

## An Update from Stanley Davis Group

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### Companies House System Upgrades

Companies House will be performing an essential system upgrade on Wednesday 13th July 2011. Whilst online services will be unaffected, it will not be possible to guarantee Same Day transactions on that day.

There will also be an upgrade of WebFiling and Software Filing services between midday and 2.00pm on Thursday 14th July 2011. Services will continue to operate but customers may experience slower response times during that period.

Please accept our apologies if we are unable to respond to urgent requests as promptly as normal on these days.

### Bribery Act 2010

The Bribery Act 2010 came into effect on 1 July 2011 and it is important that all company directors are aware of its implications. All companies are advised to have procedures in place to prevent bribery. The Ministry of Justice has published some essential guidance notes at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/making-and-reviewing-the-law/bribery.htm>.

Hospitality such as providing tickets to sporting events is specifically excluded provided it is proportionate in relation to the business.

### “Group”, “Holdings” and “International”

Companies House has amended its position on the acceptance of names with these sensitive words in the title by stopping the three month concession period. From now on, in order to justify the word, the company will have to qualify to use it immediately on incorporation. The qualifications are:

- Group – two other companies associated in a holding or subsidiary relationship
- Holdings – one subsidiary company
- International – trading with at least one overseas country

In practical terms this means that the company will need to act quickly on incorporation to meet the qualification requirements, or alternatively it could incorporate without the word and change its name later when the requirements are met.

## **New Branded Domain Names**

ICANN - The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers - has announced radical plans to allow fully customisable domain names that would permit leading brands to have their own suffix.

At present only 22 generic suffixes like .com, .org and .net are allowed, along with 250 territorial suffixes, like “.uk” and “.fr.” However from next year, new generic top-level domain names will be available to companies who can show their legitimate claim to the name – at a cost of \$180,000 (approx £114,000).

Potentially, we could see web addresses ending with “.stanleydavis” or “.google”.

## **Abbreviations on Company Documents**

Companies House have updated us on their policy regarding abbreviated company names on documents received for filing. For company names, only the following abbreviations will be acceptable:

- “Ltd” instead of “Limited”;
- “PLC” instead of “Public Limited Company”;
- “LLP” instead of “Limited Liability Partnership”;
- “Co” instead of “company”;
- “&” instead of “and.”

They will also allow companies to leave out the word "THE" at the front of the name.

Where a company has used an abbreviation other than those stipulated above in the company name, the document will be rejected.

When ordering a new company from our website, the Stanley Davis name checking tool is the best way to check name availability. As well as establishing whether your name will be accepted, you will also see any similar names that you may wish to avoid. You may wish to discuss your options first so please do not hesitate to call us.

## **New corporate form for single member companies**

In line with the Government’s “think small first” approach, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills are weighing up ideas informally for a new corporate structure for those companies that have a single person acting as both director and shareholder. It is estimated that there are over 650,000 companies that could benefit from a new regime aimed at these smaller businesses. A consultation paper may follow depending on the outcome of the informal discussions.

## **Reminder on RTM companies**

A quick reminder that if you have a Right To Manage company which was incorporated before November 2009, your articles will have automatically been updated by the The 'RTM Companies (Model Articles) (England) Regulations 2009' with effect from 1 October 2010. If you have not already

updated your articles, care must be taken when referring to any old versions of the articles that will no longer be relevant.

## Stanley Davis joins the Twittersphere

You can now follow Stanley Davis on Twitter - **@stanleydavisgrp**. We will be regularly tweeting and posting comments from the world of company administration, incorporation and searches, and anything that we think our clients will be interested in.

## A reminder of the Stanley Davis advantage

Stanley Davis has been in the business of forming and looking after companies for more than 40 years. In that time we have formed literally hundreds of thousands of companies, offering competitive prices and years of expertise without sacrificing our professional standards or our clients' peace of mind.

As new company formations businesses sprout up every so often, we thought it was worth taking this opportunity to remind you of the advantages of forming your companies through Stanley Davis.

- We offer an online company formation service, where companies start from £30. In addition, if you elect to open a bank account with Barclays for the companies that you form using this method, we will **give you back £40 cash** for each one.
- If you prefer, we also offer a traditional formations service where we do all the work on your behalf. We can form companies with different structures (including limited liability partnerships), different classes of shares, bespoke Memorandum and Articles of Association, anything to suit the needs of you and your clients.
- The Memorandum and Articles of Association for our companies includes pre-emption rights on shares as standard.
- We also offer full telephone and Email support to answer any questions you may have on forming companies.
- We can incorporate companies in any jurisdiction around the world.
- Once your company is set up we can assist you with our company secretarial and maintenance services, such as annual returns, nominee services, registered office services, the setting up of internet domains, operating bank accounts, registering your company for VAT, or offering you international tax advice, wherever your company is domiciled.
- Just Email us at [info@stanleydavis.co.uk](mailto:info@stanleydavis.co.uk) or call us on 020 7554 2222 if you have any questions about any aspect of our service.