

Data Localization Laws: Overview (Japan)

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Practice note: overview | [Law stated as of 01-Aug-2024](#) | Japan

A Practice Note providing an overview of the key data localization requirements in Japan. It identifies applicable laws, sector-specific requirements, exceptions, and cross-border data transfer requirements.

Key Data Localization Laws

Scope of Data Localization Laws

Applicability of Data Localization Laws

Exemptions from Data Localization Laws

Cross-Border Transfers of Data Stored in Japan

Key Data Localization Laws

Japan does not have specific laws governing data localization. However, government agencies have issued official guidelines that contain data localization requirements for certain fields and industries including:

- [Guidelines on the Safety Management of Medical Information Systems](#) (Ver 6.0) (in Japanese): These guidelines consist of four documents, including Overview, Governance, Management, and Control and were updated in May 2023. The Management guidelines require medical institutions to locate "external equipment" (for example, equipment not possessed or controlled by the medical institutions) storing or holding certain medical records within the jurisdictional scope of Japanese laws. This in effect requires storage of the equipment in Japan.
- [Guidelines for Safety Management of Medical Information by Providers of Information Systems and Services Handling Medical Information](#) (Ver 1.1) (in Japanese): These guidelines require providers of medical information systems to locate medical information and medical information systems within the jurisdictional scope of Japanese laws. This in effect requires storage of covered information and systems within Japan.

Scope of Data Localization Laws

The [Guidelines on the Safety Management of Medical Information Systems](#) (Ver 6.0) (in Japanese) cover records that contains patient medical information.

The [Guidelines for Safety Management of Medical Information by Providers of Information Systems and Services Handling Medical Information](#) (Ver 1.1) (in Japanese) cover: