GRC+ DIGEST · 21 NOVEMBER 2026

UAE Digest

What applies in the UAE, and by when. Each requirement with its dates, supervisors, incident deadlines and fines; then how GRC+ helps.

Coming Up

DATE	REQUIREMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
31 Dec 2026		Swift CSP attestation due

Three Requirements to Look at First

LAW · IN FORCE

PDPL

Key dates **2 Jan 2022** In force
Supervisors UAE Data Office

LAW · IN FORCE

DIFC DP Law

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · APPLIES SINCE 14 FEBRUARY 2022

ADGM DPR

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

The First Three in Detail

LAW · IN FORCE

PDPL

Governs the processing of personal data in the UAE outside the financial free zones, with consent, data subject rights and breach notification.

Key dates	**2 Jan 2022** In force
Supervisors	UAE Data Office Data protection authority
How we help	Outsourced DPO Service

LAW · IN FORCE

DIFC DP Law

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · APPLIES SINCE 14 FEBRUARY 2022

ADGM DPR

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

Every Other Requirement in UAE

The other requirements on the country page, with their status and the facts we have reviewed.

LAW · IN FORCE SINCE 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

C 1/2026

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · IN FORCE

CBUAE Outsourcing

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · IN FORCE

Decree-Law 3/2003

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · APPLIES SINCE 2 JANUARY 2022

Decree-Law 34/2021

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · IN FORCE SINCE 31 JANUARY 2026

GEN 3.5

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · IN FORCE

ICT Health Law

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · IN FORCE

ISR

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · IN FORCE

RPSCS

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

LAW · IN FORCE SINCE 19 JUNE 2025

VARA Regulations

The VARA Regulations set the framework for virtual assets and related activities in Dubai, including its free zones but excluding the DIFC. No entity may carry out, or claim to carry out, a virtual asset activity by way of business in Dubai unless it is licensed by VARA, an employee acting for a licensed employer, or an exempt entity. Licensed firms must also follow VARA's Rulebooks.

Key dates	**19 Jun 2025** Current version effective
How we help	Internal Audit as-a-Service

STANDARD · IN FORCE

ADHICS

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

STANDARD · IN FORCE

UAE IA

Not yet reviewed: our review of this requirement is still open, so its facts are not in this digest.

Requirements by Sector

SECTOR	REQUIREMENTS	STANDARDS	SUPERVISORS

Financial Services and Insurance	C 1/2026, CBUAE Outsourcing, GEN 3.5, RPSCS, VARA Regulations, ADGM DPR, DIFC DP Law, Decree-Law 34/2021	ADHICS, Swift CSP, PCI DSS, HITRUST, ISO 27799	ADGM FSRA, Capital Market Authority, Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, DFSA
Technology and Telecom	Decree-Law 3/2003, PDPL, ADGM DPR, DIFC DP Law, Decree-Law 34/2021	UAE IA, GSMA NESAS, ISO 27001, SOC 2, ISO 22301	TDRA
Healthcare and Life Sciences	ICT Health Law, ADGM DPR, DIFC DP Law, Decree-Law 34/2021	ADHICS, HITRUST, ISO 27799, SOC 2, IEC 80001-1	DoH, DHA, EDE
Manufacturing and Chemicals	Decree-Law 34/2021	IEC 62443, ISO 27001, NIST CSF, ETSI EN 303 645, IACS UR E26/E27	
Automotive and Transportation	ADGM DPR, DIFC DP Law, Decree-Law 34/2021	TISAX, ISO/SAE 21434, ISO 27001, NIST CSF, ISO 24089	
Energy and Utilities	ADGM DPR, DIFC DP Law, Decree-Law 34/2021	UAE IA, IEC 62443, ISO 27001, IEC 62351, ISO/IEC 27019	DoE
Retail, Consumer and Leisure	PDPL, ADGM DPR, DIFC DP Law, Decree-Law 34/2021	PCI DSS, ETSI EN 303 645, ISO/IEC 27701, NIST Privacy Framework, CIS Controls	
Public Sector and Defence	ISR, ADGM DPR, DIFC DP Law, Decree-Law 34/2021	UAE IA, ISO 27001, COBIT, ISO/IEC 27701, NIST Privacy Framework	
Aviation and Space	ADGM DPR, DIFC DP Law, Decree-Law 34/2021	ISO 27001, ED-202A / DO-326A, ISO 9001, ISO 31000, ISO/IEC 27005	GCAA

Who Supervises

SUPERVISOR	SUPERVISES	WEBSITE
UAE Data Office	PDPL	u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/data/data-protection-laws

How GRC+ Helps

We never audit work our own team runs for you. A team of four to five practitioners, under one contract for every country you operate in.

Stay Compliant Ongoing work: pay as you go or monthly.	Incident Reporting Desk Vendor Risk Management EU and UK Representative CISO as-a-Service Outsourced DPO Service AI Governance Officer as-a-Service Compliance Officer as-a-Service Internal Audit as-a-Service Government Relations as-a-Service
Audit or Assess An independent view, because a regulation requires one or because you want to know for yourself. We never audit a role our own team runs for you.	Stablecoin Reserve Controls Readiness Review Swift CSP Assessment ISO 27001 Internal Audit NIS2 Compliance Assessment DORA Compliance Audit Data Protection Compliance Audit PCI DSS Readiness Assessment EU AI Act Readiness Assessment SOC 2 and Assurance Report Review DSA Compliance Review IEC 62443 Security Assessment MiCA Compliance Audit Security Maturity Assessment Post-Quantum Cryptography Readiness Assessment PSD2 SCA Audit Security Architecture Review Cyber Resilience Act Readiness Assessment ISO 42001 Internal Audit ISO 27701 Internal Audit Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)
Build and Fix One-off work that closes the gaps.	NIS2 Readiness Programme DORA Gap Remediation AI Act Compliance Programme ISO 27001 Implementation Incident Response Plan and Exercise
Security Testing Tests that show whether attacks are detected and stopped.	Red Teaming Penetration Testing Cloud Security Assessment Source Code Review

Talk to Us

Thirty minutes with a principal consultant on what applies to you and what to do first.

Book a 30-Minute Call · sales@grc.plus · +971 50 426 30 50

Dates and requirements come from the GRC+ regulation pages and change as they do. The latest version: grc.plus/ae