
DEADLINE FOR DIRECTOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER APPLICATIONS



Are you an Australian company director? You are now required to apply for a director ID.

A new instrument under Federal law requires that all Australian company directors be issued with a unique director identification number (director ID). The issuing of this 15-digit identifier intends to increase director transparency for shareholders, creditors, ASIC and external regulators. Making an ID application is free, and directors will be able to apply as early as November 2021 through the Australian Business Registry Services (ABRS) [website](#).

Who needs an ID and by when?

The ABRS requires all eligible officers of companies governed under the *Corporations Act 2001* and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* to apply for a director ID. An eligible officer is an appointed director or an alternative director of a company.

This includes directors of corporate trustees, charities or non-for-profit organisations, registered Australian bodies and foreign companies registered with ASIC, carrying out business in Australia.

Deadlines for ID application differ for directors depending on the legislation that governs them.

Corporations Act Directors

If you are an existing company director on or before 31 October 2021, you must apply for a director ID before 30 November 2022.

If you have been made a director between 1 November 2021 and 4 April 2022, you are required to apply for a director ID within 28 days of your directorship appointment.

Directors appointed from 5 April 2022 onwards will be obligated to apply for a director ID prior to their appointment.

Indigenous Corporation Directors

If you are an existing director of an Indigenous corporation on or before the 31 October 2022, you will be required to apply for an ID by 30 November 2023.

If you are appointed director from 1 November 2022 onwards, you must apply for your unique ID before appointment.

Making an Application

Directors will be able to make an application from November 2021. Applications must be made by directors personally through the ABRS website. To make an application you will need a valid myGovID account and have the following information on hand:

- Your Tax File Number,
- Your residential address; and
- Two forms of identity.

The director ID issued will be permanent to you as a director regardless of whether you cease your directorship, change companies, change name, or move addresses.

The Effect of the Director ID Regime

The regime aims to prevent unlawful practice relating to phoenixing by increasing the efficacy of director tracing across companies. The Director ID regime is also expected to protect individuals against the fraudulent use of stolen identities to set up companies, and improve overall data integrity and security.

To prevent abuse of the regime, any conduct that would be considered to undermine the Director ID requirement maybe subject to penalties. Directors who fail to apply for an ID within the relevant timeframe may face criminal or civil penalties of up to 5,000 penalty units (the equivalent of \$1.1 million).

If you would like to learn more about this regime and how it affects you as a director, feel free to contact us at DLK Advisory.

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