

“Quasi DPO” in Japan

The 3rd Online Regular Session of the Japan DPO Association
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“Quasi DPO”

- In Japan the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI) does not have equivalent provisions of “DPO” in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). I will name similar officers in Japan “Quasi DPO” here.
- I have engaged in processes of all bills regarding personal information protection at the national level in Japan until 2014 and in drafting, to give some examples, the Guidelines of personal information protection in the private sector of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) in 1997 and the Guidelines for the telecommunications business of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) in 1998. These two Guidelines set up a “Personal Information Protection Manager.”

Privacy Mark System based upon the MITI Guidelines (1 April, 1998)

- I chaired the working group of JIPDEC (Japan Information Processing Development Center) and discussed how to implement the MITI Guidelines from July 1997 to March 1998. The working group proposed the Privacy Mark System based upon the MITI Guidelines. JIPDEC started the “System for Granting Marks of Confidence for Privacy Protection” from April 1, 1998.
- In September 1998 the Drafting Committee I chaired was formed in the Japanese Standards Association (JSA) to make the Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) based on the MITI Guidelines. The original draft was investigated by the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee and JIS Q 15001 : 1999 (Requirements for Compliance Program on Personal Information Protection) was published in March 1999.

Privacy Mark System adopted JIS Q 15001 as its assessment criterion in 1999

- Then the **Privacy Mark System** has adopted JIS Q 15001 as its assessment criterion since April 1999 when the first edition was developed, encompassing the eight principles of the OECD Privacy Guidelines 1980 and extracting most of the concepts of the EU Data Protection Directive (95/46/EC). The title was changed into JIS Q 15001 : 2006 (**Personal information protection management systems —Requirements**) in the second edition in 2006. The third edition of JIS Q 15001 was made public on 20 December, 2017.

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- JIS Q 15001 :2017 defines “a personal information protection manager” and requires that a personal information protection manager should be appointed.

Number of Privacy Mark Entities 16,446 (as of 12 October, 2020)

- According to the webpage of JIPDEC, **Privacy Mark Entities** are **16,446** as of 12 October, 2020. It implies that there are at least **16,446 personal information protection managers** or “**quasi DPO**” in Japan today.
- There have been other kinds of specialists in data protection such as **Assessors of Privacy Mark System** and consultants for gaining Privacy Mark.
- Number of Assessors : Lead Assessors 367, Assessors 289 and Provisional Assessors 745 (total 1,401 as of 31 March, 2020)