

“Authentication Law”: new rules for user registration on Russian websites

From 1 December 2023, Russian online platforms will be able to authorise users only through approved identification systems.

The new requirements will affect Russian owners of Internet platforms which provide access to information in Russia to authorised users.

In accordance with the [amendments](#)* of 31 July 2023 to the Law on Information, Russian users on Internet platforms owned by Russian individuals and legal entities can be authorised in one of the following ways:

- by phone via the user’s phone number;
- via the “Gosuslugi” web portal (the Unified Identification and Authentication System);
- via the Unified Biometric System;
- through other information systems owned by a Russian entity (without foreign control).

Other information systems, according to the lawmakers’ comments, will include Russian online services such as VKontakte and Russian email services such as Mail.ru.

Not all of the new provisions are clear, so questions remain about how the law will be applied. For example, will owners of websites where users register for an event by email, including corporate email, or subscribe to newsletters have to comply with the rules? In addition, the law does not define the term “authentication” and whether it includes only initial registration or any login to an account.

Recommendations

In view of the new changes, we recommend that owners of online platforms check their current user authentication process and be prepared to change the authentication procedure in the future.

We would also advise waiting for official clarifications from the supervisory authorities or contacting them with a request for clarification of the new statutory provisions.

As yet there is no liability for non-compliance with the new requirements, but it is likely that there will be changes in terms of fines once the application of the new rules is assessed.

* *In Russian*

For further information, please email the authors or your usual contact at our firm.

Authors



Vladislav Eltovskiy
Head of Digital Law
E vladislav.eltovskiy@seamless.legal



Shermet Kurbanov
Junior Associate
Intellectual Property
E shermet.kurbanov@seamless.legal

[Contact us](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

[Visit our website](#)

