Equifax Instant Company & Director Information

Company and Director Information is a comprehensive suite of services to deliver web-based information of Limited, Non-Limited, Sole Trader and Partnership businesses in the UK and abroad. This helps buyers verify, analyse or investigate businesses and the directors / proprietors behind them.

What problem does it solve?

Our comprehensive business reports provide unique data sets that help build as large a profile of the target business and stakeholders as possible.

When you need a detailed report on a company – for example when awarding a grant, vetting suppliers, or investigating a business – Equifax's comprehensive reports have in-depth data on the company, subsidiaries and key stakeholders helping you understand the full risks of dealing with the company.

Key Benefits

- Prevent fraud by fully understanding risks associated with the company
- Understand the potential hidden links the key stakeholders have
- Define key risks or changes that you want to be alerted on
- Gain access to all previously run reports at no extra cost
- Understand linked detrimental business information at the same address
- Make informed decisions with the most comprehensive business data available
- Prevent losses from fraudulent companies and directors
- Identify businesses using flexible search criteria: full or partial details
- A full audit trail is accessible at any time

equifax.co.uk/business

Service Description

Access to comprehensive data on businesses - be they Limited Companies or non-limited businesses - is available from Equifax. Within the business data available there are a number of unique data items and areas of functionality that can help the buyer identify businesses that might be considered a higher risk of fraud and / or financial stress.

Business Details

The data available from Equifax will provide the buyer with a thorough understanding of the risk associated with businesses. For ease of use it is split into categories, including:

- Full contact information;
- Industry SIC codes;
- Recommended monthly credit limit;
- County Court Judgment (CCJ) data;
- Latest accounting date;
- Financial information including - turnover / net worth;
- Parent company and subsidiary information;
- Change of name indicator;
- Resigned director indicator;
- Previous Search indicator;
- Mortgages / charge indicator.

Financial Data

Details of all financial agreements for the business, including:

- current accounts;
- commercial credit, store and charge cards;
- finance agreements;
- mortgages;
- commercial loans;
- rental, hire purchase and lease accounts;
- telecommunications;
- utilities.

This data provides an indication of the financial status of the business, and includes the following information on both 'good' and 'adverse' agreements:

- Start and end date of the agreement;
- Type of agreement, e.g. mortgage, credit card etc. (as above);
- Credit terms;
- Credit limit;
- Start balance;
- Payment history, showing whether there have been any missed monthly payments;
- Current / outstanding balance;
- Default / delinquent balance.

Within our UK reports there are four unique areas of functionality and data, where the Equifax data will add significant value to the processes and individuals behind that business:

- Location based data for the business;
- Protect and Connections;
- Data manager;
- Portfolio monitoring.

Location-based Data for Business

To ensure that all the information relating to a business is made available for risk assessment, Equifax carries out locality-based data searches to identify businesses that register different names at the same address. Also returned are all registered CCJs against businesses at the address and an assessment of the historical credit risk of relevant organisations.

This data identifies any trading names with CCJs at a postcode, revealing unmatched CCJs connected with the business and reflecting the real risks of dealing with a business that might be attempting to hide adverse information.

Protect Fraud Scores and Codes

Protect fraud scores and codes provide an additional means of risk assessment and identification of potential corporate business failure. Evaluating data based on the directors' current / previous directorships, and returning a simple score and supporting codes indicating the level of risk, will enable the buyer to assess the risk associated with a business more accurately.

Protect was designed following an in-depth analysis of over 400 of the most serious cases of corporate wrongdoing. Contained within the Equifax Protect Score are five areas of threat which Protect will analyse and score:

- Credit History Codes;
- Disqualification Codes;
- Validation Codes;
- Connected Data Codes;
- Bureau Codes.

Director / Stakeholder Business Connections

This data will enable the buyer to identify all potential business links that key personnel within a business have. It provides all available information on the company directors and shareholders associated with a specific business. It can include the results of an enhanced search where close matches to the directors / shareholders key details are returned enabling identification of any 'hidden' directorships where the name and / or date of birth, registered and / or usual residential address are not a perfect match.

Also returned are details of the director's / stakeholder's disqualifications, insolvencies, associations with previously failed or dissolved businesses, helping identify 'phoenix' companies - and other intelligence relating to anybody hiding as a shareholder but in reality is a key stakeholder or highlighting a family member who is 'fronting the business' to obscure their relations past.

Data Manager

Data Manager is an archive facility which automatically stores, and then makes available, all reports on businesses generated by Equifax's online services. This includes the ability to:

- Instantly view all previously requested reports;
- Check that there is no duplication of reports;
- Save costs;
- View an audit trail of investigations made.

Whenever a new report is generated, Data Manager is updated instantly, in real time. It provides access to a number of search options to enable the user to check whether a previously-generated report on a business exists. A date range can be employed as well as an alphabetic list of businesses that have already been searched by another user. Once the required report has been found within the Data Manager, the user can request to view the original reports or request a new updated report at no further charge. Old reports can be deleted manually or automatically deleted after an agreed set period of time (i.e. normally 12 months to six years).

Online Portfolio Monitoring

Rather than the user making repeated requests for the latest information regarding an existing supplier, Equifax is able to provide a service that adopts a more proactive approach.

The online Portfolio Monitoring Service will enable the buyer to upload a file of suppliers that you want to monitor, and to define a list of 'trigger events' that, when they occur, you wish to be notified of, e.g. a significant change in the business's financial status. Whenever a daily update to the Equifax data identifies any trigger events that is relevant to a chosen business, then the buyer will be notified of the change, enabling appropriate action to be taken at the earliest opportunity.

The key features of the Portfolio Monitoring Service are as follows:

- Bulk upload facility enables buyers to upload a list of businesses to the monitoring service.
- Buyers can add / remove businesses to / from the Portfolio Monitoring Service as and when required.
- Buyers can select from an extensive list of trigger events highlighting a range of changes to the business information available from Equifax, e.g.:
- Companies Financial Stability;
  - Companies Performance;
  - Compliance/Legal and Regulatory;
  - Company Identity.
- Provides alerts as soon as Equifax receive them, allowing the buyer to review the risks, and as the buyer is alerted as soon as Equifax is told, there is much less likelihood of a supplier's company dissolving without the buyer already being aware and taking mitigating steps;
- Provides an extremely flexible way of enabling users to set up and create a range of different profiles for different business groups / trigger events, if required;
- The buyer can be notified of alerts relating to trigger events either via a daily email to a nominated individual, or via a weekly, monthly, quarterly batch notification (CSV output);
- Archive facility enables buyers to store alerts ensuring any new alerts are not viewed in isolation, i.e. buyers can see all previous alerts against the business.

International Commercial Reports

With Equifax's International Business Reports, the buyer can easily check the credit and financial status of overseas businesses, which may be linked to an investigation. Equifax and its Partner offering, can provide full reports for companies worldwide as well as INSTANT reports for 160 of the UK's top trading partners. This would provide a simple, cost-effective way for the user to gain the information on any International company.

We also offer International Monitoring across 43 different countries worldwide covering many of the data elements and benefits detailed in the Online Portfolio Monitoring section above.

Company Bank Account Checks

Using commercial current account data supplied by many of the leading UK banks (via CCDS) Equifax can provide a bulk check for commercial bank accounts supplied via batch.

Delivery Mechanism

The Equifax Company and Director Information is delivered online via a web portal, in batch or via API

Let's talk

Contact us today to schedule a consultation with one of our experts.

Speak to our experts