

AI Act implementation timeline

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act regulates AI systems according to the risks they pose, and general-purpose AI (GPAI) models according to their capabilities. Published in July 2024, the AI Act should take at least three years to come fully into effect. Guidelines, standards, and codes that complement the act are expected.

History

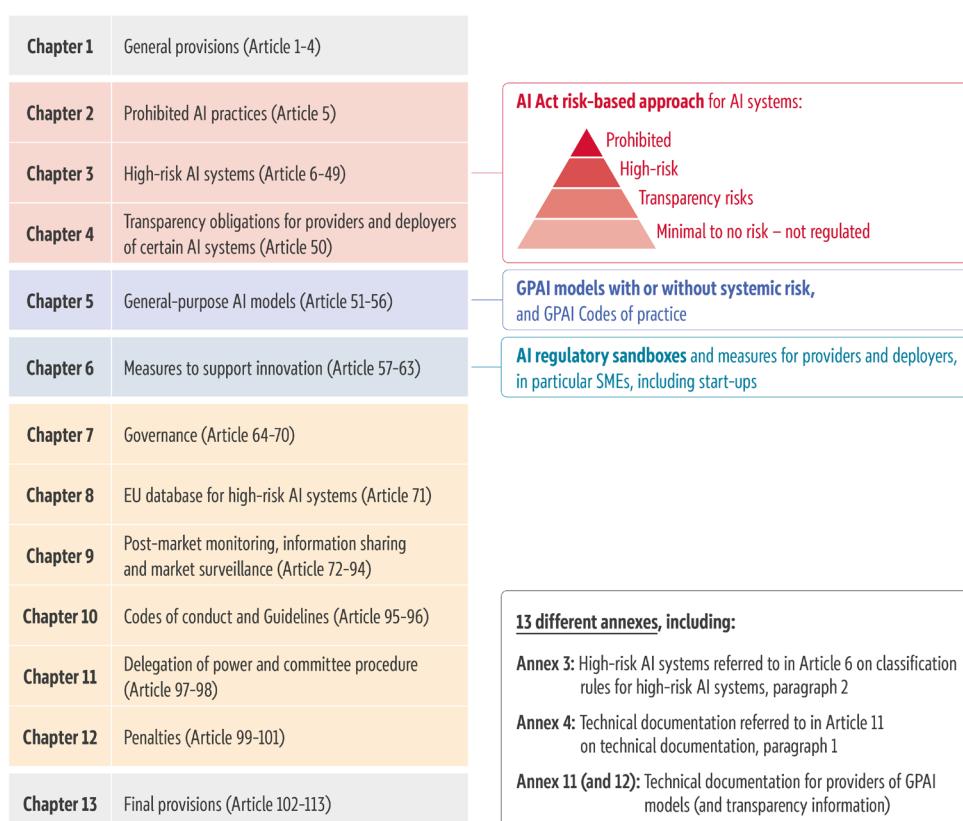
The [AI Act](#) is the outcome of a process aimed at regulating the use and supply of AI systems in the EU. The process involved several communications ([2018](#), [2019](#), [2021](#), and [2024](#)), parliamentary [resolutions](#), a [white paper](#) and a [parliamentary report](#). The Commission published the [proposal](#) for an AI regulation in 2021. The proposal suggested a risk-based approach differentiating between 'unacceptable' risks, 'high-risk', and 'limited risk'. The Council and the Parliament made several [changes](#); these included a chapter on general-purpose AI (GPAI) models, which comprise large language models such as OpenAI's GPTs. The [final version](#) of the regulation was published in the Official Journal of the EU on [12 July 2024](#), before the end of the ninth parliamentary term.

Framework

According to [Article 1](#), the purpose of the regulation is to improve the functioning of the internal market, promote a human-centric and trustworthy AI approach, ensure a high-level of protection against harmful effects of AI systems, and support innovation.

To do so, and among the different chapters, chapters 2, 3, and 4 of the AI Act regulate AI systems based on a risk-based approach, Chapter 5 regulates GPAI models, and Chapter 6 presents measures to support innovation.

Figure 1 – Structure of the Artificial Intelligence Act

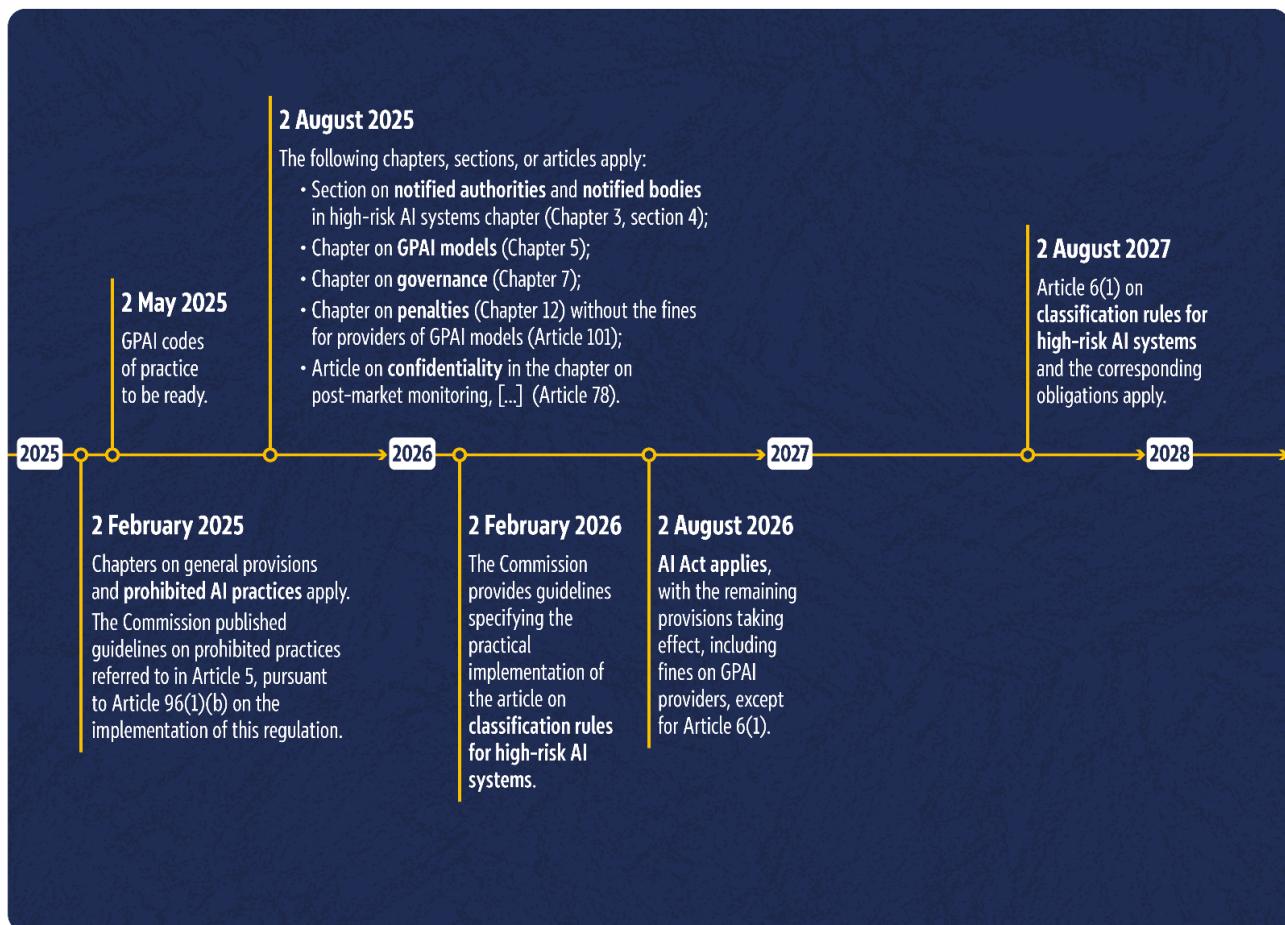


Implementation steps

The regulation entered into force in 2024, with a general date of application of 2 August 2026, which includes the enforcement rules (Chapter 9). However, several chapters, sections and articles have other dates of application. As a result, and in its current state, the AI Act should be fully effective by 2027.

To facilitate its implementation, several publications are expected during the implementation process. For instance, [Article 96](#) requests the European Commission to develop guidelines on the practical implementation of the act. [Article 95](#) relates to codes of conduct for AI systems, while [Article 56](#) refers to the [GPAL code of practice](#).

Figure 1 – Timeline of AI Act implementation



Article 40 of the AI Act on harmonised standards

As described by the European Commission's [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC), 'European harmonised standards for the AI Act, provided they are published in the Official Journal of the EU, will grant a legal presumption of conformity to AI systems developed in accordance with them'.

The JRC adds that it is crucial for the standards to be published before the obligations related to high-risk AI systems come into effect, meaning before August 2026.

The Commission [requested](#) the standards from the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC) in May 2023, with an initial deadline of 30 April 2025. However, [journalists](#) reported that the work will extend into 2026, and that the Commission might consider [temporary](#) solutions to address the delays.