

CHARITY VERIFICATION

Some important changes

Our verification processes are a really important part of what we do, and how we help make giving money to charity as smooth and efficient as possible.

You can read more about how we do this in “Charity Verification – A guide to our Services”.

We regularly review and update our processes and policies and are pleased to announce a change to some of the requirements for our overseas beneficiaries. These changes have been prompted by the results of the 2017 UK National Risk Assessment which identified charities as presenting a ‘lower’ risk of terrorist financing, albeit with some exceptions for those operating in higher risk countries.

This is a reduction from ‘medium-high’ in 2015’s national assessment. Where possible we want to reduce the burden on our beneficiary organisations but still mitigate the risk of criminal activity and ensure your charitable funds are used appropriately.

We’ve written this factsheet to explain more about the changes we have made to the verification process and how it works. It has been designed to be read in conjunction with the “Charity Verification – A guide to our Services” which outlines more about our verification policy and processes.

We hope you find this helpful. If you need any more information, or if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

What changes have been made?

- We no longer require certified/notarised documentation from beneficiaries. The only exception to this is where identity documentation for individuals may be requested. This will reduce the cost, inconvenience and time taken by our beneficiaries to complete the verification process with us.
- For payments to low and medium risk countries, we now require identification of ‘key controllers’ only; this reduces the requirements from all Trustees, directors and beneficial owners.
- For US, Canada and Australia, some EEA countries, Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey we will use the charity regulators in country to assist with our verification checks, again reducing the burden on those beneficiary organisations.
- The Grant Eligibility Application (GEA) forms have been updated. We now have simplified forms for some countries, reducing the time they take to complete.
- Our new process will ensure consistency of the information required where onward granting or beneficiary partners enhanced due diligence may be required. The partners will no longer need to complete a GEA and instead we will ask some simple questions around the project, who controls it and how the partnership operates.

How long does verification take now?

The changes we have made will improve the time it takes us to verify some charities. Our standard verification process, which we use for UK registered organisations, is usually speedy. We’ve already verified thousands of UK charities, meaning we can pass on donations almost immediately. If an organisation is not on our verified list but is registered as a UK charity, then we can usually verify them in less than a week and pass on donations very quickly after.

If an organisation is not registered in the UK, then verification can take longer. This is because we use our non-standard verification process, which involves more checks. We allow a maximum of three months for organisations to complete the GEA and send us the relevant documents, however we expect the changes we have made will reduce the time it takes a charity to send these to us. Once we receive the information, we can usually complete our checks within two days. We’ll then let the donor and organisation know whether we’ll be passing the money on.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you have any queries or need any more information about verification, our customer services team will be happy to help. Just email us at enquiries@cafonline.org or give us a call on +44(0)3000 123 000