

## General information

eRecognition (in Dutch: eHerkenning) allows businesses to identify themselves in an efficient, reliable and easy manner when digitally arranging their affairs with government agencies. Applications include lodging appeals, applying for permits (e.g. building, environmental and event permits) and viewing application statuses. eRecognition not only provides government organisations with authentication of the business' identity, it also tells them whether the employee logging on is authorised by the business to act on its behalf. This is vital, as the interaction between businesses and government agencies often involves the exchange of confidential data. eRecognition is a trust framework that has been in operation since April 2010 and was developed by private parties with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.

Further information:  
[www.eherkenning.nl](http://www.eherkenning.nl)

### For businesses: eRecognition tokens

Businesses can participate in eRecognition by means of eRecognition-enabled tokens. These tokens come in various types (e.g. username/password, two-factor tokens, PKI certificates) that correspond to pre-defined assurance levels. The tokens are issued by a number of accredited suppliers. Which kind of token is used during a transaction depends on the assurance level set by the government organisation the business is conducting affairs with. eRecognition tokens can be used with all government agencies connected to the eRecognition network. As the penetration of tokens increases, businesses will no longer need to use different authentication mechanisms for different government services like they do today.

### For government organisations: eRecognition broker

Government organisations are connected to the eRecognition network through a so-called eRecognition broker. Several parties are accredited to perform this role within the network. They ensure that all eRecognition tokens and authorisations issued to businesses are suitable for use on the government agency's website. During eRecognition transactions, government organisations receive the Chamber of Commerce registration number of the business logging on as well as a pseudonym (for privacy reasons) of the person representing the business.

### Four levels of assurance

eRecognition tokens come in four assurance levels, ranging from 'basic' to 'very high'. The four levels are

based on the STORK classification. Tokens are 'downwards compatible' in usage: a higher level token (e.g. assurance level 3) may be used for lower level services (e.g. assurance level 1) but not the other way around. Before purchasing an eRecognition token, businesses should enquire which assurance level is required for the government service they intend to use.

### A network of accredited providers

eRecognition is operated by a network of accredited providers. Each provider meets the requirements defined by the so-called eRecognition scheme. This is a trust framework of agreements on a wide range of topics, including privacy and legal issues, business model, trust levels, functionality, authorisations, cross-border services, governance, branding, support and re-use of existing authentication tokens (e.g. phones, bank credentials, government-issued and corporate-issued tokens, foreign tokens). The scheme is governed by a small organisation in which the central government is also represented. Within the network four roles are defined that can be performed by multiple providers. A provider can also perform multiple roles. Providers can assume the following roles:

1. Token issuer: supplies eRecognition tokens to businesses conducting online transactions with government organisations.
2. Mandate registry: stores all authorisations given to employees to perform certain tasks on behalf of the business. All representatives must have valid authorisation.
3. Authentication service: makes the issued tokens available in the eRecognition network in real time.

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*eRecognition is  
efficient, easy and  
reliable*

4. The fourth role is the one of eRecognition broker. Through the eRecognition broker, government organisations have access to all authentication services and mandate registries within the eRecognition network.

### Continuity

eRecognition is a public-private cooperation. On the one hand, the government initiates, directs and supervises, which ensures government organisations that eRecognition is safe to use. On the other hand, there is a free market system: the accredited providers each have their own propositions with regard to businesses (eRecognition tokens) and government bodies (eRecognition broker). Thanks to this approach, it is possible to reuse existing tokens, so that businesses (users) are not lumbered up with a multiple set of digital keys and government bodies do not have to administer tokens themselves.

### Where can eRecognition be used?

On the eRecognition website you can find an up-to-date list of government organisations using eRecognition.

### Benefits

The benefits of eRecognition are:

- Easy to use for businesses
- Easy to connect to for government organisations
- Multiple options for both government organisations and businesses in terms of choosing an eRecognition provider
- Redundancy in the network thanks to multiple providers

- Standardisation through the eRecognition agreements scheme

### Contact

If you wish to apply for an eRecognition token or connect to eRecognition, please contact an accredited provider.

If you have any further questions regarding the use of eRecognition in relation to a specific government organisation, please contact the organisation in question.

For further information see [www.eherkenning.nl/eRecognition](http://www.eherkenning.nl/eRecognition)