



هيئة الاتصالات والفضاء والتقنية  
Communications, Space &  
Technology Commission

# Data Center Service Providers Guide

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## 1. Introduction

Proceeding from the Communications Space and Technology Commission (CST) proficiency to regulate and monitor the information technology sector, in accordance with its amended regulation by Cabinet Resolution No. (133) dated 21/5/1424 AH, which entrusted CST with regulatory tasks for the information technology sector and affirmed by Clause (Seventh) of Cabinet Resolution No. (292) and dated 27/04/1441 AH the authority exercises these powers in order to achieve the objectives of regulating the sector, which are contained in Article (Two) of the Communications and Information Technology Ordinance (the Act), issued by Royal Decree No. (M, 106) dated 2/11/1443 AH

With the information technology sector currently undergoing rapid change, this is prompting CST to adopt a Data Center Services Regulations (“Regulations”). The Regulations aim to:

- Enhance and elevate the standard of Data Center Services in the KSA
- Provide regulatory transparency and certainty for Service Providers and customers
- Stimulate investment into the Data Center market in the KSA
- Enhancing competitiveness in the data center market
- Optimize the use of the infrastructure of the communications and information technology sector

This document (Data Center Service Providers Guide) issued by CST has been produced to implement the provisions of the “Data Center Services Regulations” (the Regulations), and to clarify the registration procedures and requirements for Data Center service providers. This Guide and its contents are subject to review periodically from time to time at the discretion of CST, noting that the terms defined in the Regulations, the Communications Law and its Implementing Regulations shall have the same meanings in this Guide.

## 2. Who Needs to Register

The obligation to register as explained in section 3 of the Regulations shall apply the wholesale or retail Data Centers Service Providers who offer Data Center Services to others in the Kingdom.

The service provider to whom the aforementioned registration obligation applies shall register with CST, as registration will provide additional guarantees for itself and subscribers with regard to quality and reliability, and it will be a reason for attracting subscribers to deal only with service providers registered with CST.

CST has the right to reject the registration application, at its absolute discretion, and without obligation to provide a justification. CST may do so if it has any reasons to believe that, for example, the relevant service provider does not sufficiently prove that it meets the required minimum technical qualifications, sufficient experience, quality standards, financial resources or other reasons.

CST will publish a list of licensed Data Center Service Providers and Data Centers on its website as well as in its annual reports.

## 3. Registration Requirements

### 3.1 Basic Requirements:

- 3.1.1 A valid commercial registration in the Kingdom with validity period is not less than three months.
- 3.1.2 The commercial name of the data center.
- 3.1.3 The name of the company that owns the data center.
- 3.1.4 The detailed address of the data center and the coordinates of the site.
- 3.1.5 Contact information for the data center, which includes, as a minimum, (e-mail, phone number).
- 3.1.6 Data Center Level/Tier (1, 2, 3, or 4).
- 3.1.7 The total area of land and White space in square meters(Sqm).
- 3.1.8 The total facility Power Capacity (MW).
- 3.1.9 The total IT load capacity (MW).
- 3.1.10 Total number of cabinet/Racks that Data Center can accommodate.
- 3.1.11 Name of the Data Center Service Provider.

3.2 Documents proving conformity with the technical standards / requirements mentioned in the table below or exceptionally any technical standards that are equivalent to or exceeding those standards must be submitted according to CST's absolute discretion.

Category	Requirements
Qualifying	<p>This registration is for the entities that will develop a new data center for providing data center services to others.</p> <p>In addition to the basic requirements mentioned in caluse (3.1), the following must be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data Center building permit</li> <li>- Planned Tier constructed design for the facility (Tier 2 or above)</li> <li>- Time line: An estimated date to start providing services in the market</li> </ul>
Limited	<p>This registration is for existing Data Centers that are either Tier I certified, hold any Tier design certification only or do not have any certification or did not fulfill one of the requirements mentioned in Articles (4-4) or (4-5) in the regulation.</p> <p>In addition to the basic requirements mentioned in caluse (3.1), the following must be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of connectivity providers</li> <li>- Construction Date</li> </ul>
Standard	<p>In addition to the basic requirements mentioned in caluse (3.1), the following must be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tier II constructed certified Data Centers ( Recognized by CST)</li> <li>- Proof of Data Center Neutrality</li> <li>- Energy management and sustainability plans (that Includes: baseline, targets, programs/initiatives/procedures/technologies that enable the service provider to achieve those targets during the implementation period of the plan.)</li> <li>- Construction Date</li> </ul>
Advanced	<p>In addition to the basic requirements mentioned in caluse (3.1), the following must be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tier III or above constructed certified Data Centers (Recognized by CST)</li> <li>- Proof of Data Center Neutrality</li> <li>- Energy management and sustainability plans (that Includes: baseline, targets, programs/initiatives/procedures/technologies that enable the service provider to achieve those targets during the implementation period of the plan.)</li> <li>- Construction Date</li> </ul>

Table (1) Registration Categories

## 4. Application Process

- 4.1 Review standards and regulations and prepare documents.
- 4.2 Submit the application electronically through the CST website.
- 4.3 Select registration level (**Qualifying, Limited, Standard, Advanced**) and attach all relevant certificates and credentials of the Data Center as listed in The “Registration Requirements” section.
- 4.4 CST will inform the applicant about the result of the application, no later than (15 working days) from submitting the completed registration application.
- 4.5 If the data center becomes eligible for a higher registration category, a request to reclassify and update the registration can be submitted.
- 4.6 It is possible to renew the registration six months before its expiry.

## 5. Registration Period and Fees

- 5-1 The registration is valid for a period of three (3) Gregorian years from the date of its issuance.
- 5-2 The registration may be renewed for a similar period in accordance with the procedures specified in Article 4.
- 5-3 There is no fee for obtaining or renewing the registration.

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