

SuperStream

Fact Sheet, July 2025

What is SuperStream?

SuperStream is a government reform introduced in 2015, designed to improve the efficiency with which money and data flows around the superannuation system. The SuperStream standards are based on recommendations from the Cooper Review and have been designed to:

- + Allocate contributions to members accounts more efficiently
- + Reduce the number of contributions being returned to employers due to insufficient member details
- + Provide better information about the amount and timing of superannuation payments to employees
- + Create an electronic record to support tax and accounting needs.

The new rules have effectively two components:

- + **Payment Standards** – The payment must be made electronically to the nominated superfund
- + **Data Standards** –
 - For contributions - details of the payment transaction, such as employee name, Tax File Number and superfund member number are also sent to the superfund.
 - For rollovers - details of the payment transaction, such as member name and receiving or paying fund details (name, address & ABN) are also sent to the superfund.

Who does SuperStream apply to?

The SuperStream standard is mandatory for all employers making super contributions, SMSFs receiving employer contributions and rollovers into or out of SMSF and APRA regulated super funds. However, the standard will not affect your SMSF if contributions are only from a related-party employer.

Generally, a related party employer is an employer that is controlled (more than 50% of the voting rights or can exert significant influence) by one or more members of the SMSF or their related parties as defined in Part 8 of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*.

SMSFs are required to receive employer contributions, rollovers into or out of SMSF and the associated data electronically using the SuperStream Standard. This enables more timely and reliable flow of payments and information about contributions and rollovers.

What do I need to do to meet my SuperStream obligations?

Employers

All employers are required to be paying super and sending the corresponding data in an appropriate electronic format.

We encourage you, as an employer, to familiarise yourself with your obligations under the SuperStream reforms. These include:

- + Providing the minimum data set in the required electronic format, using the standard terms and message
- + Making payments to each fund electronically
- + Ensuring payments and data are sent and received on the same day
- + Responding to fund requests for missing information and queries within 10 days.

Options available to help you implement processes to comply with SuperStream include:

- + Upgrading your in house systems or payroll software package
- + Using an outsourced payroll provider
- + Using a commercial clearing house or the free Small Business Superannuation Clearing House (available for small employers with 19 or fewer employees).

SMSFs

If your SMSF is receiving employer contributions (other than just from related party employers) and from 1 October 2021, rollovers into or out of SMSF can only be performed using SuperStream the SMSF trustees must obtain an electronic service address for the delivery of contribution and rollover data messages.

SMSF members will need to provide the following information of their superannuation fund to their employer:

- + SMSF Name
- + SMSF ABN
- + SMSF bank account details (including BSB & account number)
- + Electronic service address (ESA).

SMSF members will need to provide the following information of their superannuation fund to another fund where they are performing a rollover between superannuation funds:

- + SMSF Name
- + SMSF ABN
- + SMSF bank account details (including BSB & account number)
- + Electronic service address (ESA) Unique superannuation identifier.

SMSFs are required to have a SuperStream gateway to collect their contribution messages from employers and from 1 October 2021 superannuation funds they wish to rollover funds to and from so the required data can be collated into your SMSF. We have an arrangement via Australia Post to administer the gateway services on behalf of our SMSF clients. If you would like us to register your SMSF for the SuperStream gateway services, please contact us. A letter can also be provided to be given to your employer.

Alternatively see the ATO's list of registered ESA providers at <https://www.ato.gov.au/Super/SuperStream/Self-managed-super-funds/Electronic-service-address/Register-of-SMSF-messaging-providers/>

What happens if I do not comply?

The ATO can impose significant penalties for failure to comply with the new rules (up to \$2,000 each time the new rules are breached). The penalties apply to both employers and SMSFs and From 1 October 2021, you can only rollover into or out of your SMSF using SuperStream.

Useful Links

See the ATO website for more detailed information on Superstream.

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Super/SuperStream/>

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