



Companies Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 46

PART 5

A COMPANY'S NAME

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Sensitive words and expressions

54 Names suggesting connection with government or public authority

- (1) The approval of the Secretary of State is required for a company to be registered under this Act by a name that would be likely to give the impression that the company is connected with—
- (a) Her Majesty's Government, any part of the Scottish administration [^{F1}, the Welsh Assembly Government] or Her Majesty's Government in Northern Ireland,
 - (b) a local authority, or
 - (c) any public authority specified for the purposes of this section by regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (2) For the purposes of this section—
- “local authority” means—
- (a) a local authority within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972 (c. 70), the Common Council of the City of London or the Council of the Isles of Scilly,
 - (b) a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 (c. 39), or
 - (c) a district council in Northern Ireland;

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“public authority” includes any person or body having functions of a public nature.

(3) Regulations under this section are subject to affirmative resolution procedure.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 54(1)(a) inserted (6.11.2009) by [The Government of Wales Act 2006 \(Consequential Modifications, Transitional Provisions and Saving\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2958\)](#), **art. 9**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 S. 54 applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 1989/638, reg. 10\(1A\)-\(1C\)](#) (as substituted (1.10.2009) by [The European Economic Interest Grouping \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2399\)](#), **reg. 13** (with reg. 2))

C2 [Ss. 53-56A](#) applied (with modifications) (9.7.2009 for certain purposes otherwise 1.10.2009) by [The Limited Liability Partnerships \(Application of Companies Act 2006\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1804\)](#), **regs. 2, 8** (with [Sch. 1 paras. 3, 4, 34, 35](#)) (as amended: (14.12.2009) by [S.I. 2009/2995, reg. 2\(2\)](#)); and (4.3.2024) by [The Limited Liability Partnerships \(Application of Company Law\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/234\)](#), **regs. 1(2), 6**; [S.I. 2024/269, reg. 2\(a\)](#))

Commencement Information

I1 S. 54 wholly in force at 1.10.2009; s. 54 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 1300; s. 54 in force for specified purposes at 20.1.2007 by [S.I. 2006/3428, art. 3\(3\)](#) (subject to [art. 5, Sch. 1](#) and with [arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5](#)); s. 32 otherwise in force at 1.10.2009 by [S.I. 2008/2860, art. 3\(e\)](#) (with [arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2](#)) (as amended by [S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18](#))

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 1989/638, Sch. 4 by [S.I. 2024/410 Sch. 2 para. 1](#)
- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2008/373 reg. 11(1) by [S.I. 2013/1971 reg. 9\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Amending Regulations revoked (1.10.2013) without ever being in force by S.I. 2013/2224, reg. 2)
- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2008/373 reg. 3(4) by [S.I. 2013/1971 reg. 4](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Amending Regulations revoked (1.10.2013) without ever being in force by S.I. 2013/2224, reg. 2)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 479A(2)(c)(zi) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 4\(b\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 4 substituted by regs. 4, 4A immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2019/1392, regs. 1(2), 4)
- s. 479B(a)(iii) amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I.2008/1991 reg.34 by [S.R. 2024/78 reg. 31\(4\)](#)
- s. 479B(a)(iii) amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I.2008/1991 reg.34A by [S.R. 2024/78 reg. 31\(5\)](#)
- s. 1087A-1807C applied by S.I. 2009/2436, Sch. 1 para. 20(1)(ca) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2024/410 Sch. 2 para. 5\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 10 para. 6(2D) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 28\(e\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 28(e) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/523, regs. 1(2), 14(e)(iv))
- Sch. 10 para. 7(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 29\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 29 substituted immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2020/523, regs. 1(2), 14(f))