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## Operational Assessment for CPPA Alignment (Pre-Enactment)

### Purpose:

This checklist is designed to help organizations evaluate whether their current privacy, security, and data operations are capable of meeting the law. It focuses on provable capability, not policy intent.

## Section 1: Governance & Accountability

### Privacy Ownership

- A designated privacy lead exists with decision authority (not advisory only)
- Privacy responsibilities are formally documented and approved by leadership
- Escalation paths are defined for privacy incidents and regulator inquiries

### Privacy Management Program (PMP)

- A written Privacy Management Program exists (not just a privacy policy)
- The PMP includes staff training, complaint handling, breach response, and review cycles
- The PMP is reviewed at least annually or after major operational changes

### Board and Executive Oversight

- Privacy risk is reported to executive leadership at least once per year
- Privacy is included in enterprise risk assessments
- Material privacy incidents trigger executive review

## Section 2: Data Mapping & Visibility (Critical)

### Personal Data Inventory

- A current inventory of personal data exists across systems, cloud services, and vendors
- Data flows are mapped from collection to deletion
- Shadow IT and local data stores are included in scope

### Purpose Limitation

- Each dataset has a documented business purpose
- Data not tied to a valid purpose is flagged for deletion or anonymization

### Third-Party Data Exposure

- All vendors processing personal data are documented
- Data shared with vendors is limited to minimum necessary
- Vendor data locations and retention practices are known

## Section 3: Consent & Legitimate Interest Readiness

### Consent Clarity

- Consent notices are written in plain language for the intended audience
- Consent mechanisms are auditable and time-stamped
- Withdrawal of consent is operationally possible

### Legitimate Interest Assessments

- Legitimate interest use cases are explicitly identified
- Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) exist for each use case
- Balancing tests are documented and approved internally

## Section 4: Individual Rights Fulfillment (High Risk Area)

### Access and Correction

- Requests can be fulfilled within statutory timelines
- Identity verification is built into request workflows
- Responses are logged and auditable

### Right to Disposal (Deletion)

- Deletion workflows exist across production systems
- Backup and archive implications are understood
- Exceptions to deletion are documented and defensible

### Data Mobility

- Personal data can be exported in a structured, commonly used format
- Export does not expose third-party or internal metadata

## Section 5: Security Safeguards & Breach Readiness

### Technical Safeguards

- Access controls follow least-privilege principles
- Administrative access is logged and reviewed
- Backup systems are isolated from production access

### Breach Detection

- Security events are monitored, not just logged
- Alerting exists for unauthorized access to personal data
- Incident response roles are clearly defined

### Breach Response

- Breach response plans are documented and tested
- Risk of Significant Harm (RROSH) can be assessed quickly
- Breach notification workflows are rehearsed

## Section 6: Vendor & Processor Controls

### Contractual Safeguards

- Vendor contracts include privacy and security obligations
- Vendors are required to assist with deletion requests
- Breach notification timelines are contractually defined

### Ongoing Vendor Risk

- Vendors are reviewed periodically, not only at onboarding
- High-risk vendors receive enhanced monitoring
- Termination procedures include data return or destruction

## Section 7: Automated Decision Systems & AI (If Applicable)

### System Identification

- Automated systems impacting individuals are documented
- Decision logic inputs and outputs are understood at a high level

### Transparency Readiness

- Explanations can be provided in plain language upon request
- Vendor-supplied AI systems support transparency requirements

### AIDA Awareness

- High-impact AI use cases are identified
- Governance ownership for AI risk is assigned

## Section 8: Evidence & Audit Readiness

### Documentation

- Policies match actual technical controls
- Logs demonstrate enforcement, not just intent
- Historical decisions are traceable

### Operational Proof

- Deletion requests have been tested end-to-end
- Breach simulations have been conducted
- Staff know how to route privacy requests correctly

### Final Readiness Assessment

- No critical gaps in deletion capability
- No unknown personal data stores
- No vendors processing data without contracts
- No reliance on policy without technical enforcement

### Overall Readiness Status

- High: Capable of meeting CPPA enforcement expectations
- Moderate: Requires targeted remediation
- Low: Significant operational exposure

## How to Use This Checklist

- Treat unchecked items as operational risk, not legal theory
- Prioritize visibility, deletion capability, and vendor control
- Document remediation actions and timelines

### Important Note

This checklist supports operational readiness and risk assessment. It does not replace legal advice. Organizations should consult qualified legal counsel regarding statutory interpretation and obligations.