

Topic: Developing an Online Filing System

Question by: Allison Clark

Jurisdiction: Ohio

Date: 2 February 2011

Jurisdiction	Question(s)		
	For states already accepting business filings online: Do you have staff reviewing all of the filings or certain filings prior to approval?	Do you have staff reviewing formation filings for name availability purposes or is this done electronically?	Are Customers able to upload documents to submit with their filing? If so, in what format? Is there a limit to the size of the attachment?
Manitoba			
Corporations Canada			
Alabama			
Alaska			
Arizona	Currently, Annual Reports and Name Reservations can be submitted on-line. We examine every document no matter how they are submitted--window, mail, fax or electronically.	No, the program checks for potential name conflicts while the customer is online.	No, not currently, However, our STARPLUS project which will allow for the electronic submittal of all our forms will allow our customers to upload attachments to the submission. The STARPLUS project should be completed in CY 2011.
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado	No. The online filing system is fully automated.	No.	Yes. PDF and .txt. Size limit is 400KB. We allow .jpeg attachments to trademark filings.
Connecticut			
Delaware			

District of Columbia	In DC we are about to launch 15 online services. Some filings such as reports will be filed right away while others such as formation filings will require staff review.	We will have staff review formation filings for name availability.	Yes, some filings will require customer's attachments; format will be mainly pdf.
Florida	Annual Reports, Reinstatements, and Fictitious Names are filed without staff viewing the filing. Articles for a profit and non-profit corporation, a LLC, a LP, and Judgment Lien filings must have staff review before the electronic filing process is completed.	(1) Staff checks for name availability and rejects or files if the name is available.	No, our process does not allow for attachments to an electronic filing.
Georgia			
Hawaii	Online annual reports with no changes from the previous year's filing can be automated thru our web robot. All other documents are reviewed by our staff.	We have staff that reviews entity names for availability.	Yes online filers can upload documents to go with their filings. The attachments are generally the good standing certificates and marks for trademark and service mark applications. The supported format is bmp, jpeg, gif, tif, or pdf and the maximum size is 2 MB .
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
Iowa			
Kansas	No, it is completely automated.	No, there is no review performed.	No.
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri	In the current system (KB), there is no approval for online filings at this time. Under the new system (SystemWORKS), some of the filings will require approval; others will be processed without manual review and approval.	This is done electronically.	Not under the current system (KB), but they will be able to under the new system (SystemWORKS) The format in SystemWORKS will be pdf or tif. The file is limited to 8 MB.

Montana	<p>Currently Montana does not have the capabilities to allow online filing of corporate documents with the exception of the required Annual Reports.</p> <p>We are currently looking at updating/replacing our antique mainframe system so that we can allow online filings, however the implementation of it will greatly depend on funding.</p>		
Nebraska			
Nevada	<p>Nevada offers UCC and Annual List services online for which there is no review. We have recently added online articles filing for corporations and LLCs. Since this is a new service, we do a brief post processing review.</p>	<p>This is done electronically through a sophisticated algorithm.</p>	<p>Customers are able to upload certain attachments, i.e., regulatory approvals, Registered Agent Acceptances, customer drafted articles. Must be in pdf with 1024KB limit.</p>
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon	<p>We do have staff reviewing for name availability in formation document filings, but no staff review for annual reports. Staff reviews a few additional errors in formation documents, too.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>We added the ability to cut and paste optional provisions for articles, and foreign entities can upload a pdf of their certificate of existence.</p>
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island	<p>All of our documents are reviewed before they are accepted for filing.</p>	<p>We provide filers with a guideline and online access to our database so they can perform their own pre-clearance. However, a staff member conducts a name availability search prior to accepting the filing.</p>	<p>Right now we do not have the capability to allow filers to attach documents.</p>
South Carolina			
South Dakota			

Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah	Our online system is set up to ask questions and receive answers that cover the basic statutory requirements. It is all automated. However, staff are assigned to review the name and have committed to a 24-hour (business day) turnaround on that review.	Yes, but done without paper filed. Name availability per statute is just too hard and costly to program, especially with initials, punctuation, and spelling.	At this point we do not allow upload of documents. The program creates a narrative form for articles and does allow "free text" sections for the filer to add specific clauses if they wish. We are looking at allowing upload of good standing certificates for foreign registrations.
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington	Yes, but we are committed to a two day turn around on these filings.	It is done online electronically, but because of the review process, online filers are required to choose two alternate names, just in case someone else gets the name in the two days it takes to file their formation.	Yes – we do allow an upload, but we don't specify a format or a size. Most are either Word or PDF documents.
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

Additional comments:

Full text of email:

Ohio currently accepts UCC filings online, but we are in the process of developing a system to accept online business filings. These are a few questions we have as we begin to think about the overall project. Any help you can provide would be great!

For states already accepting business filings online,

- (1) Do you have staff reviewing all of the filings or certain filings prior to approval?
- (2) Do you have staff reviewing formation filings for name availability purposes or is this done electronically?

(3) Are Customers able to upload documents to submit with their filing? If so, in what format? Is there a limit to the size of the attachment?

Thanks!

Allison

Allison A. Clark
Director of Business Services
Ohio Secretary of State, Jon Husted's Office
180 East Broad Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Tel. 614-466-0952
Fax 614-485-7609
aclark@sos.state.oh.us