zBriefings – Edition 2

AI & compliance – what regulators are really looking for in 2025

In highly regulated industries, compliance isn't a box to check — it's the bedrock of trust, contracts, and reputation. As AI adoption accelerates, regulators are watching not just what you build, but how you build it.

This zBriefing explores what's changing, what's expected, and what executive teams must do now to stay ahead — and stay compliant.

1. Regulators want clarity, not magic

Forget black-box models that no one can explain. Whether it's a defense procurement office, medtech regulator, or financial authority — they want to understand inputs, processes, and outputs. They don't expect perfection. They expect accountability.

2. Risk classification is the new baseline

The EU AI Act and other frameworks introduce clear AI risk tiers. Tools that support decision-making in critical areas (like diagnosis or targeting) face higher scrutiny. Your job? Know your category. Then match your controls accordingly.

3. Traceability will be non-negotiable

Versioning, logging, and human review checkpoints must be embedded. If you can't trace it, you can't defend it. Period.

4. Responsible AI isn't just a tech job

Legal, compliance, IT, and business must align early — not after procurement. Regulators now expect AI governance to be cross-functional and continuous, not a one-time assessment.

What it means for leaders

Smart executives are not waiting for a compliance letter. They're building internal awareness, aligning with global frameworks, and asking the right questions early — before AI pilots go live.

Compliance isn't slowing AI down. It's making sure AI earns its place in critical operations.

Next zBriefing: AI strategy at the board level – How to brief leadership in 3 slides

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