

As part of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023, Companies House has introduced a new **identity verification process**. The aim of this is to enhance transparency and accountability and ensure that only legitimate individuals are able to set up and manage companies based in England & Wales. Once verified, all individuals will be issued with a Unique ID code which they will require for all filings. The good news is, all individuals will only have to do this once.

WHY?

Failure to meet the identity verification requirements will prevent documents from being filed or new companies from being incorporated, and may lead to penalties. It is therefore crucial to act promptly once verification becomes mandatory.

WHEN?

Mandatory verification is planned to be introduced by Autumn 2025, however anyone can choose to verify their identity now, during the voluntary phase.

Relevant individuals are advised to consider undertaking IDV now in order to avoid delays that may occur when IDV becomes mandatory later in the year.

WHO?

Individuals who are listed on Companies House in one of the following positions will be required to validate:

- All new and existing company directors
- People with Significant Control (PSCs)
- Anyone filing on behalf of a company (e.g., company secretaries)
- Members of LLPs and other registration types

If you are listed on multiple entities, the good news is you only need to verify yourself once.

HOW?

There are two options for conducting IDV (Identity Document Validation):

- 1. **Directly verify with Companies House** using the GOV.UK One Login system, which accepts documents such as a passport or UK driving licence.
- 2. Save time and use an Authorised Corporate Service Provider (ACSP) to act on your behalf, such as an accountant, solicitor, or company formation agent who is supervised for anti-money laundering purposes. By using an ACSP, you ensure that verification meets the required standard, which is crucial for regulatory compliance and for maintaining the integrity of the Companies House register.

The role of a ACSP involves conducting identity verification checks, delivering the documents to Companies House on behalf of clients, maintaining records on identity verification checks for inspection, and providing further information on those checks to Companies House at the Registrar's request – providing a hassle-free process for the individual.

MORE INFORMATION

Dixcart International Limited are an Authorised Corporate Service Provider (ACSP) and can therefore help you with the process of obtaining your Unique ID code. If you wish to have our help, please click on the following link to find out more (fill in the form and you will shortly be sent a link from our secure third-party who provide identity document validation technology (IDVT)).

