

— COPILOT · LICENSING GUIDE

Copilot buying changes on 1 December: **base licences, add-on names and pay-as-you-go**

From 1 December 2026 you can buy Microsoft 365 Copilot and Copilot Business without a Microsoft 365 base licence, today's offers stop selling in CSP, and new Copilot Business bought through CSP comes with pay-as-you-go on. Existing subscriptions don't change.

The dates

16 Oct 2026	Current offers renamed "(add-on)", for example "Microsoft 365 Copilot (add-on)"
1 Nov 2026	The CSP price list preview shows the new product and SKU IDs (Partner Center)
Early to mid-Nov	Premium models in the Copilot model selector, only where pay-as-you-go is enabled (MC1519122)
1 Dec 2026	New offers need no base licence, in all channels, at the same price. The add-on offers reach end of sale in CSP
1 Dec 2026, CSP	New Copilot Business licences: pay-as-you-go on by default, with a limit of 4,000 Copilot Credits per user per month that admins can adjust. Not at first in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, India, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, Poland or Spain
Not changing	Existing subscriptions: same SKU IDs, pricing, renewal terms, auto-renew settings and service

Fix your scripts and policies

1

Use SKU IDs, not names

Update any script, report or catalogue that matches Copilot product names. A name change on its own is no reason to migrate subscriptions or reassign licences.

2

Review your spending policies

Check the scope (all users or groups), the per-user limits and "Auto-apply new services", which is on by default.

WHERE Microsoft 365 admin center > Copilot > Cost management



Decide, then brief

3

Ask your partner three questions

Buying Copilot Business through CSP? Ask which limits they'll set, whether they'll create a default policy, and who can lower limits. A pre-release Partner Center page says pay-as-you-go can't be fully turned off, only set to zero.

4

Decide who gets premium models

"Users will not have access to UBB models unless UBB is enabled." Enable it, and allocate credits, only for groups that need them.

5

Set alerts

Add email threshold alerts to spending policies, and cost alerts to the Azure billing subscription.

6

Brief finance and procurement

From 1 December, a Copilot licence no longer proves a Microsoft 365 base licence, and Copilot still depends on the apps each user is licensed for.

Watch out for

- The pay-as-you-go default covers new Copilot Business bought through CSP. Microsoft doesn't say direct or EA purchases change.
- Microsoft gives no per-credit price here, so check your price list before turning 4,000 credits into a budget.
- Newer Microsoft docs say "Microsoft Copilot", while invoices still say "Microsoft 365 Copilot". Quote SKU names as invoiced.

Sources

1. Partner Center October 2026 announcements - learn.microsoft.com/en-us/partner-center/announcements/2026-october
2. Message center posts, via mc.merill.net: [MC1519122 premium models](#) · [MC1521616 cost management APIs](#)
3. Usage-based billing and cost management for Copilot Credits - learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/copilot/usage-based-billing-overview-copilot-credits
4. Partner Center: [Usage-based billing for Copilot Business](#)

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