

STANDARD CONTRACTUAL CLAUSES – Module 3: Transfer processor to processor ("SCC P2P")

SECTION I

Clause 1

Purpose and scope

- (a) The purpose of these standard contractual clauses is to ensure compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation) ⁽¹⁾ for the transfer of personal data to a third country.
- (b) The Parties:
 - (i) the natural or legal person(s), public authority/ies, agency/ies or other body/ies (hereinafter 'entity/ies') transferring the personal data, as listed in Annex I.A (hereinafter each 'data exporter'), and
 - (ii) the entity/ies in a third country receiving the personal data from the data exporter, directly or indirectly via another entity also Party to these Clauses, as listed in Annex I.A (hereinafter each 'data importer') have agreed to these standard contractual clauses (hereinafter: 'Clauses').
- (c) These Clauses apply with respect to the transfer of personal data as specified in Annex I.B.
- (d) The Appendix to these Clauses containing the Annexes referred to therein forms an integral part of these Clauses.

Clause 2

Effect and invariability of the Clauses

- (a) These Clauses set out appropriate safeguards, including enforceable data subject rights and effective legal remedies, pursuant to Article 46(1) and Article 46(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and, with respect to data transfers from controllers to processors and/or processors to processors, standard contractual clauses pursuant to Article 28(7) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, provided they are not modified, except to select the appropriate Module(s) or to add or update information in the Appendix. This does not prevent the Parties from including the standard contractual clauses laid down in these Clauses in a wider contract and/or to add other clauses or additional safeguards, provided that they do not contradict, directly or indirectly, these Clauses or prejudice the fundamental rights or freedoms of data subjects.
- (b) These Clauses are without prejudice to obligations to which the data exporter is subject by virtue of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Clause 3

Third-party beneficiaries

- (a) Data subjects may invoke and enforce these Clauses, as third-party beneficiaries, against the data exporter and/or data importer, with the following exceptions:
 - (i) Clause 1, Clause 2, Clause 3, Clause 6, Clause 7;

¹ Where the data exporter is a processor subject to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 acting on behalf of a Union institution or body as controller, reliance on these Clauses when engaging another processor (sub-processing) not subject to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 also ensures compliance with Article 29(4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39), to the extent these Clauses and the data protection obligations as set out in the contract or other legal act between the controller and the processor pursuant to Article 29(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 are aligned. This will in particular be the case where the controller and processor rely on the standard contractual clauses included in Decision 2021/915.

- (ii) Clause 8.1(a), (c) and (d) and Clause 8.9(a), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g);
 - (iii) Clause 9(a), (c), (d) and (e);
 - (iv) Clause 12(a), (d) and (f);
 - (v) Clause 13;
 - (vi) Clause 15.1(c), (d) and (e);
 - (vii) Clause 16(e);
 - (viii) Clause 18(a) and (b).
- (b) Paragraph (a) is without prejudice to rights of data subjects under Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Clause 4

Interpretation

- (a) Where these Clauses use terms that are defined in Regulation (EU) 2016/679, those terms shall have the same meaning as in that Regulation.
- (b) These Clauses shall be read and interpreted in the light of the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.
- (c) These Clauses shall not be interpreted in a way that conflicts with rights and obligations provided for in Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Clause 5

Hierarchy

In the event of a contradiction between these Clauses and the provisions of related agreements between the Parties, existing at the time these Clauses are agreed or entered into thereafter, these Clauses shall prevail.

Clause 6

Description of the transfer(s)

The details of the transfer(s), and in particular the categories of personal data that are transferred and the purpose(s) for which they are transferred, are specified in Annex I.B.

Clause 7 – Optional

- (a) *Left out intentionally.*

SECTION II – OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

Clause 8

Data protection safeguards

The data exporter warrants that it has used reasonable efforts to determine that the data importer is able, through the implementation of appropriate technical and organisational measures, to satisfy its obligations under these Clauses.

8.1 Instructions

- (a) The data exporter has informed the data importer that it acts as processor under the instructions of its controller(s), which the data exporter shall make available to the data importer prior to processing.
- (b) The data importer shall process the personal data only on documented instructions from the controller, as communicated to the data importer by the data exporter, and any additional documented instructions from the data exporter. Such additional instructions shall not conflict with the instructions from the controller.

The controller or data exporter may give further documented instructions regarding the data processing throughout the duration of the contract.

- (c) The data importer shall immediately inform the data exporter if it is unable to follow those instructions. Where the data importer is unable to follow the instructions from the controller, the data exporter shall immediately notify the controller.
- (d) The data exporter warrants that it has imposed the same data protection obligations on the data importer as set out in the contract or other legal act under Union or Member State law between the controller and the data exporter ⁽²⁾.

8.2 Purpose limitation

The data importer shall process the personal data only for the specific purpose(s) of the transfer, as set out in Annex I.B., unless on further instructions from the controller, as communicated to the data importer by the data exporter, or from the data exporter.

8.3 Transparency

On request, the data exporter shall make a copy of these Clauses, including the Appendix as completed by the Parties, available to the data subject free of charge. To the extent necessary to protect business secrets or other confidential information, including personal data, the data exporter may redact part of the text of the Appendix prior to sharing a copy, but shall provide a meaningful summary where the data subject would otherwise not be able to understand its content or exercise his/her rights. On request, the Parties shall provide the data subject with the reasons for the redactions, to the extent possible without revealing the redacted information.

8.4 Accuracy

If the data importer becomes aware that the personal data it has received is inaccurate, or has become outdated, it shall inform the data exporter without undue delay. In this case, the data importer shall cooperate with the data exporter to rectify or erase the data.

8.5 Duration of processing and erasure or return of data

Processing by the data importer shall only take place for the duration specified in Annex I.B. After the end of the provision of the processing services, the data importer shall, at the choice of the data exporter, delete all personal data processed on behalf of the controller and certify to the data exporter that it has done so, or return to the data exporter all personal data processed on its behalf and delete existing copies. Until the data is deleted or returned, the data importer shall continue to ensure compliance with these Clauses. In case of local laws applicable to the data importer that prohibit return or deletion of the personal data, the data importer warrants that it will continue to ensure compliance with these Clauses and will only process it to the extent and for as long as required under that local law. This is without prejudice to Clause 14, in particular the requirement for the data importer under Clause 14(e) to notify the data exporter throughout the duration of the contract if it has reason to believe that it is or has become subject to laws or practices not in line with the requirements under Clause 14(a).

8.6 Security of processing

- (a) The data importer and, during transmission, also the data exporter shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of the data, including protection against a breach of security leading to accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access to that data (hereinafter 'personal data breach'). In assessing the appropriate level of security, they shall take due account of the state of the art, the costs of implementation, the nature, scope, context and purpose(s) of processing and the risks involved in the processing for the data subject. The Parties shall in particular consider having recourse to encryption or pseudonymisation, including during transmission,

² See Article 28(4) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and, where the controller is an EU institution or body, Article 29(4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

where the purpose of processing can be fulfilled in that manner. In case of pseudonymisation, the additional information for attributing the personal data to a specific data subject shall, where possible, remain under the exclusive control of the data exporter or the controller. In complying with its obligations under this paragraph, the data importer shall at least implement the technical and organisational measures specified in Annex II. The data importer shall carry out regular checks to ensure that these measures continue to provide an appropriate level of security.

- (b) The data importer shall grant access to the data to members of its personnel only to the extent strictly necessary for the implementation, management and monitoring of the contract. It shall ensure that persons authorised to process the personal data have committed themselves to confidentiality or are under an appropriate statutory obligation of confidentiality.
- (c) In the event of a personal data breach concerning personal data processed by the data importer under these Clauses, the data importer shall take appropriate measures to address the breach, including measures to mitigate its adverse effects. The data importer shall also notify, without undue delay, the data exporter and, where appropriate and feasible, the controller after having become aware of the breach. Such notification shall contain the details of a contact point where more information can be obtained, a description of the nature of the breach (including, where possible, categories and approximate number of data subjects and personal data records concerned), its likely consequences and the measures taken or proposed to address the data breach, including measures to mitigate its possible adverse effects. Where, and in so far as, it is not possible to provide all information at the same time, the initial notification shall contain the information then available and further information shall, as it becomes available, subsequently be provided without undue delay.
- (d) The data importer shall cooperate with and assist the data exporter to enable the data exporter to comply with its obligations under Regulation (EU) 2016/679, in particular to notify its controller so that the latter may in turn notify the competent supervisory authority and the affected data subjects, taking into account the nature of processing and the information available to the data importer.

8.7 Sensitive data

Where the transfer involves personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, genetic data, or biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or a person's sex life or sexual orientation, or data relating to criminal convictions and offences (hereinafter 'sensitive data'), the data importer shall apply the specific restrictions and/or additional safeguards set out in Annex I.B.

8.8 Onward transfers

The data importer shall only disclose the personal data to a third party on documented instructions from the controller, as communicated to the data importer by the data exporter. In addition, the data may only be disclosed to a third party located outside the European Union ⁽³⁾ (in the same country as the data importer or in another third country, hereinafter 'onward transfer') if the third party is or agrees to be bound by these Clauses, under the appropriate Module, or if:

- (i) the onward transfer is to a country benefitting from an adequacy decision pursuant to Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 that covers the onward transfer;
- (ii) the third party otherwise ensures appropriate safeguards pursuant to Articles 46 or 47 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679;

³ The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) provides for the extension of the European Union's internal market to the three EEA States Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The Union data protection legislation, including Regulation (EU) 2016/679, is covered by the EEA Agreement and has been incorporated into Annex XI thereto. Therefore, any disclosure by the data importer to a third party located in the EEA does not qualify as an onward transfer for the purposes of these Clauses.

- (iii) the onward transfer is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims in the context of specific administrative, regulatory or judicial proceedings; or
- (iv) the onward transfer is necessary in order to protect the vital interests of the data subject or of another natural person.

Any onward transfer is subject to compliance by the data importer with all the other safeguards under these Clauses, in particular purpose limitation.

8.9 Documentation and compliance

- (a) The data importer shall promptly and adequately deal with enquiries from the data exporter or the controller that relate to the processing under these Clauses.
- (b) The Parties shall be able to demonstrate compliance with these Clauses. In particular, the data importer shall keep appropriate documentation on the processing activities carried out on behalf of the controller.
- (c) The data importer shall make all information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the obligations set out in these Clauses available to the data exporter, which shall provide it to the controller.
- (d) The data importer shall allow for and contribute to audits by the data exporter of the processing activities covered by these Clauses, at reasonable intervals or if there are indications of non-compliance. The same shall apply where the data exporter requests an audit on instructions of the controller. In deciding on an audit, the data exporter may take into account relevant certifications held by the data importer.
- (e) Where the audit is carried out on the instructions of the controller, the data exporter shall make the results available to the controller.
- (f) The data exporter may choose to conduct the audit by itself or mandate an independent auditor. Audits may include inspections at the premises or physical facilities of the data importer and shall, where appropriate, be carried out with reasonable notice.
- (g) The Parties shall make the information referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c), including the results of any audits, available to the competent supervisory authority on request.

Clause 9

Use of sub-processors

- (a) GENERAL WRITTEN AUTHORISATION The data importer has the controller's general authorisation for the engagement of sub-processor(s) from an agreed list. The data importer shall specifically inform the controller in writing of any intended changes to that list through the addition or replacement of sub-processors at least 2 weeks in advance, thereby giving the controller sufficient time to be able to object to such changes prior to the engagement of the sub-processor(s). The data importer shall provide the controller with the information necessary to enable the controller to exercise its right to object. The data importer shall inform the data exporter of the engagement of the sub-processor(s).
- (b) Where the data importer engages a sub-processor to carry out specific processing activities (on behalf of the controller), it shall do so by way of a written contract that provides for, in substance, the same data protection obligations as those binding the data importer under these Clauses, including in terms of third-party beneficiary rights for data subjects. ⁽⁴⁾ The Parties agree that, by complying with this Clause, the data importer fulfils its obligations under Clause 8.8. The data importer shall ensure that the sub-processor complies with the obligations to which the data importer is subject pursuant to these Clauses.
- (c) The data importer shall provide, at the data exporter's or controller's request, a copy of such a sub-processor agreement and any subsequent amendments. To the extent necessary to protect business secrets or other

⁴ This requirement may be satisfied by the sub-processor acceding to these Clauses under the appropriate Module, in accordance with Clause 7.

confidential information, including personal data, the data importer may redact the text of the agreement prior to sharing a copy.

- (d) The data importer shall remain fully responsible to the data exporter for the performance of the sub-processor's obligations under its contract with the data importer. The data importer shall notify the data exporter of any failure by the sub-processor to fulfil its obligations under that contract.
- (e) The data importer shall agree a third-party beneficiary clause with the sub-processor whereby – in the event the data importer has factually disappeared, ceased to exist in law or has become insolvent – the data exporter shall have the right to terminate the sub-processor contract and to instruct the sub-processor to erase or return the personal data.

Clause 10

Data subject rights

- (a) The data importer shall promptly notify the data exporter and, where appropriate, the controller of any request it has received from a data subject, without responding to that request unless it has been authorised to do so by the controller.
- (b) The data importer shall assist, where appropriate in cooperation with the data exporter, the controller in fulfilling its obligations to respond to data subjects' requests for the exercise of their rights under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 or Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, as applicable. In this regard, the Parties shall set out in Annex II the appropriate technical and organisational measures, taking into account the nature of the processing, by which the assistance shall be provided, as well as the scope and the extent of the assistance required.
- (c) In fulfilling its obligations under paragraphs (a) and (b), the data importer shall comply with the instructions from the controller, as communicated by the data exporter.

Clause 11

Redress

- (a) The data importer shall inform data subjects in a transparent and easily accessible format, through individual notice or on its website, of a contact point authorised to handle complaints. It shall deal promptly with any complaints it receives from a data subject.
- (b) In case of a dispute between a data subject and one of the Parties as regards compliance with these Clauses, that Party shall use its best efforts to resolve the issue amicably in a timely fashion. The Parties shall keep each other informed about such disputes and, where appropriate, cooperate in resolving them.
- (c) Where the data subject invokes a third-party beneficiary right pursuant to Clause 3, the data importer shall accept the decision of the data subject to:
 - (i) lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority in the Member State of his/her habitual residence or place of work, or the competent supervisory authority pursuant to Clause 13;
 - (ii) refer the dispute to the competent courts within the meaning of Clause 18.
- (d) The Parties accept that the data subject may be represented by a not-for-profit body, organisation or association under the conditions set out in Article 80(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.
- (e) The data importer shall abide by a decision that is binding under the applicable EU or Member State law.
- (f) The data importer agrees that the choice made by the data subject will not prejudice his/her substantive and procedural rights to seek remedies in accordance with applicable laws.

Clause 12

Liability

- (a) Each Party shall be liable to the other Party/ies for any damages it causes the other Party/ies by any breach of these Clauses.
- (b) The data importer shall be liable to the data subject, and the data subject shall be entitled to receive compensation, for any material or non-material damages the data importer or its sub-processor causes the data subject by breaching the third-party beneficiary rights under these Clauses.
- (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), the data exporter shall be liable to the data subject, and the data subject shall be entitled to receive compensation, for any material or non-material damages the data exporter or the data importer (or its subprocessor) causes the data subject by breaching the third-party beneficiary rights under these Clauses. This is without prejudice to the liability of the data exporter and, where the data exporter is a processor acting on behalf of a controller, to the liability of the controller under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 or Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, as applicable.
- (d) The Parties agree that if the data exporter is held liable under paragraph (c) for damages caused by the data importer (or its sub-processor), it shall be entitled to claim back from the data importer that part of the compensation corresponding to the data importer's responsibility for the damage.
- (e) Where more than one Party is responsible for any damage caused to the data subject as a result of a breach of these Clauses, all responsible Parties shall be jointly and severally liable and the data subject is entitled to bring an action in court against any of these Parties.
- (f) The Parties agree that if one Party is held liable under paragraph (e), it shall be entitled to claim back from the other Party/ies that part of the compensation corresponding to its/their responsibility for the damage.
- (g) The data importer may not invoke the conduct of a sub-processor to avoid its own liability.

Clause 13

Supervision

- (a) The supervisory authority with responsibility for ensuring compliance by the data exporter with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 as regards the data transfer, as indicated in Annex I.C, shall act as competent supervisory authority.
- (b) The data importer agrees to submit itself to the jurisdiction of and cooperate with the competent supervisory authority in any procedures aimed at ensuring compliance with these Clauses. In particular, the data importer agrees to respond to enquiries, submit to audits and comply with the measures adopted by the supervisory authority, including remedial and compensatory measures. It shall provide the supervisory authority with written confirmation that the necessary actions have been taken.

SECTION III – LOCAL LAWS AND OBLIGATIONS IN CASE OF ACCESS BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Clause 14

Local laws and practices affecting compliance with the Clauses

- (a) The Parties warrant that they have no reason to believe that the laws and practices in the third country of destination applicable to the processing of the personal data by the data importer, including any requirements to disclose personal data or measures authorising access by public authorities, prevent the data importer from fulfilling its obligations under these Clauses. This is based on the understanding that laws and practices that respect the essence of the fundamental rights and freedoms and do not exceed what is necessary and proportionate in a democratic society to safeguard one of the objectives listed in Article 23(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, are not in contradiction with these Clauses.

- (b) The Parties declare that in providing the warranty in paragraph (a), they have taken due account in particular of the following elements:
 - (i) the specific circumstances of the transfer, including the length of the processing chain, the number of actors involved and the transmission channels used; intended onward transfers; the type of recipient; the purpose of processing; the categories and format of the transferred personal data; the economic sector in which the transfer occurs; the storage location of the data transferred;
 - (ii) the laws and practices of the third country of destination— including those requiring the disclosure of data to public authorities or authorising access by such authorities – relevant in light of the specific circumstances of the transfer, and the applicable limitations and safeguards ⁽⁵⁾;
 - (iii) any relevant contractual, technical or organisational safeguards put in place to supplement the safeguards under these Clauses, including measures applied during transmission and to the processing of the personal data in the country of destination.
- (c) The data importer warrants that, in carrying out the assessment under paragraph (b), it has made its best efforts to provide the data exporter with relevant information and agrees that it will continue to cooperate with the data exporter in ensuring compliance with these Clauses.
- (d) The Parties agree to document the assessment under paragraph (b) and make it available to the competent supervisory authority on request.
- (e) The data importer agrees to notify the data exporter promptly if, after having agreed to these Clauses and for the duration of the contract, it has reason to believe that it is or has become subject to laws or practices not in line with the requirements under paragraph (a), including following a change in the laws of the third country or a measure (such as a disclosure request) indicating an application of such laws in practice that is not in line with the requirements in paragraph (a). The data exporter shall forward the notification to the controller.
- (f) Following a notification pursuant to paragraph (e), or if the data exporter otherwise has reason to believe that the data importer can no longer fulfil its obligations under these Clauses, the data exporter shall promptly identify appropriate measures (e.g. technical or organisational measures to ensure security and confidentiality) to be adopted by the data exporter and/or data importer to address the situation, if appropriate in consultation with the controller. The data exporter shall suspend the data transfer if it considers that no appropriate safeguards for such transfer can be ensured, or if instructed by the controller or the competent supervisory authority to do so. In this case, the data exporter shall be entitled to terminate the contract, insofar as it concerns the processing of personal data under these Clauses. If the contract involves more than two Parties, the data exporter may exercise this right to termination only with respect to the relevant Party, unless the Parties have agreed otherwise. Where the contract is terminated pursuant to this Clause, Clause 16(d) and (e) shall apply.

Clause 15

Obligations of the data importer in case of access by public authorities

15.1 Notification

⁵ As regards the impact of such laws and practices on compliance with these Clauses, different elements may be considered as part of an overall assessment. Such elements may include relevant and documented practical experience with prior instances of requests for disclosure from public authorities, or the absence of such requests, covering a sufficiently representative time-frame. This refers in particular to internal records or other documentation, drawn up on a continuous basis in accordance with due diligence and certified at senior management level, provided that this information can be lawfully shared with third parties. Where this practical experience is relied upon to conclude that the data importer will not be prevented from complying with these Clauses, it needs to be supported by other relevant, objective elements, and it is for the Parties to consider carefully whether these elements together carry sufficient weight, in terms of their reliability and representativeness, to support this conclusion. In particular, the Parties have to take into account whether their practical experience is corroborated and not contradicted by publicly available or otherwise accessible, reliable information on the existence or absence of requests within the same sector and/or the application of the law in practice, such as case law and reports by independent oversight bodies.

- (a) The data importer agrees to notify the data exporter and, where possible, the data subject promptly (if necessary with the help of the data exporter) if it:
 - (i) receives a legally binding request from a public authority, including judicial authorities, under the laws of the country of destination for the disclosure of personal data transferred pursuant to these Clauses; such notification shall include information about the personal data requested, the requesting authority, the legal basis for the request and the response provided; or
 - (ii) becomes aware of any direct access by public authorities to personal data transferred pursuant to these Clauses in accordance with the laws of the country of destination; such notification shall include all information available to the importer.

The data exporter shall forward the notification to the controller.

- (b) If the data importer is prohibited from notifying the data exporter and/or the data subject under the laws of the country of destination, the data importer agrees to use its best efforts to obtain a waiver of the prohibition, with a view to communicating as much information as possible, as soon as possible. The data importer agrees to document its best efforts in order to be able to demonstrate them on request of the data exporter.
- (c) Where permissible under the laws of the country of destination, the data importer agrees to provide the data exporter, at regular intervals for the duration of the contract, with as much relevant information as possible on the requests received (in particular, number of requests, type of data requested, requesting authority/ies, whether requests have been challenged and the outcome of such challenges, etc.). The data exporter shall forward the information to the controller.
- (d) The data importer agrees to preserve the information pursuant to paragraphs (a) to (c) for the duration of the contract and make it available to the competent supervisory authority on request.
- (e) Paragraphs (a) to (c) are without prejudice to the obligation of the data importer pursuant to Clause 14(e) and Clause 16 to inform the data exporter promptly where it is unable to comply with these Clauses.

15.2 **Review of legality and data minimisation**

- (a) The data importer agrees to review the legality of the request for disclosure, in particular whether it remains within the powers granted to the requesting public authority, and to challenge the request if, after careful assessment, it concludes that there are reasonable grounds to consider that the request is unlawful under the laws of the country of destination, applicable obligations under international law and principles of international comity. The data importer shall, under the same conditions, pursue possibilities of appeal. When challenging a request, the data importer shall seek interim measures with a view to suspending the effects of the request until the competent judicial authority has decided on its merits. It shall not disclose the personal data requested until required to do so under the applicable procedural rules. These requirements are without prejudice to the obligations of the data importer under Clause 14(e).
- (b) The data importer agrees to document its legal assessment and any challenge to the request for disclosure and, to the extent permissible under the laws of the country of destination, make the documentation available to the data exporter. It shall also make it available to the competent supervisory authority on request. The data exporter shall make the assessment available to the controller.
- (c) The data importer agrees to provide the minimum amount of information permissible when responding to a request for disclosure, based on a reasonable interpretation of the request.

SECTION IV – FINAL PROVISIONS

Clause 16

Non-compliance with the Clauses and termination

- (a) The data importer shall promptly inform the data exporter if it is unable to comply with these Clauses, for whatever reason.
- (b) In the event that the data importer is in breach of these Clauses or unable to comply with these Clauses, the data exporter shall suspend the transfer of personal data to the data importer until compliance is again ensured or the contract is terminated. This is without prejudice to Clause 14(f).
- (c) The data exporter shall be entitled to terminate the contract, insofar as it concerns the processing of personal data under these Clauses, where:
 - (i) the data exporter has suspended the transfer of personal data to the data importer pursuant to paragraph (b) and compliance with these Clauses is not restored within a reasonable time and in any event within one month of suspension;
 - (ii) the data importer is in substantial or persistent breach of these Clauses; or
 - (iii) the data importer fails to comply with a binding decision of a competent court or supervisory authority regarding its obligations under these Clauses.

In these cases, it shall inform the competent supervisory authority and the controller of such noncompliance. Where the contract involves more than two Parties, the data exporter may exercise this right to termination only with respect to the relevant Party, unless the Parties have agreed otherwise.

- (d) Personal data that has been transferred prior to the termination of the contract pursuant to paragraph (c) shall at the choice of the data exporter immediately be returned to the data exporter or deleted in its entirety. The same shall apply to any copies of the data. The data importer shall certify the deletion of the data to the data exporter. Until the data is deleted or returned, the data importer shall continue to ensure compliance with these Clauses. In case of local laws applicable to the data importer that prohibit the return or deletion of the transferred personal data, the data importer warrants that it will continue to ensure compliance with these Clauses and will only process the data to the extent and for as long as required under that local law.
- (e) Either Party may revoke its agreement to be bound by these Clauses where (i) the European Commission adopts a decision pursuant to Article 45(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 that covers the transfer of personal data to which these Clauses apply; or (ii) Regulation (EU) 2016/679 becomes part of the legal framework of the country to which the personal data is transferred. This is without prejudice to other obligations applying to the processing in question under Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Clause 17

Governing law

These Clauses shall be governed by the law of one of the EU Member States, provided such law allows for third party beneficiary rights. The Parties agree that this shall be the law of Ireland.

Clause 18

Choice of forum and jurisdiction

- (a) Any dispute arising from these Clauses shall be resolved by the courts of an EU Member State.
- (b) The Parties agree that those shall be the courts of Ireland.

- (c) A data subject may also bring legal proceedings against the data exporter and/or data importer before the courts of the Member State in which he/she has his/her habitual residence.
- (d) The Parties agree to submit themselves to the jurisdiction of such courts.

APPENDIX

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

It must be possible to clearly distinguish the information applicable to each transfer or category of transfers and, in this regard, to determine the respective role(s) of the Parties as data exporter(s) and/or data importer(s). This does not necessarily require completing and signing separate appendices for each transfer/category of transfers and/or contractual relationship, where this transparency can be achieved through one appendix. However, where necessary to ensure sufficient clarity, separate appendices should be used.

ANNEX I

A. LIST OF PARTIES

Data exporter(s): *[Identity and contact details of the data exporter(s) and, where applicable, of its/their data protection officer and/or representative in the European Union]*

1. Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact person's name, position and contact details: _____

Identity and contact details of the data exporter are as identified in the Agreement between the Parties.

Activities relevant to the data transferred under these Clauses: _____

Signature and date: _____

Each of Ahrefs' and Customer's entering into this DPA shall be treated as each party's signature.

Role (controller/processor): Processor

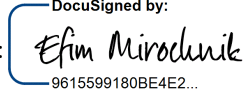
Data importer(s): *[Identity and contact details of the data importer(s), including any contact person with responsibility for data protection]*

2. Name: Ahrefs Services LLC

Address: Cogency Global Inc., 850 New Burton Road, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19904

Contact person's name, position and contact details: Efim Mirochnik, Chief Security Officer, Efim.Mirochnik@ahrefs.com

Activities relevant to the data transferred under these Clauses: Provision of Services to Customer under the Agreement.

Signature and date:  9615599180BE4E2...

9/11/2025

Each of Ahrefs' and Customer's entering into this DPA shall be treated as each party's signature.

Role (controller/processor): Sub-processor

B. DESCRIPTION OF TRANSFER

Categories of data subjects whose personal data is transferred

- Controller's employees, consultants, contractors, agents, and/or third parties with whom the Controller conducts business or collects through other means.

Categories of personal data transferred

- The Personal Data that may be Processed under the Agreement, as submitted by Customers to or through the Service, may include, but is not limited to: first and last name, title, position, contact information.

Sensitive data transferred (if applicable) and applied restrictions or safeguards that fully take into consideration the nature of the data and the risks involved, such as for instance strict purpose limitation, access restrictions (including access only for staff having followed specialised training), keeping a record of access to the data, restrictions for onward transfers or additional security measures.

It is not intended to process any special categories of personal data.

The frequency of the transfer (e.g. whether the data is transferred on a one-off or continuous basis).

Regular transfers.

Nature of the processing

Collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

Purpose(s) of the data transfer and further processing

Provision of the Services provided by the data importer to the data exporter under the Agreement.

The period for which the personal data will be retained, or, if that is not possible, the criteria used to determine that period

For the duration of the Agreement.

For transfers to (sub-) processors, also specify subject matter, nature and duration of the processing

C. COMPETENT SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

Identify the competent supervisory authority/ies in accordance with Clause 13

ANNEX II

TECHNICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES INCLUDING TECHNICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE DATA

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The technical and organisational measures must be described in specific (and not generic) terms. See also the general comment on the first page of the Appendix, in particular on the need to clearly indicate which measures apply to each transfer/set of transfers.

Description of the technical and organisational measures implemented by the data importer(s) (including any relevant certifications) to ensure an appropriate level of security, taking into account the nature, scope, context and purpose of the processing, and the risks for the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

Technical and organizational security measures

Ahrefs may update or modify these security measures from time to time provided that such updates and modifications do not result in the degradation of the overall security of the Service.

Measures of pseudonymization and encryption of personal data

Personal data is stored in AWS RDS. RDS implements encryption of data both at rest and in transit. Development, staging, and production databases and processing applications are kept separate. You may refer to AWS RDS measures [here](#).

Measures for ensuring ongoing confidentiality, integrity, availability, and resilience of processing systems and services

RDS is configured with multi-zone replication setup to ensure availability in case of catastrophic failure in one geographic region. Additionally, a continuous backup of all the RDS databases is maintained using AWS tooling.

Measures for ensuring the ability to restore the availability and access to personal data in a timely manner in the event of a physical or technical incident

Same as above.

Processes for regularly testing, assessing, and evaluating the effectiveness of technical and organizational measures in order to ensure the security of the processing

Security of data processing is achieved by:

- assignment of the small permanent dedicated and experienced team to the corresponding code subsystem, responsible for all the implementation, code quality and technical choices
- code review of all code contributions to the corresponding subsystem
- using best in class implementation language eliminating whole classes of runtime bugs and ensuring strongest possible guarantees and code contracts during compilation
- management overseeing the new patterns of customer personal data process being implemented
- management overseeing that only necessary data are stored
- the number of sub-processors is kept to a minimum

Measures for user identification and authorization

Personal data is stored in AWS RDS. RDS implements encryption of data both at rest and in transit. Development, staging, and production databases and processing applications are kept separate. Support for Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) is a Service feature that is coming soon. Additionally, Enterprise Plan users may opt in for the Single Sign On (SSO) authentication with Ahrefs performing the duty of a SAML Service Provider (implementing the recommended SAML security practices including, but not limited to response signing, request signature checking, etc.).

User authorization is performed by the in-house implementation centered around the business logic according to the user membership in the corresponding workspace and the respective role assigned within the workspace by the workspace administrator.

Measures for the protection of data during transmission

Customer's access to Ahrefs' Service is only possible over a secure connection, protected by industry-standard TLS protocol implementing commonly accepted best security practices and utilizing strong cipher-suites and disabling legacy weak protocols. Ahrefs website is additionally protected by Cloudflare, which is re-encrypting all traffic reaching Ahrefs website. You may refer to Cloudflare policies [here](#).

Transmission of data between the storage database and the processing servers happens over the isolated network separate from the internet.

Measures for the protection of data during storage

You may refer to AWS RDS measures [here](#).

Measures for ensuring physical security of locations at which personal data are processed

Personal data processing is happening on EC2 instances in AWS data centers. Physical security is provided by AWS. Refer to [AWS policies](#).

Additional measures are taken to hide the actual physical and logical location of servers storing customer personal data by means of layers of proxies between the data storage and the outside world.

Measures for ensuring events logging

All Ahrefs servers are configured with continuous logging to remote locations of important system logs and additional events collection as deemed necessary by Security and Devops teams. Customer Personal Data is never collected by these means.

Additionally, event logging is enabled with sub-processors e.g. CloudFlare, AWS, Mailchimp, SendGrid.

Measures for ensuring system configuration, including default configuration

Ahrefs is using industry-standard Configuration Management System to ensure desired system configuration during initial setup and continuous configuration updates during normal operations.

Measures for internal IT and IT security governance and management

In general, Ahrefs is using the principles of defense in depth and minimum access in its day-to-day operations. In particular, this includes the following security practices:

- central management of secrets used by employees to access third-party services
- central and automated management of secrets deployed on the servers for use by Ahrefs tools and infrastructure
- physical and logical separation of production and testing environments
- remote collection of access logs for all the servers with the ability to audit on demand
- remote collection of logs for internal data and API access
- access separation for internal API on by-need basis with a default deny policy - continuous integration and deployment, with automated testing for Ahrefs code and infrastructure
- continuous integration and deployment, with automated testing for Ahrefs code and infrastructure
- infrastructure as code by GitOps approach
- continuous monitoring of all production systems and alerting on deviations
- 24/7 oncall DevOps presence

- main implementation language for Ahrefs backend, frontend and parts of infrastructure is OCaml, which eliminates whole classes of runtime bugs and enforces compile-time checked code invariants giving a high degree of confidence in the resulting code behaviour
- Quality Assurance (QA) process in place before production releases

Measures for certification/assurance of processes and products

Ahrefs is taking steps towards being ISO27001 certified.

Measures for ensuring data minimization

Ahrefs only stores the absolute minimum of Customer Personal Data to ensure the ability to provide and charge for the Service rendered, as well as legal and regulatory compliance purposes.

Measures for ensuring data quality

Ahrefs routinely checks the quality of passwords to ensure they were not leaked in public and are of acceptable quality. While we do not check the accuracy of Customer Personal Data provided by our users, our payment processor does payment information quality check to avoid fraudulent transactions.

Measures for ensuring limited data retention

All operational logs for the server instances dealing with Customer Personal Data are limited to one (1) month, except for billing data which is kept for six (6) months. Historical payment information is minimal and stored as much as needed to support Ahrefs' legal and regulatory obligations.

Measures for ensuring accountability

We keep logs of every account access and action made by our Customer Success and Support team. Separately, our Enterprise customers have access to audit logs of actions taken by users on their Enterprise accounts.

Ahrefs' management and Data Protection Officer (DPO) performs regular internal checks.

Measures for allowing data portability and ensuring erasure

Customer Personal Data is retrievable with standard SQL tooling and can be extracted upon Controller's request. You may refer to [AWS RDS guarantees](#) about erasure.

Data Center

Ahrefs stores all production data in physically secure data centers.

Infrastructure systems have been designed to eliminate single points of failure and minimize the impact of anticipated environmental risks. Dual circuits, switches, networks or other necessary devices help provide this redundancy. The Service is designed to allow Ahrefs to perform certain types of preventative and corrective maintenance without interruption. All environmental equipment and facilities have documented preventative maintenance procedures that detail the process for and frequency of performance in accordance with the manufacturer's or internal specifications. Preventative and corrective maintenance of the data center equipment is scheduled through a standard change process according to documented procedures.

The data center electrical power systems are designed to be redundant and maintainable without impact to continuous operations, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week. In most cases, a primary as well as an alternate power source, each with equal capacity, is provided for critical infrastructure components in the data center. Backup power is provided by various mechanisms such as uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) batteries, which supply consistently reliable power protection during utility brownouts, blackouts, over voltage, under voltage, and out-of-tolerance frequency conditions. If utility power is interrupted, backup power is designed to provide transitory power to the data center, at full capacity, for up to 10 minutes until the diesel generator systems take over. The

diesel generators are capable of automatically starting up within seconds to provide enough emergency electrical power to run the data center at full capacity typically for a period of days.

When production data is copied electronically by Ahrefs outside the data center, appropriate physical security is maintained, and the data is always encrypted.

Access Control

Preventing Unauthorized Service Access:

Ahrefs hosts parts of its Service with outsourced cloud infrastructure providers.

Additionally, Ahrefs maintains contractual relationships with vendors in order to provide the Service in accordance with this DPA. Ahrefs relies on contractual agreements, privacy policies, and vendor compliance procedures in order to protect data processed or stored by these vendors.

Ahrefs implemented a uniform password policy for its Service and correspondent tools and features. All passwords must fulfil defined minimum requirements and are stored in encrypted form. Users who interact with the Service via the user interface must authenticate before accessing non-public user data. User data is stored in multi-tenant storage systems accessible to users via only application user interfaces and application programming interfaces. Users are not allowed direct access to the underlying application infrastructure. The authorization model in each of the tools and features of the Service is designed to ensure that only the appropriately assigned individuals can access relevant features, views, and customization options. Authorization to data sets is performed through validating the user's permissions.

Public Services APIs may be accessed using an API key.

Preventing Unauthorized Services Use.

Network access control mechanisms are designed to prevent network traffic using unauthorized protocols from reaching the Service infrastructure. The technical measures implemented differ between infrastructure providers and include Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) implementations, security group assignment, and traditional firewall rules.

Ahrefs implemented a Web Application Firewall (WAF) solution to protect internet-accessible applications. The WAF is designed to identify and prevent attacks against publicly available network services.

Security reviews of the parts of code stored in Ahrefs source code repositories are routinely performed, during which Ahrefs reviews and implements coding best practices and conduct checks for identifiable software flaws.

Ahrefs conducts penetration tests annually. The intent of the penetration tests is to identify and resolve foreseeable attack vectors and potential abuse scenarios.

Authorization Requirements. A subset of Ahrefs personnel have access to user data via controlled interfaces on a purely need-to basis. The intent of providing access to a subset of employees is to provide effective customer support, to troubleshoot potential problems, to detect and respond to security incidents and implement data security. Ahrefs personnel are required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Ahrefs guidelines regarding confidentiality, business ethics, appropriate usage, and professional standards. All access is logged for audit purpose.

Transmission Control

Ahrefs makes HTTPS encryption (also referred to as SSL or TLS) available on every one of its login interfaces. Ahrefs HTTPS implementation uses industry standard algorithms and certificates.

Input Control

Ahrefs designed its infrastructure to log extensive information about the system behavior, traffic received, system authentication, and other application requests. Internal systems aggregate log data and alert appropriate employees of malicious, unintended, or anomalous activities. Ahrefs personnel are responsive to known incidents.

Ahrefs maintains a record of known security incidents that includes description, dates and times of relevant activities, and incident disposition. Suspected and confirmed security incidents are investigated by security, operations, or support personnel; and appropriate resolution steps are identified and documented. For any confirmed incidents, Ahrefs will take appropriate steps to minimize User damage or unauthorized disclosure.

If Ahrefs becomes aware of unlawful access to Ahrefs data stored within its Service, Ahrefs will:

- a. notify the affected Users of the incident;
- b. provide a description of the steps Ahrefs is taking to resolve the incident; and
- c. provide status updates to the User contact, as Ahrefs deems necessary.

Notification(s) of incidents, if any, will be delivered to one or more of the User's contacts in a form Ahrefs selects, which may include via notice or email.

Availability Control

The infrastructure providers use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure a minimum of 99.8% uptime. The providers maintain a minimum of N+1 redundancy to power, network, and HVAC services.

Backup and replication strategies are designed to ensure redundancy and fail-over protections during a significant processing failure. Ahrefs data is backed up to multiple durable data stores and replicated across multiple availability zones. Ahrefs uses commercially reasonable efforts to create frequent, encrypted back-up copies of Protected Data and these are stored in geographically separate locations.

Where feasible, production databases are designed to replicate data between no less than 1 primary and 1 secondary database. All databases are backed up and maintained using at least industry standard methods.

The Service is designed to ensure redundancy and seamless failover. The server instances that support the Service are also architected with a goal to prevent single points of failure. This design assists Ahrefs operations in maintaining and updating the Service applications and backend while limiting downtime.

ANNEX III

LIST OF SUB-PROCESSORS

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

This Annex must be completed for Modules Two and Three, in case of the specific authorisation of sub-processors (Clause 0(a), Option 1).

The controller has authorised the use of the sub-processors listed at <https://ahrefs.com/legal/subprocessors-list>.