

Navigating AI Compliance in Mauritius: Opportunities and Best Practices for Businesses

Executive Summary

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to transform industries globally, Mauritius is positioning itself as a regional leader in AI adoption through its National AI Strategy and emerging regulatory frameworks. This paper explores the current AI compliance landscape in Mauritius, highlighting key regulations, ethical considerations, and practical steps for businesses to ensure compliant AI deployment. Drawing from national strategies and international influences like the EU AI Act, it provides a roadmap for organizations to navigate compliance while fostering innovation. With the EU AI Act's extraterritorial reach affecting Mauritian firms serving European markets, proactive compliance is essential to avoid penalties and capitalize on AI's potential in sectors like fintech, healthcare, and agriculture.

Introduction

Mauritius, known for its robust financial services sector and strategic location as an International Financial Centre (IFC), is embracing AI to drive economic growth and address societal challenges. The government's commitment to AI dates back to 2018 with the launch of the National AI Strategy, which aims to integrate AI across key sectors to enhance productivity and innovation. As of 2025, while Mauritius lacks a comprehensive AI-specific law, it has implemented targeted regulations and is influenced by global standards, particularly the EU AI Act. This paper serves as a guide for businesses, policymakers, and stakeholders on AI compliance in Mauritius, emphasizing risk management, ethical practices, and future developments.

The AI Landscape in Mauritius

Mauritius's AI journey is rooted in its vision to become a high-income economy by

leveraging emerging technologies. The National AI Strategy identifies AI as a cornerstone for the next development model, focusing on reviving traditional sectors and creating new economic pillars. Key drivers include:

- **Economic Diversification:** AI is seen as a tool to boost sectors facing challenges, such as manufacturing (where GDP contribution has declined) through predictive maintenance and process optimization.
- **Sectoral Applications:** Priority areas include healthcare (e.g., precision medicine and elderly care), fintech (e.g., fraud detection and robo-advisory), agriculture (e.g., precision farming and crop monitoring), ocean economy (e.g., smart ports), transport (e.g., traffic management), and government services (e.g., e-government automation). [oecd.ai](#)
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** A SWOT analysis in the strategy highlights strengths like a skilled workforce and opportunities in regional leadership, but also weaknesses such as skill gaps and regulatory hurdles. [oecd.ai](#)

In 2025, AI adoption is accelerating, supported by budget allocations for AI projects and the establishment of the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council (formerly the Mauritius Artificial Intelligence Council or MAIC). Businesses are increasingly using AI for efficiency, but compliance remains critical to mitigate risks like bias and data privacy issues.

Current Regulatory Framework

Mauritius's AI regulations are evolving, building on existing data protection and financial laws rather than a standalone AI Act. Key elements include:

- **National AI Strategy (2018):** This foundational document outlines a roadmap for AI

integration but lacks detailed enforcement mechanisms. It recommends establishing governance bodies like the MAIC to oversee projects, provide incentives (e.g., tax credits, grants), and develop ethical guidelines. Partial implementation includes the creation of the Emerging Technologies Council.

- **Financial Services Commission (FSC) Rules:** In 2021, the FSC introduced the Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services Rules, requiring licenses for AI-driven investment advice. These rules focus on accountability, transparency, and risk management in fintech but are sector-specific. [lexology.com](#)
- **Data Protection Act (2017):** Aligned with GDPR principles, it governs data handling in AI systems, mandating consent, security, and privacy impact assessments.
- **Influence of International Standards:** Mauritius is considering adopting elements from the EU AI Act, which classifies AI systems by risk levels (unacceptable, high, limited, minimal) and imposes requirements like audits and human oversight. [lexology.com](#) The EU AI Act's extraterritorial application affects Mauritian businesses serving EU clients, with penalties up to €35 million or 7% of global turnover for non-compliance.
[platformafrica.com](#) For instance, AI used in credit scoring or content generation for European markets must undergo risk assessments.

Other supportive measures include the National ICT Blueprint (2025), which introduces digital regulations for cybersecurity and innovation, and budget incentives for AI in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. [facebook.com](#) [edbmauritius.org](#)

Key Compliance Considerations

To ensure AI compliance in Mauritius, businesses must address risks, ethics, and transparency. Drawing from proposed legislation considerations:

- **Risk Classification:** Adopt a risk-based approach similar to the EU AI Act. High-risk AI

(e.g., in healthcare or justice) requires dataset validation, traceability, and human oversight to prevent bias and ensure accountability. [lexology.com](#)

- **Ethical and Transparency Issues:** AI systems should be auditable, with users informed of AI interactions (e.g., chatbots). Label AI-generated content and establish ethics committees to handle moral dilemmas like job displacement. [lexology.com](#)
- **Data Privacy and Security:** Comply with the Data Protection Act by conducting privacy impact assessments and ensuring data minimization. Cybersecurity is crucial, especially in critical sectors like fintech.
- **Extraterritorial Compliance:** For EU-linked operations, perform conformity assessments and bias testing. Mauritian firms may need third-party audits to meet high-risk requirements. [platformafrica.com](#)

Best Practices for AI Compliance

Businesses can adopt the following practices to align with Mauritius's AI framework:

1. **Conduct AI Audits:** Regularly assess AI systems for risks, using tools like impact assessments to identify biases and ensure ethical deployment.
2. **Build Capacity:** Invest in training programs and partner with institutions for AI skills development, leveraging government incentives like scholarships and grants.
3. **Implement Governance Structures:** Establish internal AI ethics boards and appoint compliance officers to oversee AI projects.
4. **Collaborate with Regulators:** Engage with the FSC, Emerging Technologies Council, and international bodies for guidance. Use regulatory sandboxes for testing AI innovations.
5. **Monitor Global Trends:** Stay updated on EU and African AI developments, as Mauritius may introduce its own AI legislation soon. [lexology.com](#) [legal500.com](#)

Future Outlook

Looking ahead, Mauritius is likely to enact comprehensive AI legislation inspired by the EU

model, focusing on risk management and innovation. [lexology.com](#) The "Brussels effect" will continue to shape local practices, providing a competitive edge to compliant businesses. [platformafrica.com](#) With ongoing investments in AI campuses and technology parks, Mauritius aims to become an AI hub in Africa, but success depends on balancing regulation with entrepreneurship.

Conclusion

AI compliance in Mauritius offers a pathway to sustainable growth, but it requires proactive measures to address regulatory gaps and international obligations. By aligning with the National AI Strategy and global standards, businesses can mitigate risks, enhance trust, and unlock AI's full potential. Stakeholders are encouraged to advocate for robust legislation to ensure Mauritius remains at the forefront of ethical AI innovation. For further details, consult official resources like the Economic Development Board or FSC guidelines.