



COMPREHENSIVE DATA PROTECTION POLICY

AG CONSULTING CC

("The CC")

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1. Everyone has rights regarding how their personal information is handled. During the course of its activities AG Consulting CC ("the CC") will collect, store and process personal information about its staff, clients, suppliers and other third parties. The CC recognises the need to treat this information in an appropriate and lawful manner.
- 1.2. Any breach of this policy amounts to serious misconduct and may result in disciplinary action.

2. RELEVANT DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. The following terms bear the meaning given to them here in this policy and its annexures:
 - 2.1.1. "**CC**" means AG Consulting CC;
 - 2.1.2. "**Data subjects**" for the purpose of this policy include all living individuals and juristic persons about whom the CC holds personal information. All data subjects have legal rights in relation to their personal information.
 - 2.1.3. "**Operators**" include any person who processes personal information on behalf of a responsible party. While employees of responsible parties are excluded from this definition, it may include suppliers which handle personal information on the CC's behalf.
 - 2.1.4. "**IO**" means the information officer of the CC in terms of section 56 of POPIA and who will have the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the CC complies with the provisions of POPIA;
 - 2.1.5. "**Personal information**" means information relating to an identifiable, living, natural person, and (where applicable) an identifiable, existing juristic person, including the name, race, gender, marital status, address and identifying number of a person, symbol, e-mail address, physical address, telephone number, location information, online identifier or other particular assignment to the person.
 - 2.1.6. "**POPIA**" means the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013.
 - 2.1.7. "**Processing**" is any activity that involves use of personal information. It includes any operation or activity or any set of operations, whether or not by automatic means, concerning personal information, including—

- (i) the collection, receipt, recording, organisation, collation, storage, updating or modification, retrieval, alteration, consultation or use;
- (ii) dissemination by means of transmission, distribution or making available in any other form; or
- (iii) merging, linking, as well as restriction, degradation, erasure or destruction of information.

2.1.8. **"Processing conditions"** means the eight (8) conditions for the lawful processing of personal information set forth in chapter 3 of POPIA.

2.1.9. **"Regulator"** means the Information Regulator established in terms of section 39 of POPIA.

2.1.10. **"Responsible parties"** means the people or organisations who/which determine the purposes for which, and the manner in which, any personal information is processed. They have a responsibility to establish practices and policies in line with POPIA. The CC is the responsible party in respect of all personal information used in its business.

2.1.11. **"Special personal information"** includes personal information concerning the religious or philosophical beliefs, race or ethnic origin, trade union membership, political persuasion, health or sex life or biometric information of a data subject; or the criminal behaviour of a data subject to the extent that such information relates to the alleged commission by a data subject of any offence; or any proceedings in respect of any offence allegedly committed by a data subject or the disposal of such proceedings.

2.1.12. **"Users"** include employees of the CC whose work involves processing personal information. Users have a duty to protect the information they handle by following the CC's data privacy and data protection policies at all times.

3. ABOUT THIS POLICY

3.1. This policy applies to all users and will come into effect on 30 June 2021.

- 3.2. The types of information that the CC may be required to handle include details of current, past and prospective employees, suppliers and service providers that the CC communicates with, as well as personal information and special personal information in respect of its clients and their stakeholders. The information, which may be held on paper or on a computer or other electronic media, is subject to certain legal safeguards specified in POPIA and other regulations. POPIA imposes restrictions on how the CC may use that information.
- 3.3. POPIA applies to the automated or non-automated processing of personal information entered into a record in any form (provided that when the recorded personal information is processed by non-automated means, it forms part of a filing system or is intended to form part thereof) by or for the CC.
- 3.4. This policy sets out the CC's rules on personal information protection and the legal conditions to be satisfied in relation to the obtaining, handling, processing, storage, transportation and destruction of personal information.
- 3.5. This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and may be amended at any time.
- 3.6. The IO is responsible for ensuring compliance with POPIA and with this policy. That post is held by one of the joint members of the CC, who is contactable at (087) 898-4956 and via e-mail at info@agconsulting.co.za. Any questions or concerns about the operation of this policy should be referred to the IO in the first instance.
- 3.7. If you consider that the policy has not been followed in respect of personal information about yourself or others you should raise the matter with your line manager or the IO.

4. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of the policy is to establish management direction and high-level objectives for regulating the manner in which personal information is processed and to provide for remedies in cases where personal information is not handled accordingly. Further purposes of the policy include:

- 4.1. compliance with the requirements of POPIA;
- 4.2. the identification and codification of documents and ensuring adequate protection and maintenance of accuracy of documents where required;
- 4.3. providing a set framework and unified policy regarding the methods and procedures for the retention and destruction of documents;

- 4.4. ensuring records that are no longer required or documents that are of no value are destroyed properly and in accordance with the data retention schedule of the CC; and
- 4.5. providing assistance to employees in understanding the requirements relating to the protection of personal information and the retention and destruction of documents.

5. PROCESSING CONDITIONS

Anyone processing personal information must comply with the following eight processing conditions:

- 5.1. Condition 1: Accountability;
- 5.2. Condition 2: Processing Limitation;
- 5.3. Condition 3: Purpose Specification;
- 5.4. Condition 4: Further Processing Limitation;
- 5.5. Condition 5: Information Quality;
- 5.6. Condition 6: Openness;
- 5.7. Condition 7: Security Safeguards; and
- 5.8. Condition 8: Data Subject Participation.

Condition 1: Accountability

- 5.9. The CC must ensure that the processing conditions are complied with.
- 5.10. The CC has appointed an IO to encourage and support the CC in achieving overall compliance with POPIA.
- 5.11. The IO is responsible for drafting an information security policy, which will, among other things, address document retention, access to information and classification of data.
- 5.12. The CC will furthermore monitor compliance with information security standards on an ongoing basis.
- 5.13. Training or awareness sessions for employees on POPIA will be conducted on a regular basis.

Condition 2: Processing limitation

- 5.14. Personal information may only be processed lawfully and in a manner that does not infringe on the privacy of a data subject.
- 5.15. Personal information may only be processed if, given the purpose for which it is processed, it is adequate, relevant and not excessive.
- 5.16. There are a number of grounds that the CC may use in order to process personal information.
- 5.17. It is advisable to obtain voluntary, informed and specific consent from data subjects, where possible, before collecting their personal information.
- 5.18. A data subject may withdraw consent at any time and such withdrawal of consent should be noted. A data subject may also object at any time on reasonable grounds, to the processing of its personal information, save if other legislation provides for such processing. The CC may then no longer process the personal information, unless it has another lawful justification for doing so.
- 5.19. Generally, personal information must be collected from the data subject directly except in certain circumstances which may include if the data subject has made personal information public or if collection from another source is necessary.

Condition 3: Purpose specification

- 5.20. Personal information may only be collected for specific, explicitly defined and lawful reasons relating to the functions or activities of the CC, of which the data subject is made aware.
- 5.21. Personal information will only be collected to the extent that it is required for the specific purpose notified to the data subject. Any personal information which is not necessary for that purpose will not be collected in the first place.
- 5.22. Once collected, personal information will only be processed for the specific purposes notified to the data subject when the personal information was first collected or for any other purposes specifically permitted by POPIA. This means that personal information will not be collected for one purpose and then used for another. If it becomes necessary to change the purpose for which the personal information is processed, the data subject will be informed of the new purpose before any processing occurs.

- 5.23. Records of personal information may only be kept for as long as necessary for achieving the purpose for which the information was collected or subsequently processed, unless:
- 5.23.1. retention of the record is required or authorised by law;
 - 5.23.2. the responsible party reasonably requires the record for lawful purposes related to its functions or activities;
 - 5.23.3. retention of the record is required by a contract between the parties thereto; or
 - 5.23.4. the data subject or a competent person where the data subject is a child has consented to the retention of the record.
- 5.24. Personal information will therefore not be kept longer than is necessary for the purpose for which it was collected. This means that personal information must be destroyed or deleted in a manner that prevents its reconstruction in an intelligible form or be de-identified as soon as reasonably practicable after The CC is no longer authorised to retain the record.

Condition 4: Further processing limitation

- 5.25. Further processing of personal information must be compatible with purpose of collection, unless the data subject has consented to such further processing.
- 5.26. Where personal information is transferred to a third party for further processing, the further processing must be compatible with the purpose for which it was initially collected, unless the data subject has consented to such further processing or it is permitted in terms of POPIA.
- 5.27. If personal information is to be used for any other purpose the further consent of the data subject must be obtained. Where this is not possible, the IO should be consulted.
- 5.28. Personal information may only be disclosed to other recipients of The CC in accordance with the provisions of its Personal Information Sharing Policy.
- 5.29. The CC must take reasonably practicable steps to ensure that personal information is complete, accurate, not misleading and updated where necessary in light of the purpose for which such information is collected.

- 5.30. Information which is incorrect or misleading is not accurate and steps will therefore be taken to check the accuracy of any personal information at the point of collection and at regular intervals afterwards. Inaccurate or out-of-date information will be destroyed.
- 5.31. The IO will develop processes for:
- 5.31.1. checking the accuracy and completeness of records containing personal information;
 - 5.31.2. dealing with complaints relating to the timeliness and accuracy of personal information;
 - 5.31.3. individuals to periodically verify and update their personal information;
 - 5.31.4. making individuals aware of these processes; and
 - 5.31.5. monitoring and tracking updates to personal information.
- 5.32. The IO will furthermore put procedures in place to verify that records containing personal information remain relevant, accurate and up-to-date.

Condition 6: Openness

- 5.33. The CC must take reasonably practicable steps to ensure that the data subject is aware of:
- 5.33.1. the information being collected and where the information is not collected from the data subject, the source from which it is collected;
 - 5.33.2. the name and address of the CC;
 - 5.33.3. the purpose for which the information is being collected;
 - 5.33.4. whether or not the supply of the information by that data subject is voluntary or mandatory;
 - 5.33.5. the consequences of failure to provide the information;
 - 5.33.6. any particular law authorising or requiring the collection of the information;
 - 5.33.7. where applicable, the fact that the responsible party intends to transfer the information to a country or international organisation and the level of

- protection afforded to the information by that country or international organisation;
 - 5.33.8. any further information such as the recipient or category of recipients of the information, the nature or category of the information and the existence of the right of access to and the right to rectify the information collected;
 - 5.33.9. the existence of the right to object to the processing of personal information; and
 - 5.33.10. the right to lodge a complaint to the Regulator and the contact details of the Regulator,
 - 5.33.11. which is necessary, having regard to the specific circumstances in which the information is or is not to be processed, to enable processing in respect of the data subject to be reasonable.
- 5.34. By law all organisations in South Africa are required to have a PAIA manual which outlines to the public:
- 5.34.1. the categories of personal information collected by the CC;
 - 5.34.2. the purpose of processing such personal information;
 - 5.34.3. description of the categories of data subjects and of the information or categories of information relating thereto;
 - 5.34.4. the recipients or categories of recipients to whom the personal information may be supplied;
 - 5.34.5. planned transborder flows of personal information; and
 - 5.34.6. a general description of information security measures to be implemented by the CC.
- 5.35. For staff, an Internal Privacy Notice describes how the CC will collect and use personal information about its staff during and after its working relationship with them.
- 5.36. The CC will keep all personal information secure against the risk of loss, unauthorised access, interference, modification, destruction or disclosure and conduct regular risk assessments to identify and manage all reasonably foreseeable internal and external risks to personal information under its control.

5.37. The CC may appoint a third party specialist to secure the integrity of the personal information under its control.

5.38. Duty in Respect of Operators

5.38.1. Operators (i.e. third parties which may further process personal information collected by the CC) may include external consultants and persons who clear the payment instructions of the CC's clients.

5.38.2. The CC will implement the following key obligations in respect of operators:

- (i) The operator may not process personal information on behalf of the CC without the knowledge and authorisation of the CC;
- (ii) The CC will ensure that the operator implements the security measures required in terms of Condition 7: Security Safeguards;
- (iii) There will be a written contract in place between the CC and the operator which requires the operator to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of personal information processed on behalf of the CC, and
- (iv) If the third party is located outside of South Africa, the CC will consult the IO.

5.39. Duties in Respect of Security Compromises

In the event that personal information has been compromised, or if there is a reasonable belief that a compromise has occurred, the CC will comply with its Security Compromises Policy.

Condition 8: Data subject participation

5.40. Request for Information

5.40.1. The CC recognises that a data subject has the right to request the CC to confirm, free of charge, whether or not it holds personal information about the data subject and request The CC to provide a record or a description of the personal information held, including information about the identity of all third parties, or categories of third parties, who have, or have had, access to the information at a prescribed fee.

5.40.2. All users will comply with the CC's Subject Access Request Policy in respect of any access to personal information requests by data subjects.

5.41. Request to Correct or Delete

The data subject may request IO to:

5.41.1. correct or delete personal information relating to the data subject in its possession or under its control that is inaccurate, irrelevant, excessive, misleading or obtained unlawfully; or

5.41.2. destroy or delete a record of personal information about the data subject that the CC is no longer authorised to retain.

The CC will provide credible proof to the individual of the action that has been taken in response to the request.

If any changes to the personal information will have an impact on any decisions to be made about the individual, The CC will inform all third parties to whom the information has been disclosed, including any credit bureaus, of such changes.

6. FAIR AND LAWFUL PROCESSING

6.1. POPIA is intended not to prevent the processing of personal information, but to ensure that it is done fairly and without adversely affecting the rights of the data subject.

6.2. For personal information to be processed lawfully, certain requirements have to be met. These include, *inter alia*, requirements that the data subject has consented to the processing, or that the processing is necessary for the legitimate interest of the responsible party or the party to whom the personal information is disclosed. In most cases when special personal information is being processed, the data subject's explicit consent to the processing of such information will be required.

6.3. Personal information about users may be processed for legal, personnel, administrative and management purposes and to enable the CC to meet its legal obligations as an employer, for example to pay users, monitor their performance and to confer benefits in connection with their employment.

6.4. Personal information about clients, suppliers and other third parties may be processed for the following purposes

- 6.4.1. Making applications for regulatory approvals, including licences and certificates of suitability;
- 6.4.2. Monitoring compliance with contractual obligations;
- 6.4.3. Monitoring and ensuring compliance with applicable legislation;
- 6.4.4. Monitoring and ensuring compliance with licence conditions, and
- 6.4.5. Measuring and promoting B-BBEE compliance.

7. PROCESSING IN LINE WITH DATA SUBJECTS' RIGHTS

- 7.1. Personal information will be processed in line with data subjects' rights. Data subjects have a right to:
 - 7.1.1. request access to any personal information held about them by the CC;
 - 7.1.2. prevent the processing of their personal information for direct-marketing purposes;
 - 7.1.3. ask to have inaccurate personal information amended; and
 - 7.1.4. object to any decision that significantly affects them being taken solely by a computer or other automated process.

8. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES

- 8.1. Users dealing with enquiries from third parties should be careful about disclosing any personal information held by the CC. In particular they should:
 - 8.1.1. check the identity of the person making the enquiry and whether they are legally entitled to receive the information they have requested;
 - 8.1.2. suggest that the third party puts their request in writing so the third party's identity and entitlement to the information may be verified;
 - 8.1.3. refer to the IO for assistance in difficult situations; and
 - 8.1.4. where providing information to a third party, do so in accordance with the eight processing conditions.

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY

This policy is reviewed annually by the IO and Management of the CC to ensure it is achieving its stated objectives.