XDS COOKIE POLICY

<u>Versioning</u>

Version	Release Date	Changes Made	Author
1.0	1st August 2022	Policy Creation	Tebogo Maroge
1.1	12 August 2023	Rebranding, review, and update	Diyuti Mohanlal

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1. **Introduction**
   This Cookie Policy explains how XDS ("we," "us," or "our") uses cookies and similar technologies on our websites, applications, and other digital platforms (collectively referred to as "platforms"). This policy is compliant with the relevant legislation in South Africa, including the Protection of Personal Information Act ("POPIA") and other applicable data protection laws.

2. **What are Cookies?**
2.1.   A cookie is a small text file that is stored on a user's device (such as a computer, smartphone, or tablet) when they visit a website or use an application. It contains information about the user's browsing behavior and preferences.

2.2.   Cookies serve various purposes, including remembering user preferences, improving website functionality, and providing personalized experiences. They can be either first-party cookies (set by the website or application being visited) or third-party cookies (set by a different domain than the one being visited). Cookies enable websites and applications to recognize and track users, enhance their browsing experience, and collect data for analytics and marketing purposes.

2.3.   Some websites may also use web beacons (also known as pixels or tags) to collect information, which are embedded in images. Web beacons only collect limited information, including a cookie number, a timestamp, and a record of the page on which they are placed. Websites may also carry web beacons placed by third party advertisers. These beacons do not carry any personally identifiable information and are only used to track the effectiveness of a particular campaign (for example by counting the number of visitors). Information collected by cookies classify as personal data.

3. **Cookie Consent and Control**
   Upon your first visit to our platforms, we will request your consent to the use of cookies, except for essential cookies that are necessary for the functioning of our platforms. You have the option to accept or decline non-essential cookies through our cookie consent banner or by adjusting your browser settings. Please note that disabling certain cookies may impact the functionality and performance of our platforms.

4. **Third-Party Cookies**
   Some cookies on our platforms may be set by third-party service providers, such as analytics providers or advertisers. These third parties may process your personal information in accordance with their own privacy policies. We recommend reviewing their privacy policies for more information on how they handle your data.

5. **Types of Cookies We Use**
5.1. There are two types of cookies:
   - **Persistent cookies** remain on a user's device for a set period of time specified in the cookie. They are activated each time that the user visits the website that created that particular cookie.
   - **Session cookies** are temporary. They allow website operators to link the actions of a user during a browser session. A browser session starts when a user opens the browser window and finishes when they close the browser window. Once you close the browser, all session cookies are deleted.

5.2.   Cookies also have, broadly speaking, four different functions and can be categorised as below:

   5.2.1. **Strictly necessary cookies** are essential to navigate around a website and use its features. These cookies do not gather information about you that could be used for marketing or remembering where you've been on the internet. An example of how we use '*strictly necessary*'

cookies would be the setting of unique identifiers for each unique visitor, so site numbers can be analysed by **Google Analytics.**

5.2.2. **Performance cookies** collect data for statistical purposes on how visitors use a website, they don't contain personal information such as names and email addresses and are used to improve your user experience of a website. An example of how we use '*Performance cookies*' would be when we collect data about visits to our website, which includes information such as the number of visitors, duration of visits, pages clicked on, and the referral source. It allows us to understand if you are a returning visitor, what content you viewed or interacted with, and how you discovered our website. By analysing this data, we can make improvements to enhance our services.

5.2.3. **Functionality cookies** allow users to customise how a website looks for them: they can remember usernames, language preferences and regions, and can be used to provide more personal services like the distance from you to the XDS office. An example of how we use '*Functionality cookies*' would be by remembering if you've been to the site before so that messages intended for first-time users are not displayed to you.

5.2.4. **Advertising cookies** are used to deliver advertisements more relevant to you but can also limit the number of times you see an advertisement and be used to chart the effectiveness of an ad campaign by tracking user's' clicks. They can also provide security in transactions. They are usually placed by third-party advertising networks with a website operator's permission but can be placed by the operator themselves. An example of how we use '*Advertising cookies'* would be on social media. Occasionally we advertise our products and services to our site visitors who are on social media. This could be to promote our solutions or services. We use cookies to help with this process, and the social media operator (LinkedIn) can recognise XDS website visitors who are on their platform and serve them advertisements on our behalf.

6.   **Data Security and Privacy**

We are committed to protecting your personal information in accordance with applicable data protection laws. We implement appropriate security measures to safeguard your data and ensure it is used only for the purposes stated in this Cookie Policy. For more details on how we collect, use, and protect your personal information, please refer to our Privacy Policy.

7.   **Policy Review**

This policy shall be reviewed at least annually if and when amendments or new regulations are made.

8.   **Contact Us**

If you have any questions, concerns, or requests regarding our Cookie Policy or the handling of your personal information, please contact us at info@xds.co.za.

By continuing to use our platforms, you acknowledge that you have read and understood this Cookie Policy and consent to the use of cookies as described here.

Legal Disclaimer: This Policy is not exhaustive and may be updated at the Company's discretion. Users are advised to regularly review and comply with the latest version of this Policy.