



NOVEMBER 2021

NEW DIRECTOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER REQUIREMENTS

From 1 November 2021, all Australian Directors will now need to apply for a Director Identification Number (DIN). This applies if you're a director, or alternative director acting in that capacity, of a company, registered Australian body, registered foreign company under the Corporations Act or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation registered under the CATSI Act. DIN's have been brought in as a key element of the government's Modernising Business Registers (MBR) program, to improve the integrity of Australian Business Registers and to combat illegal phoenix activities and improve the traceability of director's relationships with companies over time. The Australian Business Registry Services (ABRS) is responsible for implementing and administering DIN's and ASIC will be responsible for enforcing offences.

What is a Director ID?

A director ID is a unique identifier for directors to keep forever, in order to prevent the use of false or fraudulent director identities. It is a 15-digit identifier given to a director and can be used when a director changes companies, stops being a director, changes their name or moves interstate or overseas.

How to apply

Depending on the ability of the director to satisfy the identity requirements, a DIN can be applied online or via a paper application. Further information can be found online at [ABRS](#).

When to apply

Corporations Act directors

Existing directors have until 30 November 2022 to apply, while directors appointed between 1 November 2021 and 4 April 2022 must apply within 28 days of their appointment. From 5 April 2022, intending directors must apply before being appointed.

Date you become a director	Date you must apply
On or before 31 October 2021	By 30 November 2022
Between 1 November 2021 and 4 April 2022	Within 28 days of appointment
From 5 April 2022	Before appointment

CATSI Act directors

Directors appointed before 31 October 2022 have until 30 November 2023 to apply, while directors appointed from 1 November 2022 must apply before appointment.

Date you become a director	Date you must apply
On or before 31 October 2022	By 30 November 2023
From 1 November 2022	Before appointment

Extension of time limits

If you're unable to apply by the date you need to, you can complete an [application for an extension of time](#).

Penalties for non-compliance

Failure to meet obligations may incur civil penalties and/or criminal charges. Causing an offence in relation to a DIN, such as applying for multiple DINs or using false information in an application, may also result in such penalties.

Further information

For more information see <https://www.abrs.gov.au/director-identification-number>. Alternatively, you can speak to one of the team members below should you have any queries.

For more information, please contact the author(s) of this alert



AARON JORDAN

Partner, Melbourne

T +61 (0)3 8601 4535

E aaron.jordan@hfw.com

hfw.com

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