



**Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers  
Official Translation Department**

**Law on the Use of Surveillance Cameras**

Royal Decree No. M/34  
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**Translation of Saudi Laws**

## NOTES:

1. This translation is provided for guidance. The governing text is the Arabic text.
2. The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:
  - Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
  - Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
  - Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
  - The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them, and who) refer to a natural and legal person.



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## Law on the Use of Surveillance Cameras

### Article 1

In this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Law:** Law on the Use of Surveillance Cameras.

**Regulations:** Implementing Regulations of this Law.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Interior.

**Minister:** Minister of Interior.

**Committee:** Committee for reviewing violations of this Law.

**Surveillance Cameras:** Any fixed or mobile device designed to record video footage in accordance with the provisions of this Law. This term shall not include cameras installed by individuals in private residential units and compounds.

**Surveillance Camera Systems:** Systems connected to surveillance camera devices for the purpose of monitoring, storing, and analyzing camera video footage.

**Surveillance Camera Devices:** Cameras, servers, and storage media linked to surveillance camera systems.

**Storage Media:** Containers used for the storage or transfer of information and the retrieval thereof when needed, including hard disks, flash memories, magnetic disks, cables, and servers.

**Recorded Footage:** Video footage captured by surveillance cameras and saved on storage media.

**Operation Rooms:** Monitoring and control rooms at the Ministry and the Presidency of State Security which are interlinked to the systems of the National Information Center.

**Requirements Document:** A document which includes the conditions and security requirements for the installation of surveillance systems and the general technical specifications of surveillance camera devices.

### Article 2

The provisions of this Law shall apply to the following:

1. Ministries and public agencies and institutions.
2. Oil and petrochemical facilities.
3. Power and water desalination plants.
4. Tourist accommodation facilities.
5. Malls and shopping centers.
6. Financial institutions, banks, and currency exchange and money transfer centers.
7. Residential buildings, including compounds and apartment buildings, according to the Requirements Document, the Regulations, and this Law.
8. The Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque as well as the Holy Sites.
9. Mosques.



10. Sports clubs and facilities and stadiums as well as public and private cultural facilities and youth centers.
11. Public and private recreational facilities.
12. Public and private health establishments, including medical cities, hospitals, and clinics.
13. Commercial warehouses.
14. Main roads and their intersections within cities.
15. Highways connecting cities and counties.
16. Fuel stations and gas sales outlets.
17. Public and private educational establishments.
18. Food service establishments.
19. Public means of transport.
20. Event and festival venues.
21. Places of economic and commercial activities.
22. Public and private museums as well as historical and heritage sites that receive visitors.
23. Any other sites, activities, or facilities that may be added by the Ministry.

The Regulations shall specify the places where surveillance cameras may be installed and the controls for protecting their devices, taking into account the privacy of individuals and the provisions of this Law.

### **Article 3**

The relevant government agency may not issue to an entity subject to this Law a license to engage in an activity or renew such license except after satisfaction of the requirements for the installation of surveillance camera devices, as specified in the Requirements Document.

### **Article 4**

1. Entities subject to this Law shall install and maintain surveillance camera devices and operate such devices around the clock.
2. Entities subject to this Law shall keep recorded footage for the periods specified in the Requirements Document. If a specific incident is reported, the relevant footage must be maintained without modification until the investigation is completed and must be submitted to the Ministry or the Presidency of State Security, as the case may be, upon request.
3. The Ministry shall classify the entities subject to this Law as follows:
  - a) High security entities, facilities, or properties. Such entities, facilities, or properties must connect their surveillance camera systems directly to the operation rooms via secure networks in accordance with the Requirements Document, subject to security needs.
  - b) Medium security entities, facilities, or properties. Such entities, facilities, or properties must connect their surveillance camera systems directly to the operation rooms via open communication networks in accordance with the Requirements Document, subject to security needs.
  - c) Low security entities, facilities, or properties. Such entities, facilities, or properties are not required to be connected to the operation rooms.



4. Security and military agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and residential buildings, including compounds and apartment buildings, shall be exempt from the requirement of connecting to the operation rooms referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article.

#### **Article 5**

The manufacture, importation, sale, installation, operation, or maintenance of the surveillance cameras specified in this Law may not be carried out except after obtaining the required approvals from the Ministry, subject to the procedures specified in the Regulations.

#### **Article 6**

1. Entities subject to this Law may not install surveillance cameras inside the following places:
  - a) Medical examination rooms, inpatient rooms, physiotherapy rooms, changing rooms, toilets, women's beauty salons and fitness centers, and residential units at tourist accommodation facilities.
  - b) Medical operating rooms and private places. The Regulations shall specify the entities covered by this paragraph.
  - c) Any other place specified in the Regulations, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
2. The places covered by the provisions of this Law shall have conspicuous signage indicating that the area is monitored by surveillance cameras. The Regulations shall specify the specifications, number, and places of such signage.
3. Recorded footage may not be transferred or disseminated, except with the approval of the Ministry or the Presidency of State Security, as applicable; pursuant to a judicial order; or upon a request by the competent investigation authority.

#### **Article 7**

The Ministry or the Presidency of State Security, as the case may be, may review the streams and recorded footage of surveillance cameras; keep a copy thereof and process and analyze their data if necessary and for security reasons, in a manner not inconsistent with relevant laws; and submit the same to the competent court and the competent investigation authority, upon request.

#### **Article 8**

The Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority shall, by utilizing artificial intelligence and data technologies, develop systems to process and analyze the streams and recorded footage of surveillance cameras, and enable the Ministry or the Presidency of State Security, as the case may be, to use and benefit from such systems in accordance with relevant laws. This Article shall be implemented in accordance with applicable laws.



## **Article 9**

1. Violations of the provisions of this Law shall be detected and recorded in reports in accordance with the procedures specified in the Regulations.
2. Employees, to be named pursuant to a decision by the Minister, shall detect and record violations of the provisions of this Law. The Regulations shall specify the work procedures of said employees in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

## **Article 10**

The Ministry may, except in security-related violations, assign the duties of detecting and recording certain violations of the provisions of this Law to the private sector in accordance with relevant legal procedures.

## **Article 11**

Pursuant to a decision by the Minister, a committee or more comprising three members, one of whom holds a degree in Sharia or law, shall be formed in each province to review the violations provided for in this Law and determine the appropriate penalty in accordance with Article 12 of this Law.

## **Article 12**

1. Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated in any other law, a natural person or a private legal person subject to the provisions of this Law who violates any of such provisions shall be subject to the following penalties:
  - a) A fine of five hundred riyals for each surveillance camera or surveillance camera device which fails to meet the technical specifications specified in the Requirements Document.
  - b) A fine of one thousand riyals for each surveillance camera or surveillance camera device not installed in accordance with the Requirements Document.
  - c) A fine of one thousand riyals for each violation of the provisions of Article 6(2) of this Law.
  - d) A fine of five thousand riyals for failure to keep the recorded footage as stipulated in Article 4(2) of this Law.
  - e) A fine of ten thousand riyals for each violation of the provisions of Article 6(1) of this Law.
  - f) A fine of twenty thousand riyals for the transfer or dissemination of recorded footage in violation of the provisions of this Law, or the destruction of or tampering with surveillance camera devices or recorded footage.
2. The Minister shall, pursuant to a decision thereby, issue a table which specifies the violations that must be rectified by the violator within a specific period. Failure to rectify any of the violations in said table within the specified period shall constitute a new violation.

## **Article 13**

A person against whom a penalty decision is issued may appeal such decision before the Administrative Court within sixty days from the date of notification thereof.



#### **Article 14**

Entities subject to the provisions of this Law shall comply with the following:

1. The conditions and security requirements as well as the technical specifications specified in the Requirements Document. Entities that are subject to the oversight of the High Commission for Industrial Security shall, in addition to the provisions of this Law and the Requirements Document, comply with the security specifications issued by the Commission.
2. Managing and using the systems linked to surveillance camera devices in accordance with the rules issued by the National Cybersecurity Authority and as provided for in the Requirements Document.

#### **Article 15**

The Minister or his designee may, subject to the controls and conditions to be set by the Minister, grant any person who assists in the detection of a violation of the provisions of this Law a reward of not more than 10% of the collected fine, provided that such person is not an employee of the Ministry or a person appointed to detect and record violations or perform monitoring or inspection duties.

#### **Article 16**

The Ministry shall, in conjunction with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Presidency of State Security, the National Cybersecurity Authority, the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority, the Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization, and any other related entities, develop the Requirements Document and propose any amendments thereto as necessary.

The Requirements Document shall be issued pursuant to a decision by the Minister within one hundred and eighty days from the date of publication of this Law in the Official Gazette, and shall become effective on the date this Law enters into force.

#### **Article 17**

The Minister shall, within one hundred and eighty days from the date of publication of this Law in the Official Gazette, issue the Regulations, which shall become effective on the date this Law enters into force.

#### **Article 18**

This Law shall enter into force one hundred and eighty days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.