

Anti-Money Laundering / Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)

To improve New Zealand's ability to tackle money laundering and terrorism financing, the Government has made law changes that affect various business and professions. The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Amendment Act 2017 puts in place "phase 2" of New Zealand's AML/CFT laws.

From 1st October 2018 accountants will need to comply with the Act and put AML/CFT measures in place.

From 1st October 2018 we will be required to obtain and verify information from prospective and existing clients in order to comply with the Act. This is part of what the AML/CFT regime calls "customer due diligence".

What is Customer Due Diligence?

Customer due diligence requires accounting firms to undertake certain background checks before providing some services to clients. We will need to obtain and verify certain information from you to meet our legal obligations.

Information required of a person:

Proof of identity (name and date of birth)

This can be:

- A passport or firearms licence; **or**
- A New Zealand drivers licence **and** a birth certificate; **or**
- A New Zealand drivers licence **and** an EFTPOS, debit, credit card issued by a registered bank and embossed with the person's name; **or**
- A New Zealand drivers licence **and** a bank statement issued by a registered bank in the last 12 months.

Proof of address

This can be:

- a utility bill (e.g. power or Internet); **or**
- a New Zealand bank statement which has been issued by a registered bank in the last 12 months which verifies the residential address

Additional Information required of a Company or Trust:

As well as the above, we will also require further information about other people involved in the company or Trust such as details of the Directors, Shareholders, Trustees and Beneficiaries. We may also ask questions about the source of the funds, and the reason for the work you are asking us to do.

We will not hold onto the original documents. We will take a photocopy and keep it in our records for the future.

We are required to have the necessary information before we can undertake the work for you. If you cannot provide this then we may not be able to carry out the work for you.

If you have any questions about these changes or the information that we will require, please give us a call.