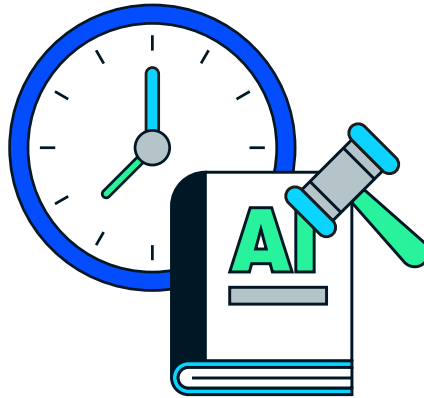


AI Act timeline:



(new) key deadlines

Under the AI Act, AI systems must comply with a range of obligations. However, it is not always easy to keep track of which AI system has to meet which obligation, and by when. It can quickly turn into a complex tangle, especially now that the Digital Omnibus on AI has shifted a number of dates in the timeline.



That is why the Knowledge Centre Data & Society developed this timeline. It allows organisations to see at a glance by when they need to comply with which obligation. The timeline incorporates the changes introduced by the Digital Omnibus on AI and uses a simple colour code to do so:

White bar

The obligation under the AI Act has not been changed by the Digital Omnibus on AI. Nothing changes here: the obligation applies from the date originally set in the AI Act.

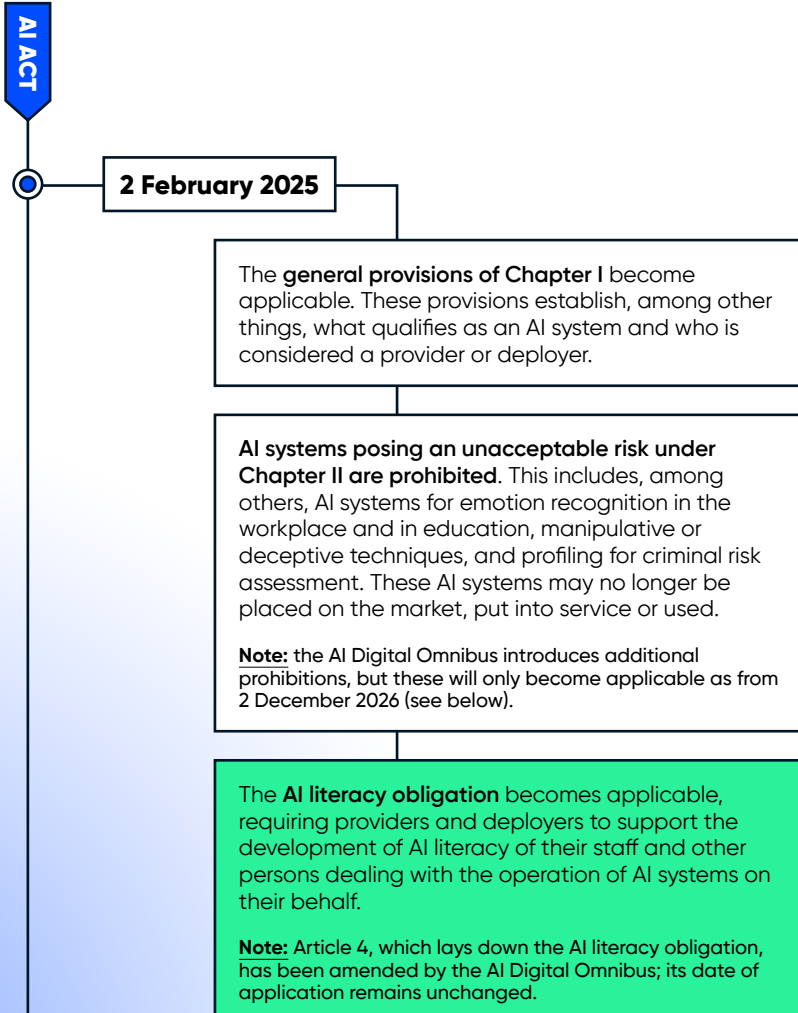
Red bar

The original deadline for an obligation has been shifted by the Digital Omnibus on AI. A red bar therefore marks a point at which an AI system would have had to comply under the original AI Act, but does not yet have to. The new, applicable date appears further along the timeline, shown in green.

Green bar

The Digital Omnibus on AI introduces a new deadline or a new obligation. A green bar therefore marks the point at which an AI system has to comply with the obligation concerned, or at which a new or amended obligation starts to apply.

Organisations that are only interested in the current status therefore need to look only at the white and green bars.



This timeline focuses on the obligations that are relevant to organisations. Tasks of the Commission and supervisory authorities have been omitted in order to keep the overview clear and accessible.

2 August 2025

Obligations, as laid down in Chapter V, for GPAI models placed on the market as from 2 August 2025 apply. Additional obligations apply to GPAI models with systemic risk.

Deadline for Member States to **designate the national competent authorities** (the notifying authorities and the market surveillance authorities), and to **lay down rules on penalties and fines**, other than in relation to GPAI models.

2 August 2026

The **transparency obligations** set out in Article 50 become applicable to certain AI systems that interact directly with natural persons or generate content. For example, it must be made clear when a user is interacting with a chatbot, and AI-generated or manipulated content, such as deepfakes, must be identifiable. Synthetic content must also be marked.

Enforcement of the AI Act starts at national and EU level.

Under the original AI Act timeline, the **obligations applicable to high-risk AI systems referred to in Annex III** would have become applicable on this date. The AI Digital Omnibus has deferred the application of these obligations to 2 December 2027 (see below).

The AI Digital Omnibus provides for an extended compliance period for AI systems that **generate synthetic content** and that were already **placed on the market** before 2 August 2026 to comply with the transparency obligations under Article 50(2) (see below, 2 December 2026).

Under the original AI Act timeline, each Member State was required to establish at least one **AI regulatory sandbox** by this date. Such a sandbox provides a controlled environment in which innovative AI systems may be tested for a limited period before being placed on the market. The AI Digital Omnibus has deferred this obligation to 2 August 2027 (see below).

2 December 2026

The **new categories of prohibited AI systems** introduced by the AI Digital Omnibus **become applicable**. AI systems that generate child sexual abuse material (CSAM) or create images, videos and audio depicting an identifiable person's intimate parts, or sexually explicit activities, without their consent (NCIC) are prohibited, and may not be placed on the market, put into service or used.

AI systems that generate synthetic content and that were placed on the market before 2 August 2026 must comply with the transparency obligations laid down in Article 50(2) as from this date. This means that their output must be marked in a machine-readable format and be detectable as AI-generated or manipulated.

