law.
- ✎ "COE" means the Council of Europe's *Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Automatic Processing of Personal Data* (in force October 1985).