EU Cloud CoC FAQ

GDPR Compliance with CSA and the EU Cloud CoC

The Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) has partnered with the EU Cloud Code of Conduct (EU Cloud CoC), a pioneering initiative setting market standards for robust data protection across the cloud sector. The CSA community can access the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) endorsed GDPR compliance solution designed for the cloud that replaces the discontinued CSA GDPR Code of Conduct.

As a CSA Corporate or STAR Registry member, what are the advantages of this collaboration?

The collaboration between CSA and the EU Cloud CoC offers a streamlined GDPR compliance solution recognized and approved by European Authorities for organizations seeking adherence. Moreover, CSA Corporate and STAR Registry members can declare compliance under the EU Cloud CoC, enjoying a cost-effective process via a dedicated, leaner framework, thereby benefiting from a discounted rate on standard adherence costs.

Who can declare adherence to the EU Cloud CoC via this collaboration?

Any Cloud Service Provider that is either a CSA Corporate Member or STAR Registry Member can declare adherence to the EU Cloud CoC via this collaboration.

How can CSA Members declare adherence to the EU Cloud CoC?

Any interested Cloud Service Provider that wishes to obtain the EU Cloud CoC Compliance Mark must go through the assessment of the Code’s accredited Monitoring Body (SCOPE Europe). The Declaration of Adherence is service-based, and shall be submitted via the dedicated landing page.

Note that in order to declare services adherent to the Code through this collaboration, Cloud Service Providers must indicate their CSA membership category.
Who verifies adherence with the EU Cloud CoC?
According to the GDPR, compliance with an approved code of conduct must be overseen by an accredited Monitoring Body. SCOPE Europe is the accredited Monitoring Body of the EU Cloud CoC, and therefore responsible to verify compliance with the Code.

How does the adherence process work?
The Cloud Service Provider wanting to adhere to the EU Cloud CoC must submit its Declaration of Adherence form via EU Cloud CoC here. Following the submission of the Declaration of Adherence, the Code’s Monitoring Body (SCOPE Europe) will transfer the given declaration into an online ticket and response system by which the process will be further governed.

What is the CSA GDPR Code of Conduct and why was it discontinued?
The CSA Code of Conduct for GDPR Compliance (CSA CoC) was developed by CSA to address GDPR compliance for Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) and Cloud Customers. The primary goal was to offer a solution for GDPR adherence while establishing transparency guidelines for the data protection levels provided by CSPs. Recognized as a "draft" Code of Conduct in accordance with Article 40 of the GDPR, the CSA CoC was comprised of two key Technical Components:

1. Privacy Level Agreement (PLA): Serving as a technical standard, PLA outlines the requirements in the GDPR.
2. And the adherence mechanisms associated with the CoC.

The PLA Control Specifications have been developed by the CSA PLA Working Group since 2013. The PLA is structured to help CSPs, Cloud Customers, and potential Cloud Customers manage the implications of the EU data protection regime.

The CSA CoC was discontinued based on CSA’s strategic choice to embrace the EU Cloud CoC, which has already been approved and endorsed by the European Data Protection Board.

How does this impact those currently aligned with the CSA CoC for GDPR Compliance?
The CSA CoC for GDPR Compliance has been discontinued and new submissions are no longer being accepted. Cloud providers aligned with this standard will continue to be listed on the STAR Registry until the natural expiration of their code’s validity period. Following this, we strongly recommend transitioning to the EU Cloud CoC as a replacement for the CSA CoC.
What’s the relationship between the CSA CoC / PLA technical standard and the EU Cloud CoC?

The CSA CoC and the EU Cloud CoC are both solutions for GDPR compliance in the cloud; they have very similar technical requirements but different approaches to requirements validation. CSA and the EU Cloud CoC might release educational material to better explain the technical relationship between EU Cloud CoC and CSA CoC, and CCM.

Learn More

To get started or learn more about the innovative collaboration between CSA and the EU Cloud COC, visit https://eucoc.cloud/en/csa-collaboration for details or contact support@cloudsecurityalliance.org.