

Identity verification requirements – preparing for Autumn 2025

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Who will need to verify their identity?



- **All directors**, including those of overseas companies with UK branches or establishments.
- **People with significant control (PSCs)**, including relevant officers of registrable legal entities.
- **Individuals who file information** at Companies House on behalf of entities.
- **Members of Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs)**.
- **Relevant officers** of corporate entities acting as general partners of Limited Partnerships.

The verification process



Individuals will have two routes available for identity verification:

- **Direct verification through Companies House** (via their web service, through a dedicated Companies House App or in-person at a UK Post Office).
- This direct verification route is free of charge but requires internet access, registration as a [Companies House Service user](#) and the provision of certain personal information. The Companies House App will require users to take a photo as part of the verification process.
- **Through a third party provider** known as an Authorised Corporate Service Provider (**ACSP**), who will charge for their verification services.

The UK is introducing significant changes to corporate compliance through new identity verification requirements.

Set to take effect in Autumn 2025, these reforms will require key individuals involved with UK companies and other registered entities to provide photo ID and other personal information to Companies House.

The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 covers a wide range of other reforms too, which you can read more about through our [InFocus page](#).

When are these changes happening?



While the exact implementation date has not been confirmed, the new requirements are expected to come into force in Autumn 2025.

The timeline for compliance will depend on whether a company is newly incorporating or already established.

- For new companies, directors must verify their identity before incorporation and PSCs within a short period after incorporation.
- Existing companies will need to confirm completion of all identity verification required in their next confirmation statement.

The verification documents



The UK Government has published detailed [requirements](#) for identity documentation needed for the verification process. These requirements may differ depending on whether verification is conducted directly with [Companies House](#) or through an [ACSP](#).

Following successful verification



- Individuals will receive an email from Companies House confirming their verification date and unique verification code. These codes must be stored securely as they will be required for future appointments and filings with Companies House.
- When using the Companies House direct verification method, it is recommended to take a photo of the acknowledgment page at the end of the process.
- It's important to note that verification codes will not be visible on the public register, and ACSPs will not receive this information directly.

Consequences of non-compliance



Failing to verify when required to do so will have various consequences – for the individual, company and its directors. Specifically for directors, it will be a criminal offence for individuals to act as such while unverified. And companies will commit a criminal offence if they allow unverified directors to act.

Companies House reforms – the possible impact on your business

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What registered entities need to do



Identify and communicate with affected individuals within your organisation who will need to complete verification. Entities with international directors will need to plan carefully to ensure verification can be completed efficiently.



Ensure they prepare and gather the required documentation based on the published ID evidence requirements.



Determine which route (direct or ACSP) is most appropriate for each individual. We can provide contact details for ACSPs who have advised us that they will be providing this service



Check when your organisation's confirmation statement(s) are next due to be filed. If they are due in the Autumn, consider voluntary identity verification over the Summer to ensure such statements can be filed on time. This is particularly relevant where the filing date of confirmation statements for a group of companies is aligned.



Develop clear procedures for securely collecting and managing verification codes.



Provide verification codes for all directors, PSCs and other relevant individuals to your company secretarial team or service provider.



Update company policies to reflect the new verification requirements and ensure ongoing compliance, particularly when appointing directors and if there are changes in company ownership.

For more information about the wider reforms being introduced by the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023, please visit our [In Focus page](#), which sets out a [timeline](#) of upcoming changes based on published Government guidance.

It also includes detailed guidance on the "failure to prevent fraud" offence being introduced on 1 September 2025 which will place a requirement on companies to ensure that they have reasonable procedures in place to prevent fraud.

Our [health check questionnaire](#) can support you in building out your fraud prevention procedures.



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Get in touch

The introduction of identity verification requirements marks a significant shift in UK corporate compliance. If you have any queries about this new regime and next steps, please do get in touch.



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