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When an AI system can act on your behalf

Singapore introduces a model governance framework for agentic AI, shifting attention from answers to delegated actions.

January 2026 / Singapore

Agentic AI receives a governance model

IMDA introduced a Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI. Its governance approach addresses risks and limits, human accountability, technical controls and user responsibilities when AI systems can take actions. The framework is a practical governance reference, not a statute granting an AI agent independent professional authority.

VOLUNTARY FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED

THE MALAYSIAN LENS

For Malaysian organisations, the key difference is between drafting a message and authorising a system to send it, make a payment or amend a record. Our interpretation: permissions should be matched to the consequence of the action, with an accountable human and a reliable record of what happened.

QUESTION TO ASK

Which actions can the agent take alone, which need approval, and how can its access be stopped?

WATCH / NEXT STEP

Begin with bounded tasks and auditable permissions. The January launch is the event covered here; IMDA published an updated framework later in May, so readers implementing it now should check the current version.

READ THE ORIGINAL SOURCES

IMDA · New Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI ↗

IMDA · Later framework update (confirms January launch; not January content) ↗

Reconstructed and published 20 September 2026. Selected developments, not an exhaustive digest. Facts relate to the coverage period; maintained sources may contain later updates. The Malaysian lens is MAATIN editorial analysis.

General information, not legal advice. Verify current law and obtain qualified advice for a specific matter. Illustrative AI-generated masthead image.
