



Legislation Outlook

March 2026



This monthly legislation briefing will help you plan for the maintenance of your ISO 14001, ISO 22301, ISO 27001, ISO 45001 and ISO 50001 systems. We will provide advance warning about important legislation that will affect compliance with these standards, including relevant news, newly published guidance and government consultations, and any other significant legislation beyond the scope of the standards listed, which may potentially impact your organisation. We don't waste your time on items such as an increase in administrative fees, we only report on items of value.

This month sees a wet wipe ban in Scotland and new data protection obligations that will impact everybody - see our Focus section below for more information on this.

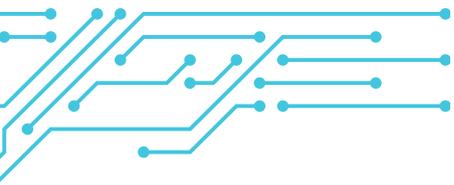
Upcoming Standard-Related Legislation

ISO 14001

Environmental Protection (Wet Wipes Containing Plastic) (Scotland) Regulations 2026

These Regulations come into force in Scotland on 1st August 2027 and prohibit the supply of wet wipes containing plastic to an end user. To do so will become an offence unless it is by a retail pharmacy, for medical purposes by or under the supervision of a medical professional, or for the purposes of a business or local authority where the supply is for the purposes of that business or local authority. It also gives enforcement officers appointed by local authorities the power of entry to carry out a necessary investigation and powers in relation to the penalties they may hand out.

If you supply, manufacture or sell wet wipes containing plastic in Scotland you will need to ensure that you are compliant with the new requirements before they commence on 1st August 2027.



ISO 27001

Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026

These Regulations bring into force, on 19th June 2026, provisions of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 which require organisations to take steps to help data subjects if they wish to make a complaint about how the organisation uses their personal information, such as providing an electronic complaints form.

Please see the Focus section below for further details.

News

Government Launches Cyber Essentials Campaign

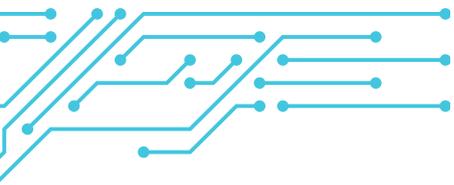
The Government is launching a campaign to promote their Cyber Essentials scheme which sets out clear practical steps to help prevent most cyber attacks. Figures show that the average cost of cyber incidents is £195,000 and nearly half of small businesses have suffered a cyber attack in the last year. Certification can also help firms win government contracts. It is especially helpful for smaller firm without large IT teams. The campaign highlights several free tools and resources such as:

- Cyber Essentials Readiness Tool – an online self assessment to identify gaps;
- free 30-minute consultations with an NCSC assured cyber advisor for SMEs that are preparing for Cyber Essentials certification; and
- the chance to preview the Cyber Essentials 'Question Set' for free. The 'Requirements for IT Infrastructure' can be used alongside to help businesses identify if they are ready for certification.

For more information on achieving Cyber Essentials certification, [request a quote](#) from Ascentor, our sister company within Amtivo Group.

Data Reporting Obligations for Accredited Packaging Re-processors and Exporters: RPS 365

This Regulatory Position Statement applies to packaging reprocessors and exporters accredited in England and extends the reporting date for sending January 2026 data and February 2026 data to the Environment Agency until 21st April 2026 due to the ongoing development of the online reporting system.



Consultations

Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage: Non-Pipeline Transport

The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero has launched a consultation seeking views on its policy proposals to support the deployment of domestic non-pipeline transport (NPT) projects, including the following areas:

- delivery mechanism for support;
- support for NPT costs;
- NPT fee options and cross-chain risk allocation
- regulatory environment for the NPT solution; and
- standardisation and operational considerations.

This consultation closes on 1st May 2026.

Focus

Facilitating Data Protection Complaints

Section 103 of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 is now commencing on the 19th June 2026 and organisations that process personal data are required to implement measures to help data subjects, if they wish to make a complaint about how it the organisation uses their personal information before that date.

Who Does this Apply To?

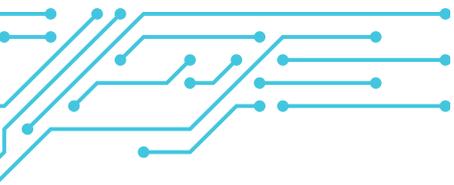
Any organisation that processes personal data will need to ensure that they are compliant with this new obligation. No organisation is exempt from this.

Key Changes

The data subject must be made aware of their right to complain and how to do so at the time their data is gathered and it must be in clear plain language. The organisation must also acknowledge the complaint within 30 days of receipt. It must then deal with the complaint and inform the data subject of the outcome 'without undue delay'. (Please note: there is no specified timeline for response so it will be based on what is justifiable for that specific case).

Implementing These Changes

The ICO has published useful guidance in relation to this. They suggest preparing for dealing with data protection complaints by:



- providing a complaint form that people can submit to you either electronically or in writing (e.g. by email or post);
- providing an email address for people to submit complaints to;
- allowing people to make complaints over the phone;
- providing an online complaints portal;
- having a live chat function with the option to escalate to a human if needed; or
- giving people a way to make complaints to you in person (e.g. if you do not have an online presence).

It is important to keep in mind that the data subject is not under any obligation to make a complaint using the methods you have set out or created. They can do this in any way they choose, and the complaint must be accepted.

Social Media

The obligation to respond to complaints also includes complaints made through an organisation's social media presence. This requires decisions to be made on how to identify these complaints and how to will respond appropriately – responding via social media is not generally regarded as a secure way of providing information and an alternative contact method should be identified instead. In addition, it will need to be determined how to deal with complaints from children who always merit specific protection.

Best Practice – Create a Complaints Procedure

It is best practice to create a complaints procedure for clarity for employees and data subjects. This could contain the following:

- the method you have set to receive complaints;
- what evidence or supporting information you need to investigate complaints;
- what proof of ID you accept as you must confirm the data subject's identity;
- what type of proof of authority you accept, if people complain on behalf of others (e.g. a power of attorney or signed letter of authority from the person they are acting on behalf of); and
- that you acknowledge complaints within 30 days, keep data subjects informed of progress, and explain the outcome.

Other points to consider are whether record keeping systems are fit for purpose and how to train staff.

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