

New legislative requirements for using corporate SIM cards in Russia

New legislation providing additional requirements relevant to the use of corporate SIM cards has been in effect since June 1, 2021. Apart from the specification of the procedure for distant conclusion/termination of the contracts for the provision of mobile services, the new rules are aimed at protection against “grey” SIM cards used for illegal activities. Information on corporate SIM cards (including one installed in equipment (i.e., on-line cashboxes, etc.) should be specified in the Unified System of Identification and Authentication (via the “gosuslugi” service). Details on corporate SIM cards (i.e., users-individuals, location of equipment and owners, etc.) shall be submitted by companies/individual entrepreneurs with further confirmation by users or directly by users with regard to corporate mobiles. Failure to observe the required identification procedure would result in a halt to the provision of mobile services.

Since June 1, 2021 it is forbidden to provide corporate SIM cards without specification of identification details in the Unified System of Identification and Authentication. As regards old mobile service agreements, concluded before the new law came into force, the following deadlines are provided for specification details: (1) for users of corporate SIM cards – by November 30, 2021 and (2) for users of equipment (with an installed SIM card) – not later than September 1, 2021.

Telecom operators would be responsible for supervision over the compliance of the identification procedure by companies and individual entrepreneurs. In the case of failure to complete an identification procedure, or a lack or incorrect details even after notification from the telecom operator, the latter may exclude a certain mobile number from a contract on the provision of services. Telecom operators are to meet their obligations from December 1, 2021 on. The Federal Supervision Agency for Information Technologies and Communications would control the proper performance of the new supervising obligations by telecom operators through a special information monitoring system.

Should your company provide corporate SIM cards for employees or use SIM cards in some equipment (i.e., on-line cashboxes), please take into consideration the new rules stated above.

As the operators are entitled to stop providing mobile services relevant to certain SIM-cards (from December 1, 2021 on) we recommend completing all identification procedures in time, as otherwise your company may face operational risks, i.e., the relevant equipment may not work or certain employees may become unavailable.