

Companies House

Fines and Penalties

Companies Act 2006

Companies Act 2006 says that any company that submits its accounts and reports to Companies House after the period allowed for filing will incur an automatic penalty.

Increased penalty bands apply to any accounts that are delivered late on or after 1 February 2009, whether they are filed under the Companies Act 1985 or the Companies Act 2006 (any penalties for late submission of accounts under the Companies Act 2006 are for financial years beginning on or after 6 April 2008).

The following table shows these bands:

Length of delay (the date the accounts are due)	Private company	Public company
Not more than 1 month	£150	£750
More than 1 month but not more than 3 months	£375	£1,500
More than 3 months but not more than 6 months	£750	£3,000
More than 6 months	£1500	£7,500

Please note that the level of penalty depends upon whether the company was public or private at the end of the financial year in question.

Double penalties

The amounts set out in the table above will be doubled in cases where:

- The accounts are filed late under the Companies Act 2006; and
- The previous year's accounts under the 2006 Act (i.e. for a financial year beginning on or after 6 April 2008), were also late.

In addition it is the fiduciary duty of directors to file the accounts and they are liable to face criminal proceedings for late filing.

It is specifically stated that the accounts must be filed ON the date specified and if that date falls on a Sunday or Bank Holiday then the accounts must be received by Companies House before that date.

If filed documents are not able to be electronically captured, they will be returned and an acceptable copy must be filed within 14 days.