

## Law No. 05-20 on cybersecurity

**Reference:** Dahir No. 1-20-69 of 4 Hija 1441 (25 July 2020) promulgating Law No. 05-20 on cybersecurity

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**Practice areas:** Business law, Administrative law

Law 05-20 establishes the national cybersecurity framework. It requires administrations and operators of critical infrastructure to protect their information systems, notify incidents and carry out periodic audits, under the supervision of the competent national authority.

### Entities covered and obligations

- Administrations, local authorities, public institutions and operators of critical infrastructure.
- Adoption of an information systems security policy and appointment of a dedicated officer.
- Notification of security incidents to the national authority within the regulatory time limits.
- Periodic security audits carried out by qualified service providers.

### Governance

- The national cybersecurity authority coordinates the framework, issues directives and may order emergency measures.
- Cybersecurity service providers are subject to qualification.
- Breaches expose the entity to administrative penalties, without prejudice to criminal prosecution.

### Points to watch

- The law operates alongside Law 09-08: an incident affecting personal data triggers two separate obligations.
- Security and audit clauses must be included in outsourcing and hosting contracts.
- Keep a record of incident notifications: it demonstrates the organisation's diligence.

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