

Certificates of good standing

A good standing certificate states that a company has been in continuous, unbroken existence since its incorporation and that no action is currently being taken to strike the company off the register and is therefore in 'good standing'. A Certificate of Good Standing is typically required when a company wishes to register to transact business in another state and may also be required before a company can enter certain contracts or relationships. Some countries may request for a certificate of existence which is the same as a certificate of good standing.

The Certificate of Good Standing, owing to its associated features is the credibility in charge. It is a valid document and universally accepted. Certificate of good standing does not normally contain the words good standing so this is a bit of a misnomer. There is no information on the certificate of good standing that a Notary cannot obtain by paying a few pounds to the Companies House. However it all depends upon the requirement of the receiving jurisdiction.

One can also request details such as Directors names, Secretaries names , Registered office , Issued capital , Shareholders (names, shareholdings) , Company objects to the certificate. Further information may be requested (e.g. date of birth, nationality etc.) However such a certificate may only be granted if the company in question has up to date filing with the Companies House. The company's annual Return and accounts must be filed up to date and for a private company they must have at least one director who is a natural person; or for a public company they must have at least two directors, one of which is a natural person and a secretary.

One can request a certificate from the Companies House by telephone (0303 1234 500), or for members of Companies House Direct it can requested online. Alternatively a written request can be made to the Companies House. Payment can be made by credit/debit card by telephone on 0303 1234 500 or in writing, sending a cheque or postal order payable to Companies House. Requests should be sent for the attention of the Postal Search section.

Companies House fees is £60 for a 24 hour service. Additional duplicates are available at £10.00 per document. Where the 24-hour service is required, Companies House must receive the order before 2pm and the envelope should be marked in bold print SAME DAY CERTIFIED COPY to ensure it is dealt with promptly. However is a standard service is for £20. (produced within 5-7 working days and sent 1st class post). Additional duplicates are available at £10.00 each.

In order to enable the document to be accepted overseas legalisation is required is on the Certificate of Good Standing . It is possible that the signature on the certificate of good standing is legalised or one can attach a notarial certificate to the certificate. This is usually necessary if you are sending the document onto an embassy.

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