

Hosting providers: new rules of operation in Russia

Starting from 1 December 2023, hosting providers in Russia will be subject to new obligations that will impact their operations.

In July, [amendments](#)* to the Federal Law on Information were enacted. According to these amendments, hosting providers will be required to:

- submit a notification on the commencement of their activities to the Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media (Roskomnadzor). Hosting providers must send a notification by 15 December 2023. Roskomnadzor will maintain a register of hosting providers based on these notifications;
- ensure the protection of information within their infrastructure;
- cooperate with law enforcement agencies to provide information in the course of their investigative activities;
- participate in exercises to ensure a “Sovereign” Internet, install technical means to maintain it, and follow instructions as part of the centralised management of the Russian national segment of the Internet; and
- implement user identification / authentication procedures.

After 1 February 2024, individuals or entities not included in the register will be prohibited from offering hosting services.

Furthermore, as of 1 September 2024, state and municipal information system operators will only be allowed to use hosting services from providers that are not under foreign control and have established technical hosting facilities within Russia.

Recommendations

Given the significant changes affecting the industry set to take effect this winter, we recommend hosting providers to:

- review their current processes in light of the new requirements and make any necessary adjustments;
- prepare and submit a notification of their hosting activities to Roskomnadzor; and
- if your services are provided to state or municipal clients, consider the requirements related to limiting foreign control and installing technical hosting facilities.

* *In Russian*

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