



**ASIC**  
Australian Securities &  
Investments Commission

## Company Dataset – Help File



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# Company Dataset

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HELP FILE



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### Getting Started

#### 1. Purpose

ASIC successfully made its Company register extract available to the public via data.gov.au on the 3 September 2014. This document is to provide detailed context and understanding of the files uploaded to Data.gov.au by ASIC every Tuesday.

#### 2. Company Register

Select data from the ASIC's Company Register will be uploaded every Tuesday to www.data.gov.au. The data made available will be a snapshot of the register at a point in time. As a result, the information might not be accurate at the time you check this dataset. [ASIC Connect](#) updates information in real time, so please consider accessing information on that platform if you need precise information. Legislation prescribes the type of information ASIC is allowed to disclose to the public.

The company register dataset contains the following:

- Select fields that are publicly available (see data dictionary for field details);
- All currently registered companies that are able to be upload to data.gov.au;
- Deregistered companies for the past year; and
- Historical name data for registered companies.

##### 2.1. File Format

The company dataset is provided in a file with the extension of CSV (comma separated values) and ZIP that contains the CSV file inside.

**Important note:** The data contained within the company register csv is **not** separated by commas

The company register csv uses the 'TAB' character as the delimiter (value separator) between values in the dataset; the 'TAB' character is used in place of a comma separator because company names can contain commas in their name and therefore is not a suitable delimiter for this dataset.



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An example of the data in the company register csv is as follows

Company Name	ACN	Type	Class	Sub Class	Status	Date of Registration	Date of Deregistration	Indicator	ABN
Previous State of Registration	Current Name	Current Name	Start Date	State Registration number	Modified since last report	Current Name			
COMPANY XYZ	987654321	APTY	LMSH	PNPC	REGD	08/01/2024			
	Y	444444444444							
COMPANY ABC	012345678	APTY	LMSH	PROP	DRGD	19/04/2022	31/01/2024		VIC
	C1234567W	Y	12345678989						

### 2.2. File interaction

The company register data set contains over 3 million records. Because of the number of records contained in the file, common programs used to view data from CSV's (MS Excel, notepad, etc.) will not work.

**Example:** Most versions of MS Excel limits the number of rows to approximately 1 million rows, meaning if that dataset is viewed in Excel, less than half of the actual number of records will be available.

It is recommended users interact with the dataset on data.gov.au via one of the following methods:

**Important note:** ZIP file extensions cannot be access via an API. XLSX file extensions is no longer supported by CKAN as of December 2021 and any information extracted using this method may not return up to date data. For more information, see the [CKAN website](#).

- Dataset Preview on data.gov.au;
- Access resource data via a web API with powerful query support (API information can be found in the [main CKAN Data API and DataStore documentation](#)); or
- Import csv into an appropriate database (MS Access, Oracle, etc).

A step-by-step data import guide to importing Company data into MS Access can be found in the appendix of this help file. ([APPENDIX ITEM 1](#))

### 2.3. Dataset Fields

The Company dataset contains the following fields:

- Company Name
- Australian Company Number (ACN)
- Type



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- Class
- Sub Class
- Status
- Date of Registration
- Date of Deregistration
- Previous State of Registration (where applicable)
- State Registration Number (where applicable)
- Modified since last report – flag to indicate if data has been modified since last report
- Current Name Indicator
- Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Current Name
- Current Name Start Date

A comprehensive description of each field in the dataset is provided in the attached data dictionary ([APPENDIX ITEM 2](#)).

## 3. ASIC Connect

An alternative to searching the data contained in the Company Register extract is to use [ASIC Connect](#).

ASIC Connect is our online service for interacting with ASIC's registers.

We have three services currently available through ASIC Connect:

- Business names;
- Self-managed superannuation fund (SMSF) auditors; and
- Search - companies, business names, SMSF auditors and other registers.

You can view both free and paid information about entities such as companies, business name holders and SMSF auditors, check names availability, and purchase register extracts and documents online.

## 4. Contact

Any further enquiries can be directed to ASIC via email at [Access.Request@asic.gov.au](mailto:Access.Request@asic.gov.au)



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### Appendices

#### APPENDIX ITEM 1

### Company Register - MS Access Import Guide

Use the following steps to import csv data into a new MS Access database; similar steps can be used to update an existing database:

Steps are provided using MS Access 2010

1. Download CSV dataset file;
2. Create blank database in MS Access;
3. Select 'Text File' from the Import & Link section of the External Data tab;



4. Browse to the CSV dataset file and choose to import into a new table and select 'Next';



5. Select Delimited format and select 'Next';
6. Choose the 'Tab' delimiter for your fields, and check the box indicating the first row contains Field Names. Select 'Next';





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### APPENDIX ITEM 2

### Company Register – Data Dictionary

Field	Description	Data Type	Data Parameters
<b>Company Name</b>	Company name as it appears on the register	Text	As appears on the ASICs register
<b>ACN</b>	Australian Company Number	Text	<p>Format: 9 digit numerical including leading zeros (e.g. 012345678)</p> <p><b>*Exceptions:</b>  <b>ARBN</b> – Instances where the Type = 'RACN' the value contained in the ACN field is actually the Australian Registered Body Number (ARBN). Registrable Australian Bodies carrying on, or wishing to carry on, business interstate are registered on a national basis and each is allotted an ARBN in the same way that registered companies are issued with an ACN.</p>
<b>Type</b>	Specifies the type of company	Text	<p>Values for this field are limited to the following:</p> <p><b>APTY</b> - Australian proprietary company  <b>APUB</b> - Australian public company  <b>FNOS</b> - Foreign company (a company incorporated outside Australia but registered as a foreign company in Australia)  <b>RACN</b> - Registered Australian Corporation (an organisation incorporated in Australia under a law other than the Corporations Law but required to be registered under the Corporations Law)</p>
<b>Class</b>	Specifies the class of a company	Text	<p>Values for this field are limited to the following:</p> <p><b>LMSH (Limited by Shares)</b> - The liability of the members is limited to the amount unpaid on their shares. Shareholders are not required to contribute any further monies (in the case</p>





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			<p>of a winding up) if the shares they have taken up are fully paid.</p> <p><b>LMGT (Limited by Guarantee)</b> - The members' liability is limited to a certain amount that they undertake to contribute in case of a winding up. The amount is specified in a clause in the Memorandum of Association of the company. A member of a company limited by guarantee is not required to in any capital while the company is a going concern.</p> <p><b>LMSG (Limited by Both Shares and Guarantees)</b> - The member has the liability as a shareholder (to the extent of the amount unpaid on his shares) and as a guarantor (to the amount nominated in the Memorandum) in the event of a winding up.</p> <p><b>NLIA (No Liability Company)</b> - Mining companies only. No legal obligations on the shareholder to pay calls on their shares, e.g. Sterling Silver NL.</p> <p><b>UNLM (Unlimited Company)</b> - Is formed on the principle that there is no limit on the liability of the members. Simply, an incorporated partnership, e.g. Mercantile Services Pty, Solicitors.</p> <p><b>NONE</b> - Does not have an equivalent Australian liability</p>
<b>Sub Class</b>	Specifies the sub-class of companies	Text	<p>Values for this field are limited to the following:</p> <p><b>EXPT</b> - Exempt Proprietary Company.</p> <p><b>HUNT (Proprietary home unit company)</b> - A company that operates for the sole purpose of administering the day-to-day running of a residential property (refer to paragraph (c) of the definitions of 'special purpose company' in the Corporations (Fees) Regulations for full details).</p> <p><b>LISN</b> - Company licensed under Section 383 of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> to omit 'Limited' from its name.</p> <p><b>LISS</b> - Company licensed under Section 383 to omit 'Limited' from its name - superannuation trustee company*.</p>



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	<p><b>LIST</b> - Listed public company.  <b>NEXT</b> - Non-Exempt Proprietary Company.  <b>NLTD</b> - Non-profit public company registered without 'Limited' in its name under Section 150.  <b>NONE</b> - Unknown.  <b>PNPC</b> - Proprietary non-profit company.  <b>PROP</b> - Proprietary other.  <b>PSTC</b> - Proprietary superannuation trustee company.  <b>PUBF</b> - Foreign company required to lodge a balance sheet.  <b>RACA</b> - Registrable Australian corporation – association.  <b>RACO</b> - Registrable Australian corporation - non association.  <b>STFI</b> - Public company – small transferring financial institution.  <b>ULSN</b> - Unlisted public - non-profit company.  <b>ULSS</b> - Unlisted public - superannuation trustee company.  <b>ULST</b> - Unlisted public company.</p> <p><b>*Superannuation Trustee Companies</b> - Operates for the sole purpose of acting as a trustee of a regulated superannuation fund. This class of company may only be used on Annual Returns for 1994 or later.</p>
<p><b>Status</b>                      Status of company</p>	<p>Text</p> <p>Values for this field are limited to the following:  <b>DRGD</b> - De-registered.  <b>EXAD</b> - External administration (in receivership/liquidation).  <b>NOAC</b> - Not active.  <b>NRGD</b> - Not registered.  <b>PROV</b> - Provisional (mentioned only under charges and refers to those which have not been fully registered).  <b>REGD</b> – Registered.  <b>SOFF</b> - Strike-off action in progress.  <b>DISS</b> - Dissolved by Special Act of Parliament.  <b>DIV3</b> - Organisation Transferred Registration via DIV3.  <b>PEND</b> - Pending - Schemes.</p>



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			<p><b>CNCL</b> - Cancelled. Transferred to another law or act.</p> <p>*Registered under laws other than the Corporations Law. There are further variations used in connection with business names from State to State. Should you need help with any abbreviations not included in this list or further information on the meaning of any of these please contact us.</p>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	Date on which a company was registered	Text	Date format: DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Date of Deregistration</b>	Date on which a company was deregistered	Text	Date format: DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Previous State of Registration</b>	State in which the company was originally registered	Text	State format: Abbreviated (e.g. Victoria = VIC)
<b>State Registration Number</b>	Registration number assigned when originally registered by the State	Text	The value format for this field will change depending on the State the number was generated.
<b>Modified since last report</b>	Flag indicating whether a dataset record has been updated since the last report	Text	<p>Y / Null.</p> <p>An update includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company name</li> <li>Company type</li> <li>Company class</li> <li>Company sub class</li> <li>Company status</li> </ul>
<b>Current Name Indicator</b>	Flag indicating whether the company name shown is the current company name	Text	Y / Null.
<b>ABN</b>	Australian Business Number	Text	<p>ABN field has the following logic applied</p> <p><b>IF</b> Company has an ABN <b>THEN</b> show ABN <b>ELSE</b> show 0</p> <p>This is the ABN for the company.</p>
<b>Current Name</b>	Current company name	Text	<p>Current name has the following logic applied</p> <p><b>IF</b> 'Current Name Indicator' = null</p>



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			<b>THEN</b> show current company name for historical record <b>ELSE</b> null
<b>Current Name Start Date</b>	Name start date for current registered company name	Text	Current name start date has the following logic applied <b>IF</b> 'current name indicator' = null <b>THEN</b> Show current company name start date <b>ELSE</b> null