



# Identity Verification Services Amendment (Participation Agreements) Rules 2025

This document provides an overview of the draft Identity Verification Services Amendment (Participation Agreements) Rules 2025 (the draft Amendment Rules), which have been published for public consultation as required under the [Identity Verification Services Act 2023](#) (IVS Act). This document should be read in conjunction with the draft Amendment Rules.

## Summary

Subsection 44(1) of the IVS Act allows the Attorney-General to make and amend rules necessary for carrying out or giving effect to the Act.

The draft Amendment Rules amend the Identity Verification Services Rules 2024 (the IVS Rules) to prescribe a longer transition period for the finalisation of participation agreements between Document Verification Service (DVS) users and the Attorney-General's Department. This amendment would extend the transition period from 12 months to 18 months, to provide users with sufficient time to update their current operations to comply with obligations in participation agreements, without compromising their ability to use the DVS or disrupt services for Australians seeking to access government and industry services and engage with the digital economy.

## Overview of the draft Amendment Rules

### Part 1: Preliminary

Clause 1 of the draft Amendment Rules sets out that the full name of the instrument is the Identity Verification Services Amendment (Participation Agreements) Rules 2025.

Clause 2 provides that the draft Amendment Rules will commence the day after the instrument is registered. The draft Amendment Rules, when finalised, will be registered on the day that the Attorney-General approves them.

Clause 3 provides that the authority for making the draft Amendment Rules is the IVS Act.

Clause 4 provides that the schedule, which contains the amendments, has the effect to amend the IVS Rules.

## Part 2: Schedule

Schedule 1 only has 1 item, which will act to amend the main text of the IVS Rules.

### Item 1 – Prescription of longer period to finalise participation agreements

The IVS Act and the IVS Rules include important safeguards and protections to ensure access to, and the operation of, the identity verification services do not compromise the privacy of Australians and the security of information. This ensures the Australian community can be confident that an individual's personal and sensitive information will be protected when used to verify their identity.

These privacy safeguards and protections are set out in participation agreements, which are agreements between relevant entities and the Attorney-General's Department (the department), representing the Commonwealth. All entities seeking access to identity verification services, including the Document Verification Service (DVS), must be a party to a participation agreement and meet the privacy obligations and requirements set out in the IVS Act.

The IVS Act provides a 12-month transition period, until 14 June 2025, for all DVS users to meet the requirements of the Act, and sign new participation agreements.

Paragraph 15(3)(b) of the IVS Act allows for the Rules to be amended to extend the legislative deadline up to an additional 6 months for users to sign participation agreements. This provision was included to provide DVS users with sufficient opportunity to consider and update current operations to comply with the obligations in participation agreements, without compromising their ability to use the DVS. Following engagement with users of the DVS, the department is seeking to enliven this provision to provide DVS users further time to finalise participation agreements to prevent any disruption to the DVS.

Item 1 will insert a new section 6A into the IVS Rules to prescribe a period of 18 months, which is a 6 month extension on the legislated 12 month timeframe. This extension ensures sufficient time for outstanding participation agreements to be finalised and maintain continuity of access to the DVS for current users.