Frequently asked questions



03/

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01/ What is the EU AI Act?

The EU AI Act is a comprehensive new law that seeks to address potential risks to health, safety, and fundamental rights from the development and use of artificial intelligence technologies. It adopts a risk-based approach to regulate AI systems and models and is intentionally phased over several years to ensure regulated entities have adequate time to meet requirements. The first provisions took effect February 2025, to be followed by staggered dates for different phases of the AI Act.

02/ How is Microsoft preparing for the EU AI Act's requirements?

We've long embraced responsible AI and are aligning our policies with the EU AI Act. We have dedicated working groups combining AI governance, engineering, legal, and public policy experts working on our compliance with the AI Act's final requirements. We've also actively updated contracts to prevent improper use of our AI systems. In addition, we are revising internal policies to explicitly prohibit offering our AI technologies for banned applications and reviewing our existing products and services to identify any needed mitigations.

What is Microsoft's approach to the "prohibited practices" requirements of EU AI Act?

Microsoft has incorporated "prohibited practices" into our internal, company-wide Restricted Use Policy. The EU Al Act outlines requirements for how Al systems and models are built, deployed, and marketed to or within the European market. We will comply with the requirements while adhering to our Restricted Use Policy, which identifies Al systems that are not permissible to develop, deploy, or market. Our employees must consult this policy prior to developing or deploying an Al system.

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