

大成 DENTONS

CHECKLIST

DATA SECURITY LAW OF CHINA



Are you on track for compliance with the Data Security Law of China?

On 10 June 2021, the Data Security Law (the “**DSL**”) was passed in the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and will take effect on 1 Sep 2021. The DSL serves as a fundamental legislation in the field of data security and compliance. Various obligations are imposed on entities that process any amount of data in and outside China. There is also expected to be a series of implementation rules to clarify the relevant obligations in the future.

How can multinational corporations prepare for compliance at this stage? We have listed the following the DSL Checklist to help companies grasp the important points and understand what they are suggested to do next to adapt to these rules more smoothly.

You also should be aware of the consequences in case of a violation. The legal liabilities may include warning, correction order, fine, suspension of business, and revocation of business license. This Checklist can serve as a quick-reference guide. On top of this, you are suggested to pay close attention to relevant updates. And it is highly recommended to ask professional law firms for help so that you can build reliable company policies and systems.

The DSL Compliance Checklist is as follows.

Category	Action(s) / Deliverable(s)	Article of DSL
1. Scope of Application and Extraterritorial Reach		
(1) Application Scope and Extraterritorial Reach	<input type="checkbox"/> Assess whether your organization is processing any data in China. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: “data” under the DSL refers to any record of information in electronic or non-electronic form. - Note: “data processing” include activities such as the collection, storage, use, refinery, transfer, provision, or public disclosure of the data. 	2
	<input type="checkbox"/> Assess whether your organization is processing any data outside China, which may have an impact on the national security, public interests, or the lawful rights and interests of citizens or organizations in China. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: this clause provides a broad scope of extraterritorial reach and the DSL does not give typical examples of such cases. Generally, processing data collected or generated from business operation in China will be caught by this clause. 	2
2. General Considerations for Data Processing		
2.1 Data Governance		
(2) Policy Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduce external facing terms of services, policies, guidelines, and/or directions (“ Policies and Guidelines ”) or review your existing Policies and Guidelines and make amendments to ensure compliance of relevant requirements under the DSL.	27
	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduce internal data security governance model and relevant operation guidelines or review existing internal Policies and Guidelines and make adjustments to ensure compliance of relevant requirements.	27
	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement policies on technical measures such as data encryption, data back-up and access control to ensure security.	27
	<input type="checkbox"/> If your organization is engaging in providing intermediary services for data transaction, such as a data	33

	broker, establish a policy to check the identity of the data provider and the data recipient.	
(3) Incident Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish a response policy for data security incidents.	29
	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish a mechanism to deal with notification to users and authorities about data security incidents.	29
(4) Trainings and Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide education and training programs on data security to employees with a role in data processing, security, or compliance.	27
2.2 Data Security Measures and Obligations		
(5) Data Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if your data is from legal and proper sources, for example, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarifying the scope, purpose, method, and security measures of data collected in each business scenario if the data is directly collected by yourself; - ensuring that there are measures to verify or commitments as to the lawfulness of data sources if the data is collected and provided by others and keep relevant records. 	32
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure to obtain an administrative license when processing the data that requires the license according to laws or administration regulations.	34
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct risk monitoring and adopt remedial measures immediately when your organization identifies risks such as data security defects or breaches.	29
(6) Multi-Level Protection Scheme (MLPS) of Cybersecurity	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if an MLPS assessment is properly conducted.	27
	<input type="checkbox"/> Perform data security obligations imposed by the DSL based on requirements of the corresponding security level (1 to 5) under the MLPS.	27
(7) Classification and Categorization of Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor updates issued by sectoral authorities and local authorities on catalogues of Important Data and National Core Data and ensure that they are implemented in your classification and categorization of data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Note: Important Data refers to “data that is closely related to national security, economic development and societal and public interests”.</i> - <i>Note: National Core Data refers to “data related to national security, the lifeblood of the national</i> 	21

	investigating crimes. <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm whether the authority can provide the official approval of data assess.	35
(12)Restrictions on Data Transfer to Foreign Authorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Report to the competent authorities of China and seek approval when the foreign judicial or law enforcement agencies make requests to access data.	36
3. Additional Considerations for Processing Important Data		
(13) Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Designate specific personnel and department to manage data security matters and set out clear functions, roles, responsibilities, and reporting lines for such personnel, if your organization is processing any Important Data.	27
(14)Risk Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Carry out risk assessments on processing activities related to Important / National Core Data on a regular basis.	30
	<input type="checkbox"/> Communicate proactively with competent authorities on risk assessment and submit reports upon requests or according to regulations.	30
(15)Cross-border Data Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Assess whether your organization may be considered as a critical information infrastructure operator (“CIIO”).	31
	<input type="checkbox"/> Localize all the Important Data collected and generated from business operation in China by your organization if it is a CIIO, and where it is necessary to export data, a security assessment procedure implemented by the authority shall be passed.	31
	<input type="checkbox"/> As a best practice, also localize all the Important Data collected and generated from business operation in China even though your organization is not a CIIO.	31