

Data Retention Policy

Overview

The need to retain data varies widely with the type of data. Some data can be immediately deleted and some must be retained until reasonable potential for future need no longer exists. Since this can be somewhat subjective, a retention policy is important to ensure that Progress Vehicle Management guidelines on retention are consistently applied throughout the organisation.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to specify Progress Vehicle Management guidelines for retaining different types of data.

Scope

The scope of this policy covers all company data stored on company-owned, company-leased, and otherwise company-provided systems and media, regardless of location. Note that the need to retain certain information can be mandated by local, industry regulations and will comply with EU General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 1988 and the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003.

Where this policy differs from applicable regulations, the policy specified in the regulations will apply.

Policy

Reasons for Data Retention

Some data, must be retained in order to protect the company's interests, preserve evidence, and generally conform to good business practices. Some reasons for data retention include:

- Litigation
- Accident investigation
- Security incident investigation
- Regulatory requirements
- Intellectual property preservation

Data Duplication

As data storage increases in size and decreases in cost, Progress Vehicle Management often stores data in several places on the network. A common example of this is where a single file may be stored on a local user's machine, on a central file server, and again on a backup system(s). When identifying and classifying the company's data, it is important to also understand where that data may be stored, particularly for duplicate copies, so that this policy may be applied to all duplicates of the information.

Retention Requirements

This section sets guidelines for retaining the different types of company data.

- Personal customer data: Personal data will be held for as long as the individual is a customer of the company plus 6 years.
- Personal employee data: General employee data will be held for the duration of employment and then for 6 year after the last day of contractual employment. Employee contracts will be held for 6 years after last day of contractual employment.
- Tax payments will be held for six years.
- Records of leave will be held for three years.

- Recruitment details: Interview notes of unsuccessful applicants will be held for 1 year after interview. This personal data will then be destroyed.
- Health and Safety: 7 years for records of major accidents and dangerous occurrences.
- Public data: Public data will be retained for 3 years.
- Operational data: Most company data will fall in this category. Operational data will be retained for 5 years.
- Critical data including Tax and VAT: Critical data must be retained for 6 years.
- Confidential data: Confidential data must be retained for 7 years.

Retention of Encrypted Data

If any information retained under this policy is stored in an encrypted format, considerations must be taken for secure storage of the encryption keys. Encryption keys must be retained as long as the data that the keys decrypt is retained.

Data Destruction

Data destruction is a critical component of a data retention policy. Data destruction ensures that Progress Vehicle Management will use data efficiently thereby making data management and data retrieval more cost effective. Exactly how certain data should be destroyed is covered in the Data Classification Matrix. Full details are available upon request at: compliance@progressvehiclemanagement.co.uk

When the retention timeframe expires, the company must actively destroy the data covered by this policy. If a user feels that certain data should not be destroyed, he or she should identify the data to his or her supervisor so that an exception to the policy can be considered. Since this decision has long-term legal implications, exceptions will be approved only by a member or members of the Progress Vehicle Managements compliance and GDPR team.

Progress Vehicle Management specifically directs users not to destroy data in violation of this policy. Destroying data that a user may feel is harmful to himself or herself is particularly forbidden, or destroying data in an attempt to cover up a violation of law or company policy.

Enforcement

This policy will be enforced by the Compliance Manager and/or Executive Team. Violations may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension, restriction of access, or more severe penalties up to and including termination of employment.

Where illegal activities or theft of company property (physical or intellectual) are suspected, Progress Vehicle Management may report such activities to the applicable authorities.

Definitions

Backup: To copy data to a second location, solely for the purpose of safe keeping of that data.

Encryption: The process of encoding data with an algorithm so that it is unintelligible and secure without the key. Used to protect data during transmission or while stored.

Encryption Key: An alphanumeric series of characters that enables data to be encrypted and decrypted.