

# Prohibited AI practices (Article 5): the hard floor that already applies

**In short.** Since 2 February 2025 the AI Act bans eight categories of AI use outright — from manipulative techniques and social scoring to emotion recognition in the workplace. The fines are the highest in the regulation. Here is what is banned, for whom, and where the edges lie.

## IN THIS FILE

- The eight prohibited categories
- A ninth ban via the Omnibus (from 2 December 2026)
- Where the edges lie
- What this means in practice

## PRIMARY SOURCES

- <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>  
Regulation (EU) 2024/1689, Article 5 (prohibited practices) and Article 99(3) (maximum fine).
- <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-prohibited-artificial-intelligence-ai-practices-defined-ai-act>  
Commission guidelines on the prohibited practices, adopted 4 February 2025.
- <https://artificialintelligenceact.eu/article/5/>  
Article 5 in the unofficial but widely used rendering by the Future of Life Institute.