29 Oct 2024, 2pm



Welcome to the ACRA Webinar

Part 1: Introducing the new Bizfile

Part 2: Corporate Service Provider (CSP) Regulatory Updates



Music is currently playing to facilitate sound check. If you do not hear anything, please check your audio settings and/or network connection. You might also want to exit this webinar call and re-joining via the same link.



To ensure a smooth session, all participants will be muted by default.



Please refrain from recording this session. Reproduction without ACRA's prior written consent is strictly prohibited. Contents from this webinar will be uploaded for reference at a later date.

Today's Agenda



Time	Item
2:00pm	Welcome & Attendance
2:05pm	Opening Remarks
2:10pm	Part 1 – Introducing the new Bizfile
3:15pm	Break (10 minutes)
3:25pm	Question & Answer on new Bizfile
3:45pm	Part 2 – Corporate Service Provider Regulatory Updates
4:30pm	Question & Answer on CSP Act
5:00pm	End of Programme

Opening remarks



Ang Siok Hui

Divisional Director

Registry Services Division



Introducing the new Bizfile

Webinar

Presenter:



Helen Lee

Director

Service Design & Management Department

Agenda

- 1. Introduction to the New Bizfile
- 2. Information on System Migration
- 3. Video on New Bizfile
- 4. Question & Answer on New Bizfile

2

Introduction to the New Bizfile



The new Bizfile is designed to:



IMPROVE FILING EXPERIENCE



ENHANCE DATA INTEGRITY & GOVERNANCE



HELP BUSINESSES COMPLY



STRENGTHEN
PERSONAL
DATA
PROTECTION



FACILITATE ACCESS TO BUSINESS DATA



Introduction to the new Bizfile

Improving filing experience

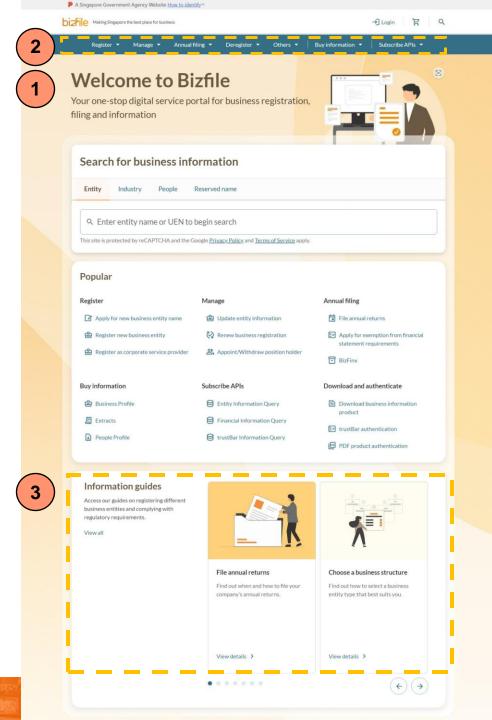
Introducing our new Bizfile

Designed to enable an intuitive and seamless user experience

New Bizfile as a one-stop access to ACRA's services and products

Mega menu offers easy and structured navigation

Quick access to information guides



Customer-centric design

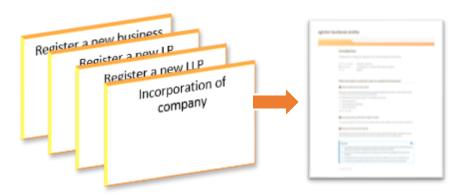


Key changes to improve the filing experience include:

Different eServices merged as a single form

Data fields in webforms displayed accordingly based on the entity type

- Apply for new business entity names
- Register new business entity



Multiple eServices grouped as one mega form with sub-forms

Relevant sub-transactions are now provided for within the same form for lodgers' convenience

- Update shares information
- File cessation or dissolution of business entity

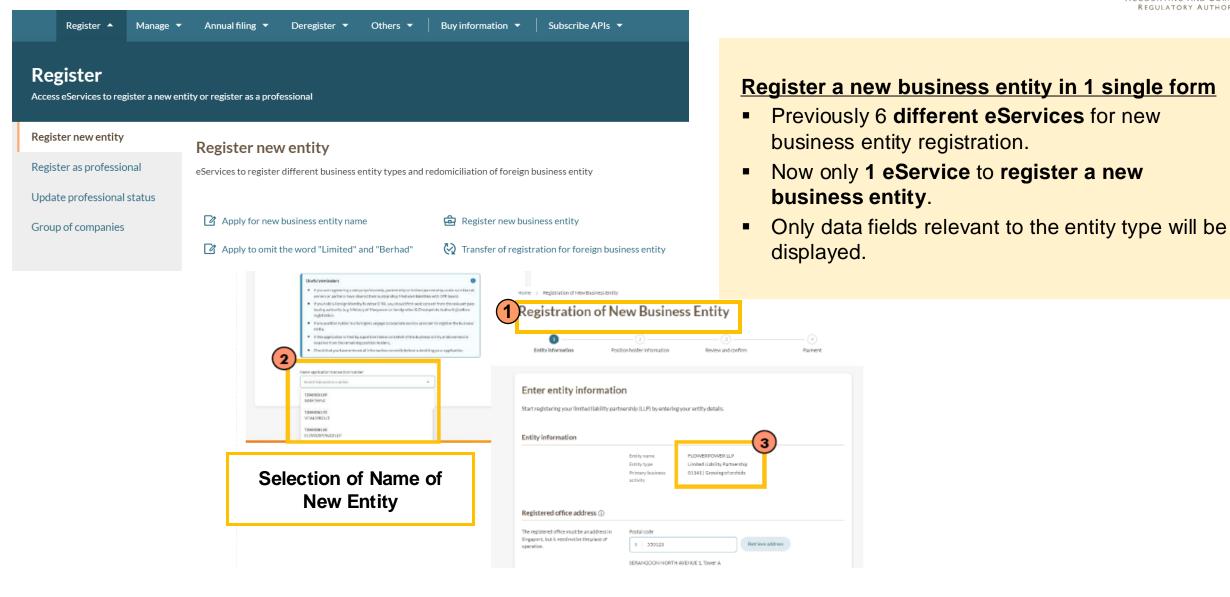
Streamlining eServices under same process with guided navigation

Step by step navigation throughout the filing process

- Update reduction of share capital
- File winding up of business entity

Streamlined transactions – Register a new business entity





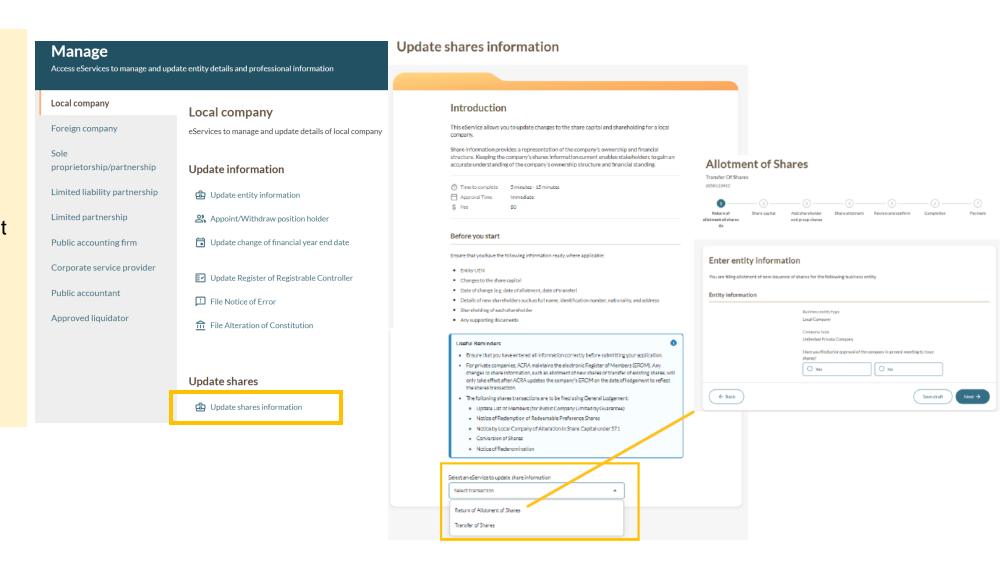
Streamlined transactions – Update shares information



In the new Bizfile, various eServices* related to the updating of shares information are consolidated into a megaform.

Lodgers select the relevant filing from the dropdown menu.

*E.g. Allotment of shares, Transfer of shares



Streamlined transactions – Update reduction of share capital

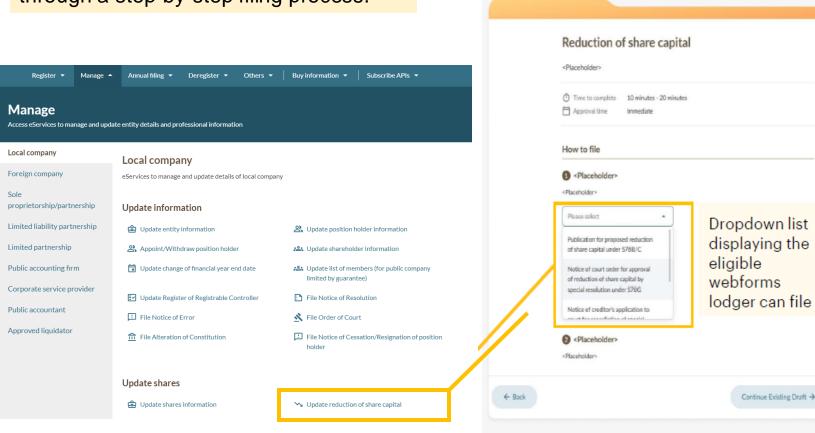
202000156M

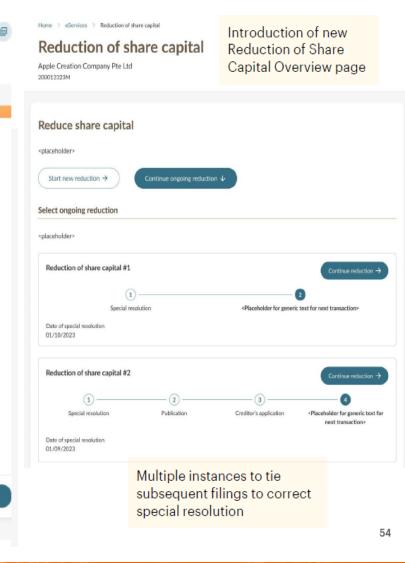
Reduction of share capital

Apple Creation Company Pte Ltd



Update reduction of share capital transactions are consolidated into a megaform where lodgers will be guided through a step-by-step filing process.





New design elements for a guided filing experience





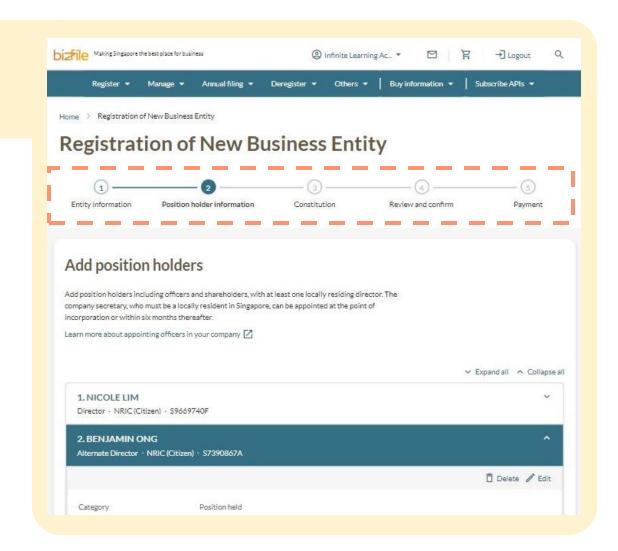
Steppers are displayed in Registry webforms to **guide lodgers step-by-step** through webforms.



Collapsible panels only show mandatory input fields to **minimise screen clutter**.



Visual guides (1), help snippets (2) & tooltips (3) have been added to webforms.



New design elements for a guided filing experience





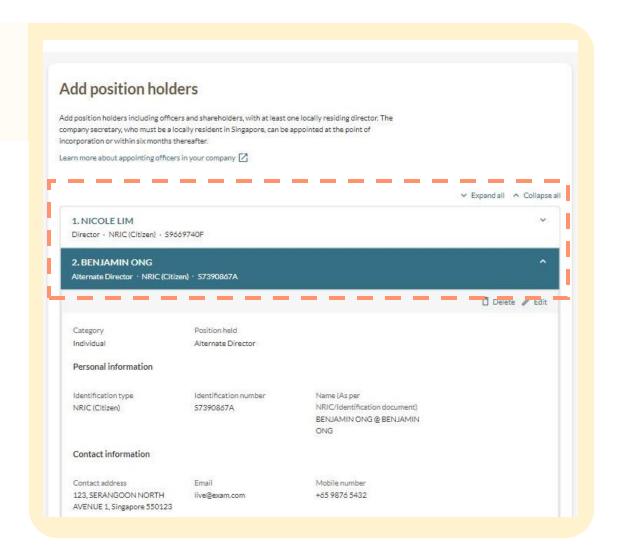
Steppers are displayed in Registry webforms to **guide lodgers step-by-step** through webforms.



Collapsible panels only show mandatory input fields to **minimise screen clutter**.



Visual guides (1), help snippets (2) & tooltips (3) have been added to webforms.



New design elements for a guided filing experience





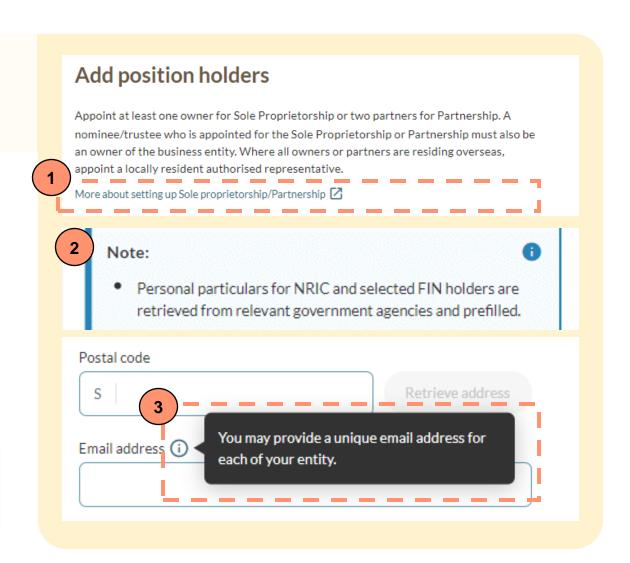
Steppers are displayed in Registry webforms to **guide lodgers step-by-step** through webforms.



Collapsible panels only show mandatory input fields to **minimise screen clutter**.



Visual guides, help snippets & tooltips have been added to webforms.

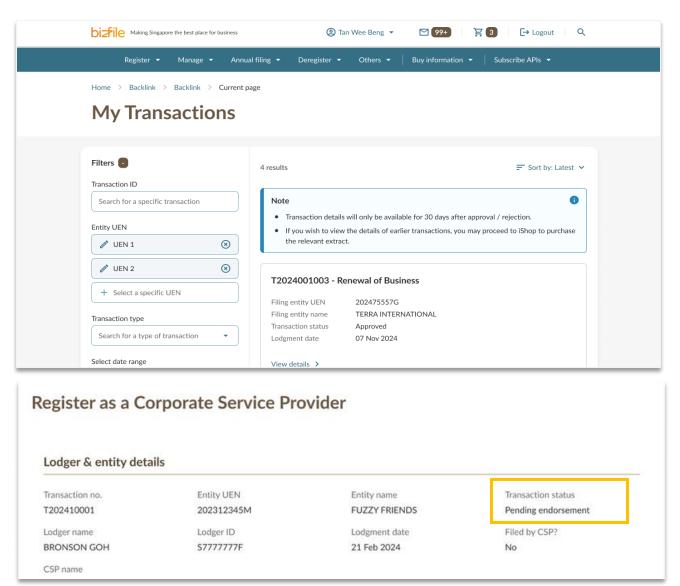


New "My Transactions" page – Search across multiple transactions



New "My Transactions" page provides an overview of transaction history.

Lodgers can filter and search across <u>multiple</u> transactions to monitor and manage their progress more easily.





Introduction to the new Bizfile

Enhancing data integrity and governance

Enhanced data integrity and governance



1

ENHANCED FILING ACCURACY AND DATA INTEGRITY

New "Switch Profile" feature: Corppass users assigned to multiple entities need to select the relevant entity before proceeding to transact for the entity

2

STRICTER ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

New endorsement process: Clients of all Corporate Service Providers need to endorse them as their filing agents

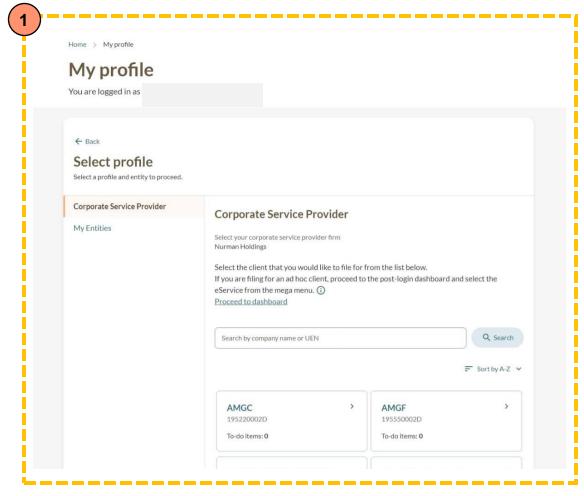
3

ENFORCEMENT OF DATA INTEGRITY

Foreign Business Registration Number (FBRN): Mandatory for foreign businesses not registered with ACRA to provide such information

"Switch Profile" feature for Corppass users



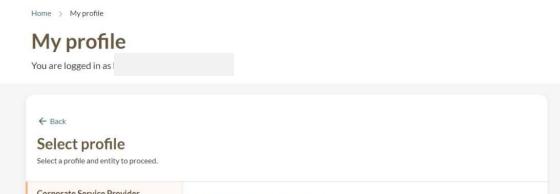


Making Singapore the best place for business Nurman Holdings Ä Subscribe APIs ▼ Annual filing III Dashboard Entities Home > My profile S Transactions My profile Purchases You are logged in as Filing agents M Inbox ← Back My profile Select profile Switch profile Select a profile and entity to proceed. Corporate Service Provider **Corporate Service Provider** My Entities Select your corporate service provider firm Nurman Holdings Select the client that you would like to file for from the list below. If you are filing for an ad hoc client, proceed to the post-login dashboard and select the eService from the mega menu. (i) Proceed to dashboard

After logging in, users with multiple profiles/roles will see the "My Profile" page. CSPs can view a list of their clients. To act for a different client, CSPs can click the profile icon at the top, choose "Switch Profile" to transact for another entity, without the need to re-login.

"Switch Profile" feature for Corppass users





Corporate Service Provider Corporate Service Provider My Entities Select your corporate service provider firm Nurman Holdings Select the client that you would like to file for from the list below. If you are filing for an ad hoc client, proceed to the post-login dashboard and select the eService from the mega menu. (i) Proceed to dashboard Q Search Search by company name or UEN Appali Engineering Pte Ltd Beta Accountancy Pte Ltd 202000156A 202000156B To-do items: 20 To-do items: 12 Cooper Law LLP **Delta Trains Ltd** 202000156C 202000156D To-do items: 5 To-do items: 2

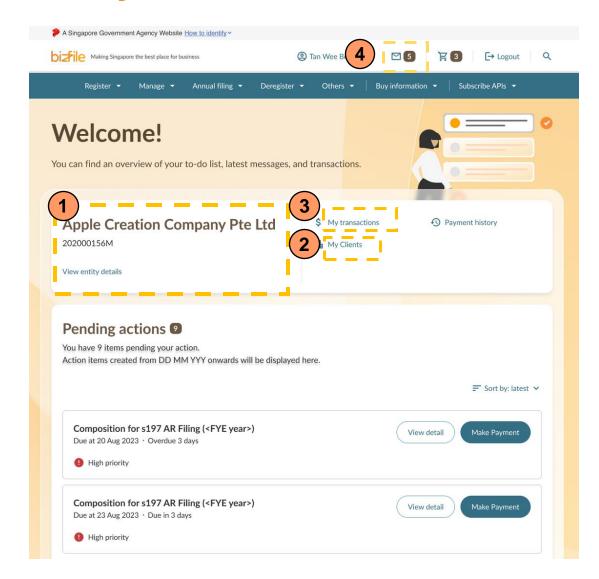
CSPs filing for ad-hoc client (not in the client list) should go to "My Profile" page, click "Proceed to dashboard" to assume the CSP's role before selecting the relevant eService from the mega menu.

Example: Apply for new business entity name or Register for new business entity

On the "My Profile" page, lodgers can see how many "To-do" items specific to each entity, to help them prioritise tasks across different entities.

A warning sign is displayed for entities that have pending high-priority "To-do" items.

Entity's Dashboard





Lodger's profile and role will determine the links they can access from the dashboard

Entity Details:

Displays a summary of entity-related information

2

My Clients:

Displays a list of clients that the CSP firm is authorised to file for (only visible to CSPs)

3

My Transactions:

Provides updates on transaction history across multiple transactions of the lodger 4

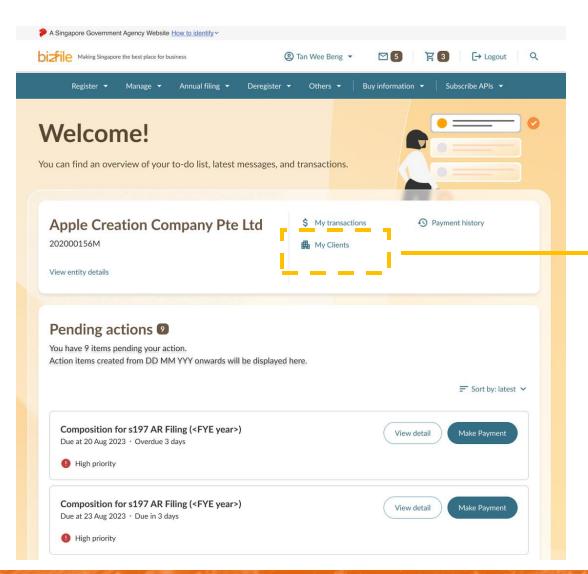
Inbox:

Displays all digital notices and letters, with users notified via their personal email IDs

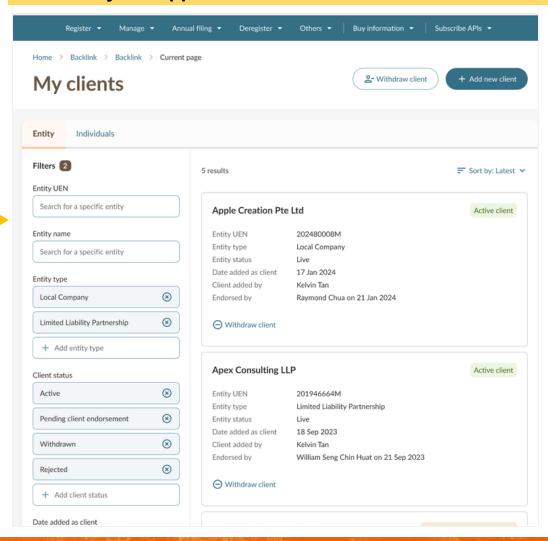
Note: Screenshot(s) are for indicative purposes only and may be subject to further changes.

"My Clients" page shows list of all clients





Only CSPs can view this page, after logging in using their CSP entity's Corppass account.



Enhanced data integrity and governance



1

ENHANCED FILING ACCURACY AND DATA INTEGRITY

New "Switch Profile" feature: Corppass users assigned to multiple entities need to select the relevant entity before proceeding to transact for the entity

2

STRICTER ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

New endorsement process: Clients of all Corporate Service Providers need to endorse them as their filing agents

3

ENFORCEMENT OF DATA INTEGRITY

Foreign Business Registration Number (FBRN): Mandatory for foreign businesses not registered with ACRA to provide such information

Endorsement process for clients to approve their CSPs

CSPs can only act on behalf of the new client after the client has endorsed the appointment.

This reduces the risk of unauthorised or fraudulent activity.

Client will then receive a "To-do" item / inbox notification that links them to the endorsement transaction, where they can accept or reject the authorisation request



Note: Screenshot(s) are for indicative purposes only and may be subject to further changes.













Authorisation request for CSP filing

access

Endorsement

The Corporate Service Provider (CSP) has included your entity in the client list and is requesting your endorsement to authorise them to file on behalf of your entity in BizFile. Kindly review the details provided and proceed with the endorsement if you wish to grant the CSP permission to perform filings on your entity's behalf in BizFile. You can view the authorised CSPs in your dashboard under 'My CSPs' and remove their access if you no longer require their filing services.

Transaction & CSP details

Transaction no. Lodgement date CSP UEN CSP name T202410001 23 Jan 2024 202312345M **FUZZY FRIENDS**

Lodger

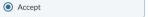
RONALD TAY

Client details

Entity UEN Endorsement due date Entity name APEX PRIVATE LIMITED 201971117G 06 Feb 2024

Response & declarations

Response





- I, Kelly Wong, declare that:
 - 1 The entity gives consent to the above Corporate Service Provider to perform filing on behalf of the entity in BizFile.
 - 2 The above information submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I am authorised to give consent on behalf of the

Enhanced data integrity and governance



1

ENHANCED FILING ACCURACY AND DATA INTEGRITY

New "Switch Profile" feature: Corppass users assigned to multiple entities need to select the relevant entity before proceeding to transact for the entity

2

STRICTER ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

New endorsement process: Clients of all Corporate Service Providers need to endorse them as their filing agents

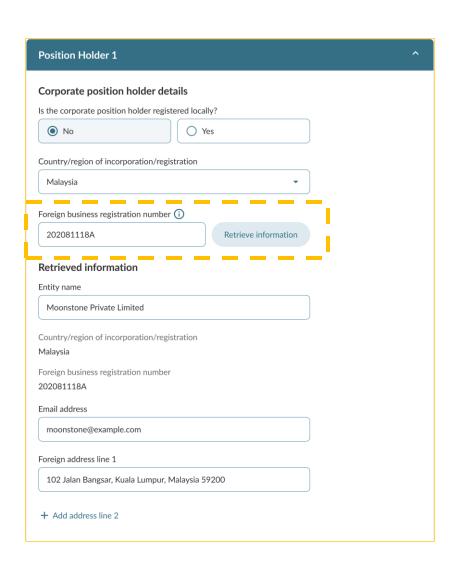
3

ENFORCEMENT OF DATA INTEGRITY

Foreign Business Registration Number (FBRN): Mandatory for foreign businesses not registered with ACRA to provide such information

Enforcement of data integrity





Collection of Foreign Business Registration Number (FBRN)

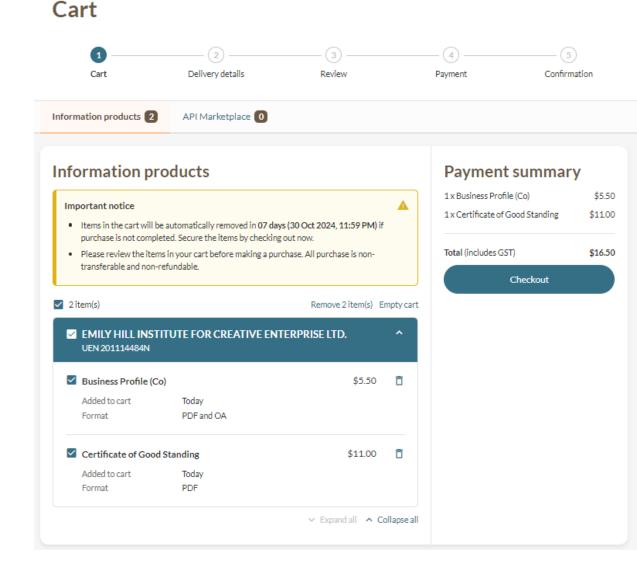
- Currently, foreign based entities that are appointed as corporate shareholders or selected position holders (e.g. Limited partner) are issued with a UF Number (e.g.: T14UFxxxxX).
- In the new Bizfile, UF number will not be issued. Instead, the Foreign Business Registration Number (FRBN) of that entity (i.e., the registration number that is issued by the country of incorporation / registration) must be filed with ACRA.

Other changes to prevent data discrepancy issues



Payment Cart changes:

- No payment cart for filing of transactions.
- This is to maintain data accuracy and prevent situations where a "draft" transaction stored in the payment cart is eventually filed and overwrites an earlier filed transaction.
- Payment cart will still be available for purchases of iShop information products.



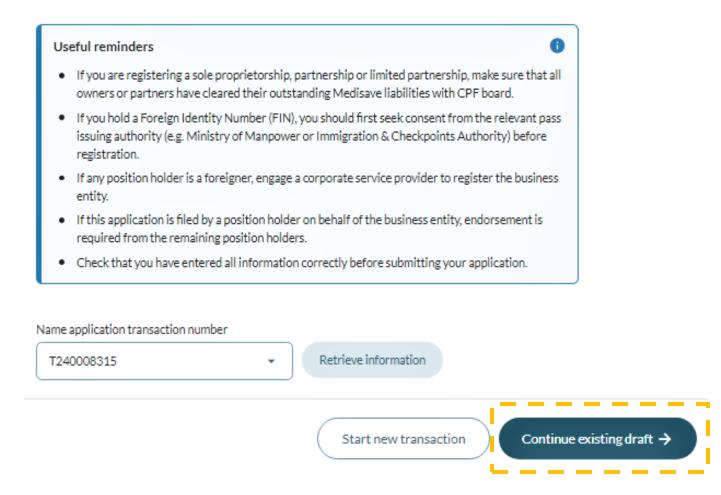
Other changes to prevent data discrepancy issues



Saved Transactions:

In current BizFile+, all your saved transactions are visible on the dashboard. This display often results in users accidentally submitting incorrect saved transactions.

In the **new Bizfile**, saved transactions will not be displayed on the dashboard. You can still browse your saved transactions from their respective transaction pages.





Introduction to the new Bizfile

Helping businesses comply

Simplifying compliance for businesses with new "To-Do" list



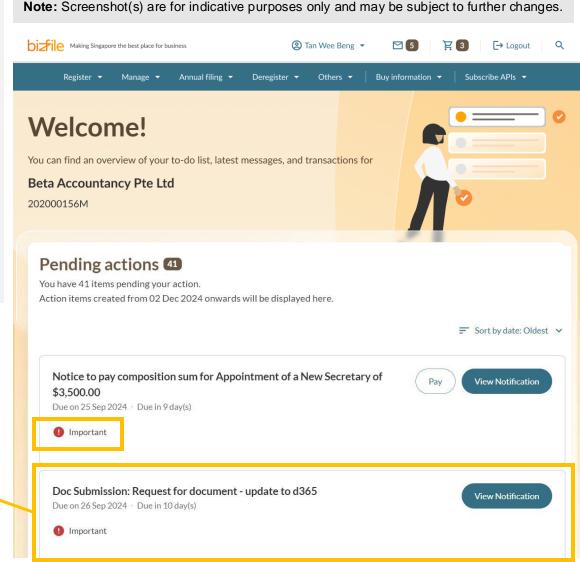
A clear "To-do" list with concise statements and call-to-action buttons, including a priority indicator to highlight urgent tasks.

Key Use Cases include:

- Annual filings
- Business registration renewal
- Endorsement by position holders
- Follow-up actions such as payment, clarifications or submitting supporting documents

Reminders in the "Bizfile Inbox" further help entities meet statutory obligations conveniently





To-Do list and Inbox for different roles





Role: CSP whose client is Entity A

CSPs can access their **client entity's dashboard** to view To-Do items and inbox
messages **sent to entity** as a **generic**message or notification.

Examples include:

- Reminder notices for annual filings
- Notices to renew business registration
- Striking off notices



Role: Director of Entity A

Specific To-Do items and inbox messages that can <u>only be accessed</u> by **authorised position holders** of the entity.

Examples include:

- Endorsement notice sent to position holders
- Follow-up actions such as making payments and answering clarifications on transactions filed by individual position holders
- Warning letters addressed to specific individuals

Going digital in ACRA's correspondences with customers



Facilitate digital communications

Position holders and shareholders can provide 1 email address for each of their entities

Digital letters and notices from ACRA are deposited into **Bizfile Inbox**

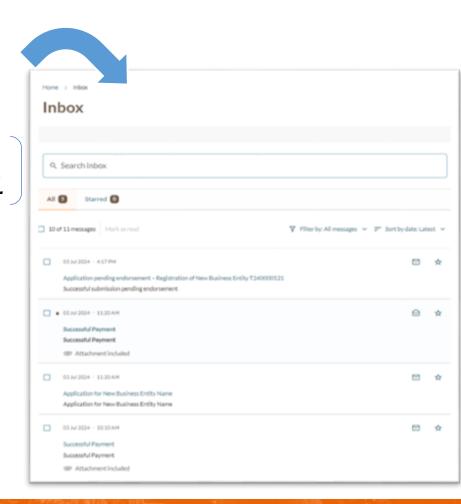
Email notifications to notify users whenever new digital letters are deposited into Bizfile Inbox

During 1-year transitional period from launch of new Bizfile, hardcopy letters will still be sent

Letters related to court proceedings will continue to be sent via <u>hard copy</u>



You've got mail.





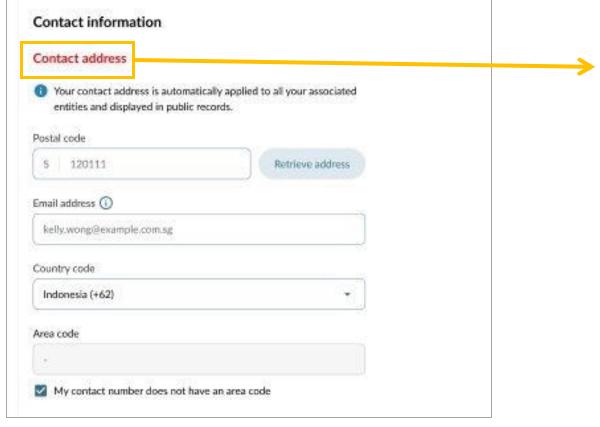
Introduction to the new Bizfile

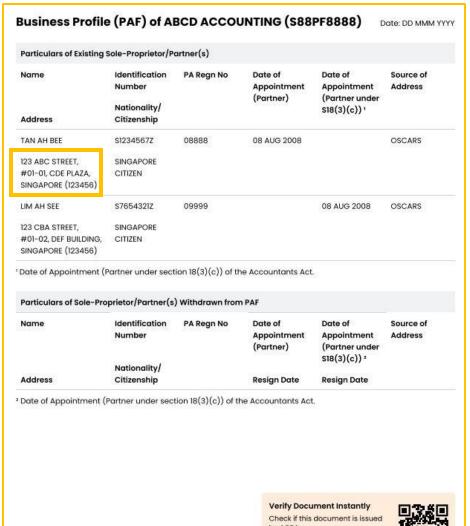
Strengthening personal data protection

Contact address will be default address shown publicly



For example, during registration of new entity, the webform now displays a mandatory "Contact address" section instead of Alternate address





Contact address to replace alternate address



- Effective 23 Aug 2024, \$40 fee for filing an alternate address waived.
- Individuals can file an alternate address with ACRA at no charge in the current BizFile+ from now until before the new Bizfile is launched.
- Existing alternate addresses will automatically be converted to Contact Addresses in Bizfile.
- No action is required for those who prefer to use their residential address as their contact address.

Transitioning to Contact Addresses

- To ease the transition from Alternate Address to Contact Address, ACRA is waiving the \$40 fee for filing an Alternate Address from 23 August 2024.
- Individuals can now file at no charge on BizFile



No action is requ to use their Resid Address.

I am a corporate service provider. What do I need to do?

- Check your clients' preferred addresses and update
 ACRA before the new Contact Address requirement takes
 effect. This will ensure that their information is up to date
 for a smooth transition.
- Alternate Addresses filed before the new Contact Address requirement takes effect will be considered as Contact Addresses.
- If no Alternate Address is filed, the Residential Address will serve as the default Contact Address, with the option to update it at any time.

A summary of key changes and filing processes



Area

Current BizFile+

New Bizfile

Viewing transaction status

 General "Transaction Status Enquiry" webform for users to check the status for each filing individually Dedicated "MyTransactions" page for users to view the status of all their submitted transactions for each entity

Post-login dashboard and notifications

 User dashboard displays pending actions consolidated across all the entities that the user is authorised to file for "To-do" items and "Inbox" messages are entityspecific; users must switch profile to view the pending tasks or messages for another entity

Filing for multiple entities

 Users need to manually enter the UEN into each webform for every entity they file for The selected entity at the point of login/profile selection automatically determines the transactions that users can access (no need for manual UEN input)



Have a question on the new Bizfile? Scan the QR code to submit your questions.



Introducing the new Bizfile

Webinar

Presenter:



Tan Yong Tat

Deputy Director
Information Products & Services Unit



Introduction to the new Bizfile

Facilitating access to business data

Easier access to accurate and reliable data for business growth





FEDERATED SEARCH





INFORMATION PRODUCTS



One-stop search for information on entities and people

Expanded search covering entities registered by ACRA and those registered by other govt agencies

Industry search to search for live entities by business sector

People search is integrated to include information on public accountants and qualified individuals

Improved purchase and download experience

Additional notes to explain extracts

Improved Information Product Authentication Process

Certification available for statutory registers

Easier access to accurate and reliable data for business growth





FEDERATED SEARCH





NFORMATION PRODUCTS



One-stop search for information on entities and people

Expanded search covering entities registered by ACRA and those registered by other govt agencies

Industry search to search for live entities by business sector

People search is integrated to include information on public accountants and qualified individuals

Improved purchase and download experience

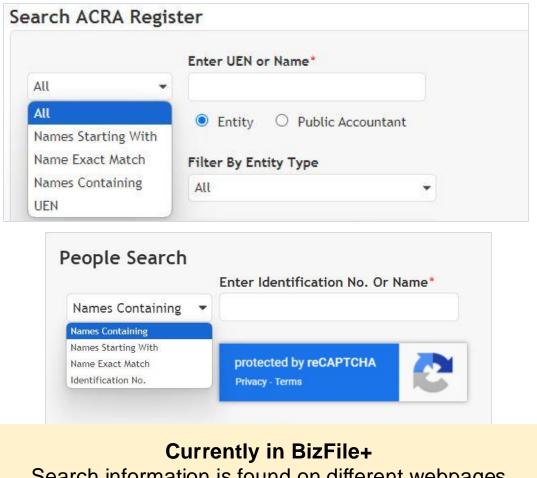
Additional notes to explain extracts

Improved Information Product Authentication Process

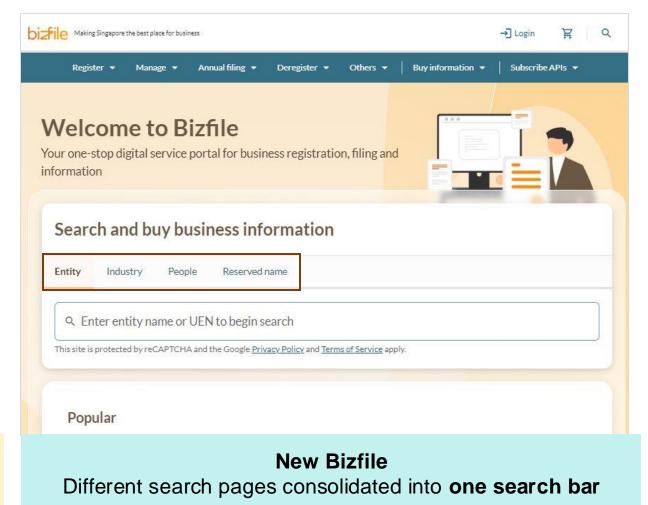
Certification available for statutory registers

All search features consolidated into one federated search bar

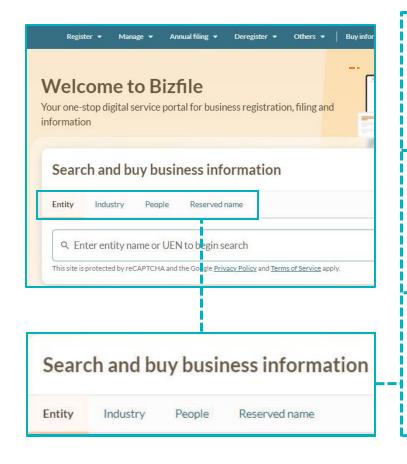




Search information is found on different webpages







Entity Search

One-stop search for **entities registered by ACRA** (e.g. companies) **and those registered by other govt agencies** (e.g. societies)

├⇒ Industry Search

Search live entities by business sectors using **keywords of SSIC code description**, **SSIC code or any suggested industry category**

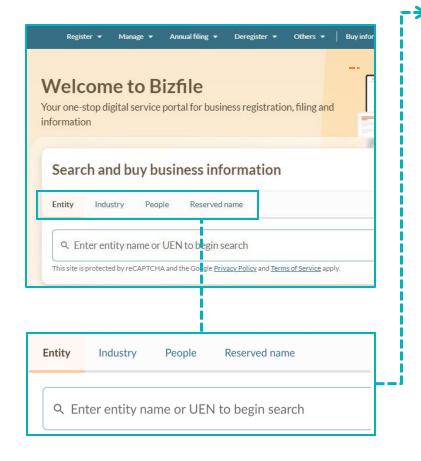
-> People Search

Displays the **count of current/past entity positions** a person is/was involved in and more information on qualified individuals and public accountants (if any)

Reserved Name Search

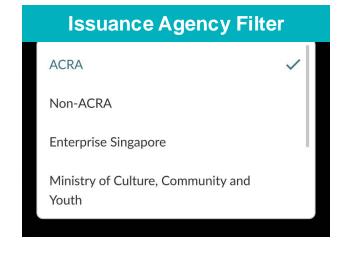
Displays the list of **matching active reserved names** within **120 days** of name application

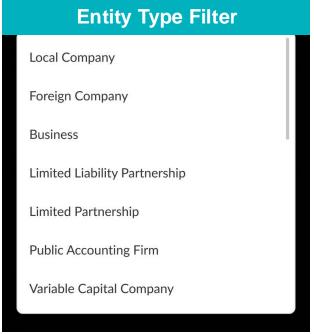




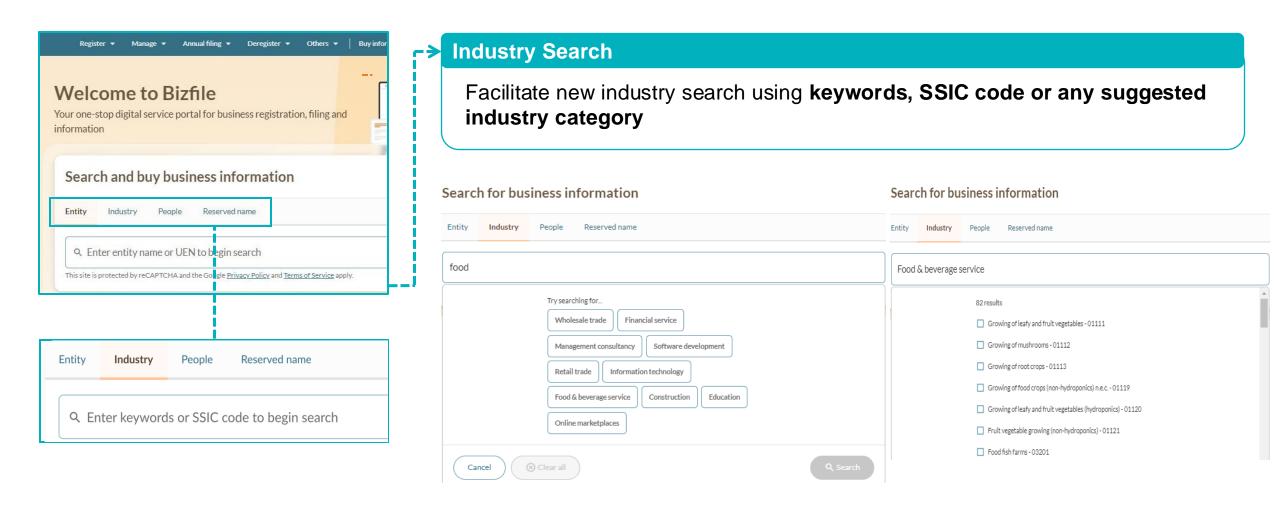
Entity Search

One-stop search for **entities registered by ACRA** (e.g. companies) **and those registered by other govt agencies** (e.g. societies)

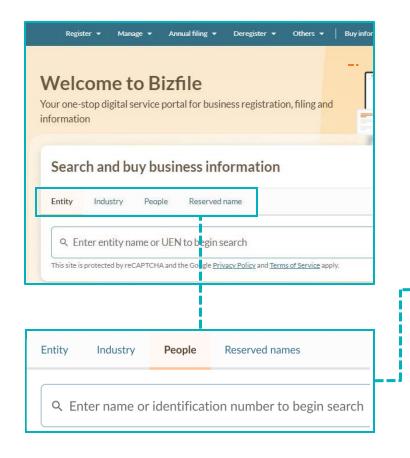


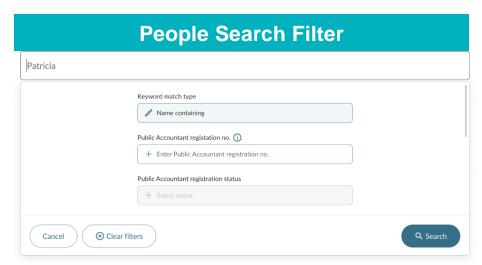


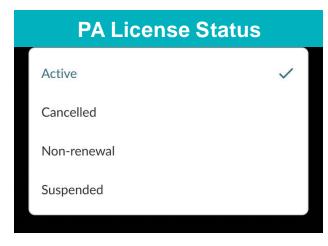








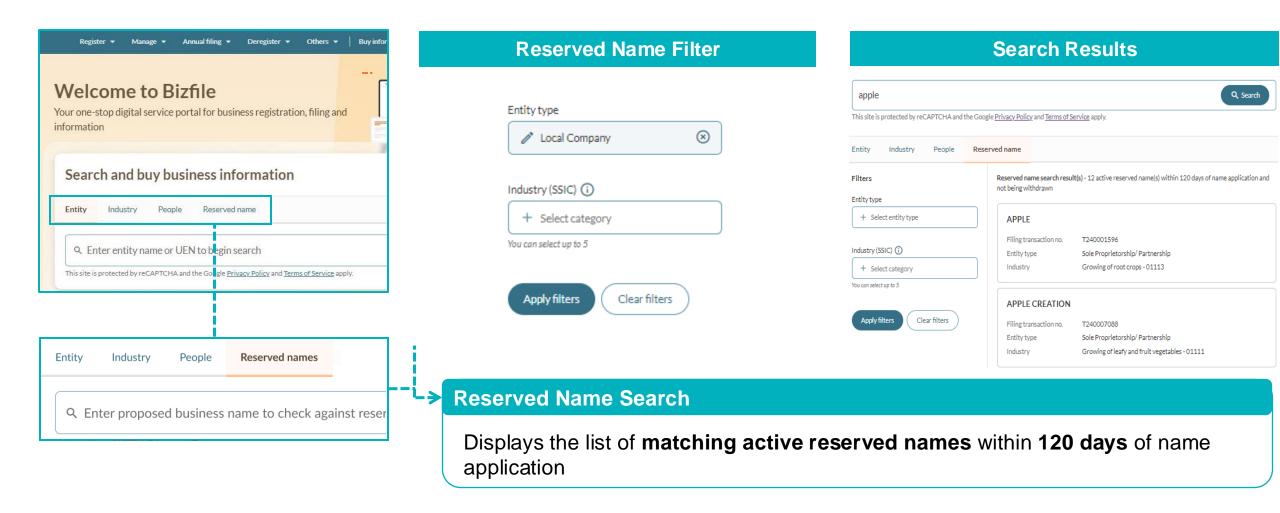




People Search

Displays the **count of current/past entity positions** a person is/was involved in and more information on qualified individuals and public accountants (if any)





Note: A holistic name check can be done after Entity Search and Reserved Name search.

Easier access to accurate and reliable data for business growth





FEDERATED SEARCH





INFORMATION PRODUCTS



One-stop search for information on entities and people

Expanded search covering entities registered by ACRA and those registered by other govt agencies

Industry search to search for live entities by business sector

People search is integrated to include information on public accountants and qualified individuals

Improved purchase and download experience

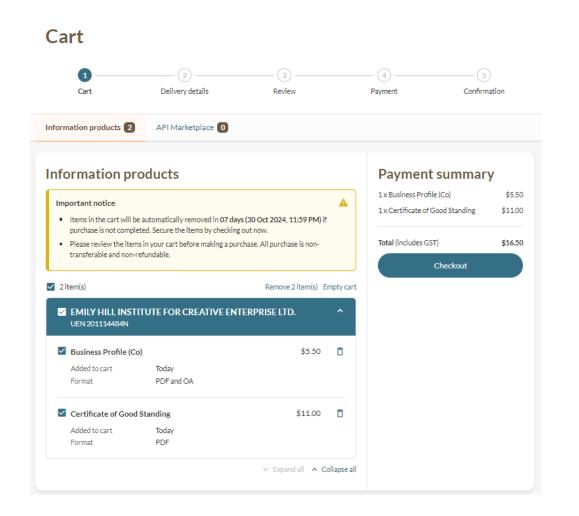
Additional notes to explain extracts

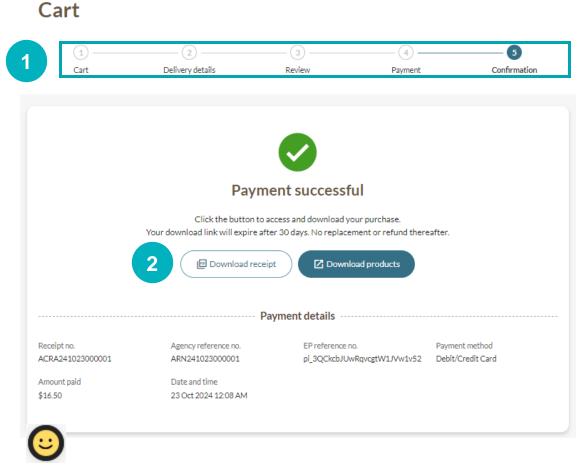
Improved Information Product Authentication Process

Certification available for statutory registers



Guided journey from Cart View to Payment Confirmation

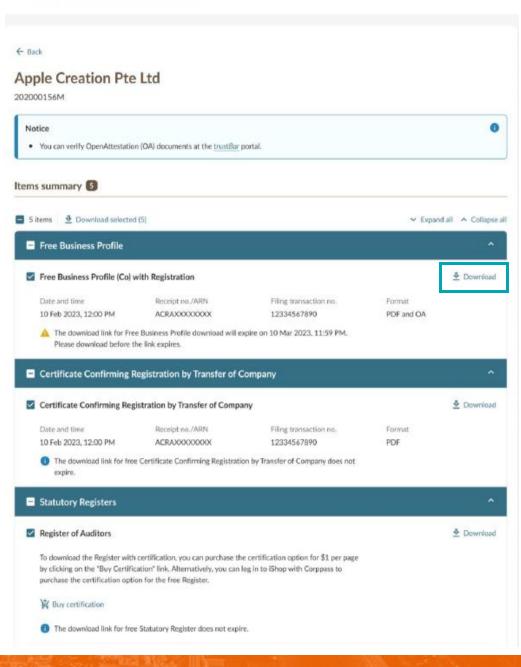




2

Purchase Process and Download

Current BizFile+ New Bizfile A dedicated webpage to access No dedicated all free info webpage to access free info products products (e.g., business profiles, registers) Info products can be Info products can be downloaded within 7 downloaded within 30 days from purchase days from purchase



Free product download



Helping customers make informed decisions

Current BizFile+

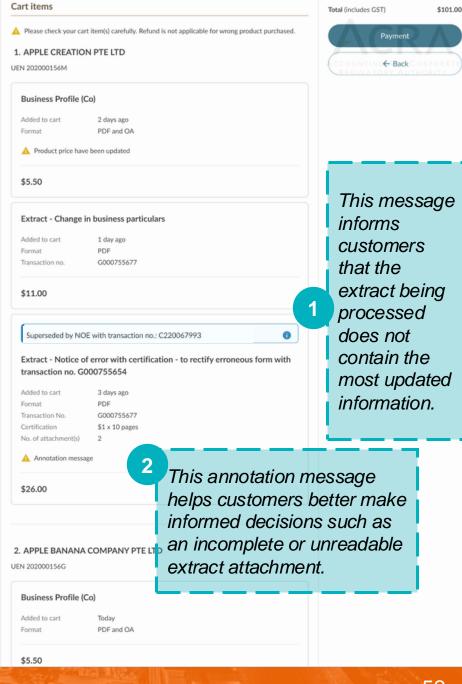
New Bizfile

Does not display online notes about incomplete or unreadable extract attachments

Will display online notes (if any) to explain about incomplete or unreadable extract attachments

4 extract categoriese.g.M&AA/ConstitutionFinancial Information

Extracts are now categorized according to the types of transactions. e.g., Registration/Incorporation, Annual Filing





Improved Information Product Authentication Process

Current BizFile+

New Bizfile

Limited information is displayed

Authentication Result

The Certificate of Good Standing of HAUS OF MUSIC with Unique Entity Number 202106855E and Authentication Number I23006265M is deemed to be valid as of 25/01/2023, 03:50 PM. The validity of the content is subjected to any subsequent lodgement filed.

Page now displays document details, and document preview if the product was bought within 60 days of purchase

Home > PDF product verification > Verification result

Verification result

ACCOUNTING AND CORPORATE



Verification successful

The document is verified as valid on <date and time of product generated>. Please note that the validity of the content is subject to any subsequent filings lodged with ACRA.

Verify another

1

Document details

UEN / Person ID 202000156M Unique verification URL

Lorem ipsum

2020

Receipt no.

Certificate of Good Standing

Product name

ACRAXXXXXXX

2

Authentication no.

Q23007596C

Document preview

Document can be preview onscreen for 60 days from the date of purchase. To check the authenticity of the PDF document, you can compare it against the version on screen to ensure that it has not been altered.

ACRA
ACCOUNTING AND CORPORATE
REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Sample

Certificate of Good Standing

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO

ABC COMPANY

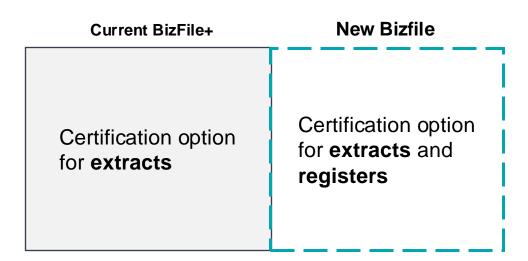
OF UEN

123456789A

The company was incorporated in Singapore under the Companies Act 1967 on 08 Aug 2016 and that the company is a LIMITED EXEMPT PRIVATE COMPANY.



Certification





ACCOUNTING AND CORPORATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ACRA) bizile

Whilst every endeavor is made to ensure that information provided is updated and correct, ACRA disclaims any liability for any damage or loss that may be caused as a result of any error of omission.

Register of CEOs of APPLEBANANA MANGOSTEEN CREATIVES COMPANY (201688888A)

Date: 10 Feb 2024



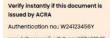
ASST REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES & BUSINESS NAMES ACCOUNTING AND CORPORATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY SINGAPORE

RECEIPT NO. : ACRA240426000001

DATE : 10 FEB 2024



Page 3 of 3



3

Important information on system migration

Important notice on system migration



All BizFile+ online services will be suspended:

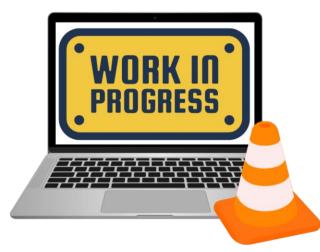
from 8pm, 4 Dec 2024 (Wednesday), to 8am, 9 Dec 2024 (Monday).

The following eServices will not be available during this period:

- All online filing and registration services in BizFile+ portal and Variable Capital Company (VCC) portal
- ACRA iShop, API Marketplace and API Mall

Some eServices/transactions will not be available from 8pm on these dates to 8am, Mon, 9 Dec 2024:

- Wed, 20 Nov 2024
- Wed, 27 Nov 2024
- Tue, 3 Dec 2024



Please note the following:



Extension of filing time and no imposition of filing penalties for filings until 16 Dec 2024

- Filing deadlines for annual returns and other types of filings (e.g. Change of particulars, appointments) that are <u>due between 4 and 9 Dec 2024</u> will be extended to 16 Dec 2024.
- No late filing penalties will be imposed for filings that are due during this period.

Purchase of business information at iShop

- Information products, such as Business Profiles, can still be purchased from our authorised Information Service Providers (ISPs).
- Information products purchased from ACRA iShop before 4 Dec 2024, can still be downloaded via the BizFile+ Product Download page using the product download code in the email delivery notification.

Important actions for CSPs



- File or complete all applications/transactions by 8pm, 4 Dec 2024, to ensure sufficient time for processing, especially for transactions that may require reviews by relevant authorities or endorsements from business partners.
- All saved transactions and transactions pending endorsement or payment must be completed before 8pm, 4 Dec 2024. These transactions will not be available in the new system.
- Transactions not completed by 8pm, 4 Dec 2024 will require re-application on the new Bizfile portal on 9 Dec 2024. No refunds of fees for such transactions will be made.
- Inbox messages in current BizFile+ will not be transferred to the new system.
 Download any required messages before 8pm, 4 Dec 2024.

BizFile+ transactions will not be available on these dates



Transactions not available from 20 Nov 2024, 8pm to 9 Dec 2024, 8am	Transactions not available from 27 Nov 2024, 8pm to 9 Dec 2024, 8am	Transactions not available from 3 Dec 2024, 8pm to 9 Dec 2024, 8am
Application for Consent to Resign as Auditor	Application under s201(12) of the Companies Act – Exemption from Compliance with the Accounting Standards	Lodgement of Court Order for Restoration of Struck Off Company
Application for CPE Exemption for Renewal of Registration as a Public Accountant	Application under s373 of the Companies Act – Exemption/Waiver of Financial Reporting for Foreign Company	Notification of Leave of Court or Permission to Act from Official Assignee
Application for Exemption from Public Accountant Registration Requirement	Applications under s202 of the Companies Act – Relief from Requirements as to Form and Content of Financial Statements and Directors' Statement	
Application for Registration as a Public Accountant	Cancellation of Registration as a Public Accountant	
Application for Renewal of Registration as a Public Accountant	Notice of Death	
Application to Register as a Qualified Individual	Notice of Error	
General Lodgement	Notification of Cessation – Bankruptcy, Disqualification or Resignation	
Lodgement of Court Order	Registration of Amalgamation	
All application under S29(1), 29(2) & 29(4) of the Companies Act – Omission of the word "Limited" or "Berhad" / Alter Company Constitution	Registration of Foreign Branch of Company	
	Withdrawal from being an Approved Liquidator	



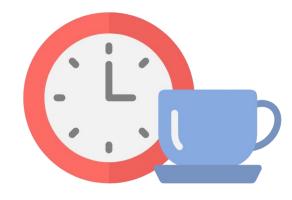




https://go.gov.sg/about-bizfile

Break

See you in 10 minutes



Q&A

Part 1: New Bizfile



Corporate Service Providers (CSP) Regulatory Updates

Webinar

Presenter:



Dave Yeo

Director
Compliance Policy & Analytics Department

Agenda

1. Requirements on CSPs

- a. Registration Requirements for CSPs
- b. Fit & Proper Assessment of Nominee Directors
- c. Performing Customer Due Diligence Measures

2. Requirements on Entities that CSPs Support

- Maintaining Information Regarding Registrable Controllers from Day of Incorporation/Registration
- Declaration of Nominee Status
- Enhancements to Form 45
- Companies Limited by Guarantee which are Non-Profit Organisations

3. Transitional arrangements and resources available

Target Implementation period



Item	Effective date/period
Commencement of CSP Act and Subsidiary Legislation	Q1 2025
Transition period for new CSP entrants	6 months
Detailed guidance for CSPs, including transitional arrangements to be updated on ACRA's website	End 2024

Note: There are several proposals on enhancements to provisions in the subsidiary legislation that are pending refinement and finalisation.

1a

Requirements on CSPs: Registration Requirements for CSPs

To require business entities that carry on a business in Singapore of providing any corporate services to be registered as Corporate Service Providers, even if they do not file transactions on behalf of their customer with ACRA.

Business Entities that are Required to Register as CSPs



Entities carrying on a business of <u>providing corporate services</u> in and from Singapore are required to be registered as CSPs.

How is "Corporate Service" defined?

Any of the following services:

- 1. Forming of business entities on behalf of another person
- 2. Acting/Arranging for persons to act as directors/ nominee shareholders
- 3. Transacting with ACRA on behalf of other persons or as a secretary of a company by way of business
- 4. Providing registered office/business address for business entities
- 5. Carrying out transactions for customers concerning any of the designated activities relating to the provision of accounting services

Potential entrants that fall within this scope include virtual and shared office providers

Entities Providing Corporate Services and RQI Requirements



Entities carrying on a business of providing corporate services in and from Singapore are required to be registered as CSPs.

Refers to -

- individuals or partnerships registered under the Business Names Registration Act 2014,
- Companies,
- Limited liability partnerships,
- Limited partnerships.

Registered Qualified Individual ("RQI")

- Each CSP is required to have an RQI

Clarifications on Qualified Individual (QI) Entry Pathway for ISCA members







ISCA associate members have to be members for at least two years to qualify

✓ With the minimum two-year requirement, aspiring QIs who are ISCA associate members would have completed training on the ISCA Professional Ethics Courses and other continuing professional training to meet ISCA's membership renewal requirements

Clarifications on validity period of mandatory training







Key appointment holders of registered CSPs and RQIs would have to complete the AML/CFT/CPF training course within six months preceding the application of registration or renewal

✓ This is to ensure that they stay up to date with their knowledge of AML/CFT/PF requirements

1b

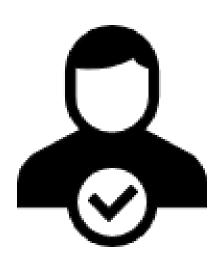
Requirements on CSPs: Fit & Proper Assessment of Nominee Directors

A registered CSP must not arrange for a person to act as a nominee director of a company unless he is satisfied that the person is fit and proper.

Fit and Proper Requirements



A registered CSP must not arrange for a person to act as a nominee director of a company, unless the registered CSP is satisfied that the person is a **fit and proper person**.



Factors that CSPs should consider in assessing whether the individual is fit and proper include:

- ✓ Previous conduct and compliance history of the companies that he/she is a director of
- ✓ Whether he/she has the competency, capacity and capability to properly fulfil the obligations of a nominee director
- ✓ Taking into account his/her experience and existing commitments, including the number of existing directorships
- The requirement for a registered CSP to be satisfied that the person whom it arranges to act as a nominee director is fit and proper has to be complied with at the time of arrangement for each company.
- Once an individual has been appointed as a nominee director, the company must ensure that their directors remain fit and proper.
- Guidance on the application of fit and proper criteria, including examples, will be available in the guidelines.

1C

Requirements on CSPs: Performing Customer Due Diligence Measures

To prevent money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing ("ML/TF/PF"), a registered CSP must perform customer due diligence measures.

Performing Customer Due Diligence Measures



A registered CSP must <u>perform customer due diligence ("CDD") measures before</u> <u>providing any corporate service</u> to a customer, and where they have reason to suspect ML/TF/PF or doubt the veracity/adequacy of previously obtained information.

Customer due diligence measures means prescribed measures for —

- Identifying and verifying the identities of the customers and their beneficial owners
- Obtaining information on <u>purpose and</u> <u>intended nature</u> of business relationship
- Any other measures <u>for detecting or</u> <u>preventing ML/TF/PF</u>.

CSPs are reminded that they are required to perform CDD before lodging any transactions with ACRA.

CSPs are also reminded to document and keep a record of their CDD documentation for five years, and to keep the documentation of the clients up-to-date, as part of ongoing monitoring.

Performing Customer Due Diligence Measures



A registered CSP must <u>perform customer due diligence ("CDD") measures</u> before providing any corporate service to a customer, and where they have reason to suspect ML/TF/PF or doubt the veracity/adequacy of previously obtained information.

5 Common Weaknesses Observed:

- Failing to perform verification of customers' particulars
- Neglecting to identify and verify beneficial owner
- Failing to keep the documentation up-todate
- 4. Failing to retain CDD records or inadequate CDD documentation.
- 5. Inadequate customer risk assessment



Best Practices:

- Ensuring completeness in identification and verification of identities of customers and their beneficial owner(s).
- Inspecting valid government-issued identification and retention of copy for proper CDD documentation.
- Perform screening of all relevant parties against commercial screening databases and pertinent listings.

Inability to Complete/Perform CDD





Decline to provide any corporate service to the customer.



Not establish a business relationship with the customer.



Terminate any ongoing provision of any corporate service to the customer.



Document basis of determination / why measures were not completed.



Determine whether to file a suspicious transaction report ("STR").

Non-Face-to-Face CDD Measures



Use of Video-Conferencing to Onboard Customers



To enhance transparency and mitigate the risk of identity theft, for a transaction involving the incorporation of companies or transfer or sale of shelf companies, non-Face-to-Face verification measures will <u>require</u> <u>a live video call with at least one (i) proposed director (other than a nominee director) or (ii) majority shareholder, if the customer is not physically present for identification purposes, due to the higher risks involved.</u>

Note: A screenshot of the live video call is required for record-keeping purposes. A recording of the video call is strongly encouraged.

Reliance on 3rd Parties to Perform CDD Measures



Enhancements will be made to clarify that the reliance on 3rd parties when performing CDD will be limited to 3rd parties that are: **Advocates and Solicitors, Financial Institutions, Public Accountants and registered CSPs** (and entities under the same ownership group) based in Singapore

Before CSPs rely on a third party to perform any CDD measures, a few requirements have to be met:

- ✓ 3rd party is also subject to and supervised for compliance with AML/CFT requirements, and has adequate measures in place to comply with those requirements
- ✓ CSPs take appropriate steps to identify, assess and understand the risks of AML/CFT/PF
- ✓ 3rd party must not be one which the registered CSP has been specifically precluded by the Chief Executive of ACRA from relying on; and
- ✓ 3rd party is able and willing to provide, without delay, any data, document or information with respect to the CDD measures performed for the CSP.



- CSPs are required to immediately obtain the necessary information about the customer from the 3rd party performing CDD measures for the CSPs.
- CSPs are reminded that they are ultimately responsible for compliance with its legal obligations, notwithstanding its use of a 3rd party to perform CDD.

Filing Suspicious Transactions Reports



CSPs are required to consider whether a STR must be filed when:

- Unable to perform/complete CDD
- Has reasonable grounds to suspect that any property may be connected to ML/TF/PF More guidance on indicators of suspicious transactions can be found on ACRA's website at acra.gov.sg.



Best Practices: Establish internal guidelines to provide clear direction to employees on:

- 1. Identifying red flag indicators, key risk concerns, and typologies associated with suspicious transactions.
- 2. Outlining the process for escalating suspicious transactions for a decision on whether to file an STR.
- 3. Defining the appropriate channels for reporting possible suspicious transactions within the CSP for potential referral to the STRO.
- 4. Specifying essential information to include in an STR.
- 5. Setting a timeline for the review and decision of filing of such transactions as an STR.



CSPs are reminded to **promptly** file an STR as soon as reasonably practicable upon the establishment of suspicion (i.e. no longer than <u>5 business days</u>), and **provide sufficient information** to substantiate the filing of an STR

In cases where transactions have legitimate explanations and do not warrant the filing of an STR, CSPs must document the reasons for not filing a report.

Clarifications on internal policies, procedures and controls (IPPC)







Scope of IPPC will be expanded to include:

- Consideration of PF risks
- Customer screening
- Measures for certain non-face to face transactions
- Ongoing monitoring, etc.

Note: Registered CSPs that provide the corporate service of carrying out transactions on behalf of another person must have a separate IPPC governing the use of and access to Bizfile by the CSP, its RQIs and authorised employees.



Have a question on the CSP Act? Scan the QR code to submit your questions.



Corporate Service Providers (CSP) Regulatory Updates

Webinar

Presenter:



Alvin Chen

Deputy Technical Director
Compliance Policy & Analytics Department

2

Requirements on Entities that CSPs Support

Maintaining the Register of Registrable Controllers



A company incorporated on or after the appointed day must keep a register of its registrable controllers starting **on the date of the company's incorporation**.

- Currently, companies and LLPs are required to keep a Register of Registrable Controllers ("RORC") within 30 days of being incorporated/registered.
- To facilitate prompt access by competent authorities to beneficial owner information for all companies and LLPs upon their incorporation/registration, the requirement is amended to require maintaining and keeping the RORC from the date of the company's incorporation/ LLP's registration.

CSPs are encouraged to remind their customers to comply with the amended regulations to **set up a RORC from the date of incorporation**.

Furthermore, to maintain the accuracy and currency of the RORC, CSPs are encouraged to remind their customers of the new requirement to send notices to their registrable controllers annually to confirm the accuracy of their particulars, and provide any updates, if necessary.

Declaration of Nominee Status



Companies and foreign companies are required to <u>file all information kept in their</u> registers of nominee directors and nominee shareholders with ACRA for ACRA to maintain such information.

The following information will have to be lodged with the central register maintained by ACRA:

- □ All particulars contained in the registers of nominee directors & shareholders kept by companies and foreign companies.
- ☐ All updates to the companies' and foreign companies' registers of nominee directors & shareholders after the initial lodgement of particulars.

Note: Only the nominee status of nominee directors and shareholders will be made publicly available. The particulars of the nominee directors and nominators will not be made publicly available.



CSPs are encouraged to remind their customers to maintain and update their registers of nominee directors and nominee shareholders in preparation for the filing of the information in the central register maintained by ACRA.

Enhancements to declarations in Form 45



Form 45 Consent to Act as Director and Statement of Non Disqualification to act as Director is a document that an individual must sign before assuming a director position.



CSPs are reminded to take note of the following enhancements that have been made to Form 45 to include declarations that an individual is:

- ✓ Not disqualified under section 155A of the Companies Act
- ✓ Not debarred under section 155B of the Companies Act
- ✓ Acting as a nominee director by way of business and has had his acting arranged by a registered corporate service provider (if applicable)
- ✓ Approved by the Ministry of Manpower for the proposed directorship (if applicable)

Companies Limited by Guarantee which are Non-Profit Organisations



FATF Definition of Non-Profit Organisations ("NPOs") (updated November 2023):
A legal person or arrangement or organisation that **primarily engages in raising or disbursing funds for purposes** such as charitable, religious, cultural, educational, social or fraternal purposes, or for the carrying out of other types "good works".

Companies limited by guarantee, which are non-profit organisations ("**CLG-NPOs**") may be at risk of being abused for terrorism financing or other forms of terrorist support by virtue of charitable characteristics or activities.

- Importance of filing annual returns and audited financial statements for transparency
- ACRA has (i) developed guidance specifically for CLG-NPOs and (ii) listed red flag indicators
 for the NPO sector on ACRA's website at acra.gov.sg.



CSPs are encouraged to **share this guidance** to their clients and directors, and to remind them to **file STRs if any findings or evidence give rise to suspicion**.

3

Transitional arrangements and resources available

Information on transition and resources available



Existing Nominee Director Appointments

• Fit and proper requirements will not apply retrospectively

Transition Period for New CSP Entrants

• 6 months after the CSP Act comes into effect

Transition Guidelines and Resources

 Detailed guidance for CSPs, including transitional arrangements will be updated on ACRA's website in end 2024

Conclusion

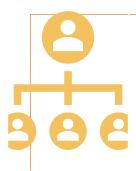




Business entities providing corporate services in and from Singapore must register themselves as CSPs to comply with regulatory requirements



CSPs should maintain and update robust Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/PF) controls to effectively mitigate risks associated with financial crime.



Key appointment holders of CSPs are responsible for maintaining adequate oversight and implementing effective risk management standards to uphold the integrity of the sector.



CSPs, as crucial gatekeepers in combatting ML/TF/PF, should proactively study and incorporate relevant best practices tailored to the risk profile of their customers and business activities.

Q&A

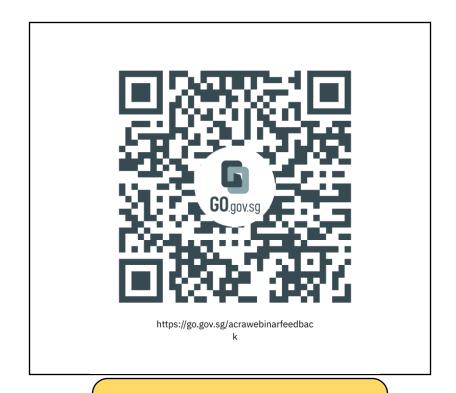
Part 2:

Corporate Service Providers (CSP) Regulatory Updates

Your Feedback on ACRA Webinar







Scan the QR code to submit your feedback

Join our community on social media!



Stay updated on ACRA's latest announcements and upcoming events



Find us on LinkedIn, Instagram @acra_sg Facebook and TikTok acra_sg

Scan the QR code below and join our community

