



**ASIC**  
Australian Securities &  
Investments Commission

# Becoming an ASIC Information Broker

## Overview

Information Brokers are approved by ASIC to provide search products and services to customers. They do this by accessing ASIC's registers and document retrieval network.

Before applying to become an ASIC approved Information Broker you should thoroughly research and understand the market for our information products. This document will assist you to understand our communication, technical requirements, and future changes at ASIC.

## Supporting Information

Our [ASIC Search Fees web page](#) , provides a detailed outline of the search products available from ASIC. It also provides a breakdown of each search product and the fees that the Information Broker will be charged for each search conducted.

The search products made available to the Information Broker may intermittently change. The fees are indexed annually from 1 July.

## Current Technology

ASIC approved Information Brokers are authorised to access ASIC's Registers. You need to review and understand the technical requirements outlined in the following resources:

### [Data Communication Specification](#)

This document specifies the data communication requirements and protocols used by ASIC.

### [Datastream Message Specification](#)

This document is written for persons developing and supporting software to interact with the ASIC interface. The document assumes a prior knowledge of the information products provided by ASIC.

### [Webservice technology](#)

Our Business Names Register is supported by Webservice technology. For more information about Webservices and for the latest specifications, please see our [Information Broker web page](#).

## ASIC Online Searching Service

ASIC provides a direct online search facility via our website. It allows customers to access free information and purchase some paid search products using a credit card payment facility directly from ASIC.

ASIC has no discretion to charge Information Brokers fees lower than the legislated fee.

## Business Names

From 28 May 2012, ASIC holds national responsibility for registering, renewing and administering business names for all Australian businesses. Our Business Names Register is supported by web service technology. Previous to this date, business names were maintained by each state or territory the business traded in.

Similar to the Companies Register, the general public can access basic information about a business name for free via the ASIC website.

## Personal Properties Securities (PPS) Register

The Personal Property Securities Act 2009 introduces a single framework for registering and enforcing security interests in personal property in Australia.

The legislation change has resulted in the Charges register, previously maintained by ASIC, to be transferred to the PPS Register in January 2012. All information relating to a current charge will only be available from the PPS Register. Historical charge information will continue to be accessible from ASIC.

The PPS Register is managed by the Australian Financial Security Authority (AFSA).

Further information regarding the PPS Register is available from the [Attorney General's Department website](#)

## **Application Process**

Once you have conducted the required research and have a thorough understanding of what it means, and what is required to become an ASIC approved Information Broker, please refer to the application outline regarding the information required in a formal application.

Approved applicants will be required to sign an Information Broker License Agreement and supply ASIC with a bank guarantee (minimum \$20,000) prior to access being granted to ASIC's systems.

## **Contact**

All applications and enquiries should be directed to:

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Email: [broker.enquiries@asic.gov.au](mailto:broker.enquiries@asic.gov.au)

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