

Kiteworks and Oman’s Personal Data Protection Law

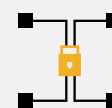
How Kiteworks Addresses the Security, Governance, and Accountability Requirements of Law 1581 of 2012

Oman’s Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL), enacted by Royal Decree 6/2022 and effective as of February 2023, establishes a comprehensive framework governing how organizations collect, process, store, and transfer personal data. The law applies across the Sultanate of Oman and affects any controller or processor handling personal data of Omani residents, reaching all sectors including healthcare, finance, telecommunications, retail, and public administration. Organizations must appoint a Data Protection Officer, obtain explicit written consent before processing data, implement documented internal controls, and notify both the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and affected individuals within prescribed time frames following a data breach. Noncompliance carries significant financial exposure, with fines ranging from 500 to 500,000 Omani Riyals depending on the violation, and legal persons face penalties up to 100,000 Omani Riyals when offenses occur under their authority. Kiteworks provides organizations with the tools and capabilities needed to support these obligations. Here’s how:

Data Confidentiality and Encryption Obligations

Article 21 of Oman’s Personal Data Protection Law requires controllers to ensure the confidentiality of personal data and prohibits disclosure without prior consent from the data subject. Organizations face fines between 15,000 and 20,000 Omani Riyals for violations, making robust technical enforcement of confidentiality a legal necessity rather than a best practice. Kiteworks addresses this obligation through layered encryption architecture and access control enforcement. The platform double-encrypts files at rest so that stored data cannot be decrypted without the cryptographic keys. Customers retain ownership of those encryption keys, ensuring that neither Kiteworks staff nor third parties can access private data. For data in transit, Kiteworks enforces TLS 1.3 with AES-256 by default. The SafeVIEW secure viewer prevents users with view-only permissions from downloading, printing, or forwarding files, and the SafeEDIT possessionless editing feature allows external parties to work on documents without the file ever leaving the secure Kiteworks environment.

Solution Highlights



Strong double encryption



SafeVIEW and SafeEDIT



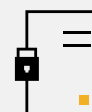
Data Policy Engine with ABAC and RBAC



Data sovereignty and geofencing



Consolidated audit log with SIEM integration



Secure data forms

Internal Controls and Cross-Border Transfer Restrictions

Article 13 requires controllers to establish documented controls and procedures governing personal data processing, including identifying risks to data subjects, managing transfer procedures, and implementing technical and procedural measures aligned with the law. Violations carry fines between 5,000 and 10,000 Omani Riyals. Article 23 introduces the highest financial exposure in the entire law, with fines between 100,000 and 500,000 Omani Riyals for unauthorized cross-border transfers. Kiteworks directly supports both obligations through its Data Policy Engine, which enables compliance administrators to define attribute-based access controls (ABAC) that evaluate data file attributes, user attributes, and the action being attempted before permitting any operation. Role-based access controls (RBAC) assign functional permissions by user profile, including geofencing rules that restrict sign-ins based on IP address or country of origin. The data sovereignty feature routes and stores each user's data exclusively within their assigned country, and built-in reporting allows organizations to prove data residency to auditors, addressing both the internal controls mandate and the cross-border prohibition.

Record Retention and Audit Documentation Obligations

Encompassed within articles 16 and 17 are requirements for controllers and processors to maintain documents of processing operations for periods defined by regulation and to provide the Ministry with copies of external auditor reports upon request. These obligations create a continuous recordkeeping duty. Kiteworks supports this requirement through a comprehensive audit log that captures all user, data, and system activities in a single consolidated log without throttling log volume. Log entries append immediately with no delay, enabling real-time visibility and ensuring that records reflect actual system state at the time of each activity. The platform exports logs via syslog to SIEM systems including Splunk, QRadar, LogRhythm, and ArcSight, and generates filterable, searchable reports formatted for compliance audits. For Kiteworks Secure Data Forms, each submission automatically creates both a human-readable PDF file and a machine-readable CSV record stored in a secure shared folder, giving organizations durable, retrievable evidence of data collection activities that regulators or external auditors can review.

Oman's Personal Data Protection Law establishes enforceable obligations across confidentiality, internal controls, cross-border transfer restrictions, and recordkeeping, with financial penalties that make technical compliance readiness a business-critical priority. Kiteworks gives organizations a unified platform to support these obligations across each domain. Layered encryption and access enforcement protect personal data from unauthorized disclosure at the technical level. The Kiteworks Data Policy Engine and data sovereignty feature give compliance administrators precise, auditable control over who accesses data, what actions they may take, and where data resides. A comprehensive, real-time audit log captures every system activity and exports directly to enterprise SIEM platforms, giving organizations the documentation trail that regulators and external auditors require. Together, these capabilities allow organizations operating under Oman's PDPL to demonstrate structured, verifiable compliance across the law's most consequential requirements.