

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I apply for a business name which is identical or similar to that of another business entity?

A: An identical name will be rejected. A warning message will appear for a similar name. You may choose to submit another name or proceed with the application.

Q: If I submit a name appeal, how long will ACRA take to consider the appeal?

A: It will take approximately 3 working days to process the name appeal. A fee of \$15 is payable for the name appeal and this fee is non-refundable if the appeal is rejected.

Q: I want to use the name of a business entity that is no longer "live". Am I allowed to do so?

A: You may submit a name appeal, which will be routed to ACRA for consideration.

Q: Can I reserve 2 similar names for my new company as I have not decided which name to use for the incorporation of the company?

A: Yes, you may do so. If the second name application is rejected by the system because it is similar to the earlier application, you may submit a name appeal online.

Related Brochures

- Registering a New Sole-Proprietorship or Partnership
- Changing the Particulars of a Sole-Proprietorship or Partnership
- Registering a New Company
- Changing the Particulars of a Company
- Registering a New Limited Liability Partnership
- Changing the Particulars of a Limited Liability Partnership
- Registering a New Limited Partnership
- Changing the Particulars of a Limited Partnership

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ACRA Website
www.acra.gov.sg

Bizfile Website (eFiling)
www.bizfile.gov.sg

Enquiry Website
www.acra.gov.sg/askacra

Feedback Website
www.acra.gov.sg/feedback

CHOOSING A NAME for Your Business Entity



This brochure serves as a guide to choosing a name for your business entity. Please read the information provided as well as the relevant legislation to increase the chance of getting the name approved and to reduce the risk of subsequent complaints against your business entity's name.

How do I choose a name for my business entity?

When choosing a name, please avoid the following:

- Identical names, ie. names that are identical to those of other business entities on the ACRA register.
- Undesirable names, ie. names that are offensive, abusive or obscene.
- Restricted names, ie. names that the Minister for Finance has directed ACRA not to accept, e.g. "Temasek".

What names are considered identical?

The following words and phrases do not sufficiently distinguish one name from another:

- "The", where it is the first word of the name
- "Private", "Pte", "Sendirian", "Sdn", "Limited", "Ltd", "Berhad" and "Bhd"
- "Company", "and company", "incorporation", "Incorporated", "Asia", "Asia Pacific", "International", "Singapore", "South Asia", "South East Asia" and "Worldwide", or any word or expression that represents the above words. (This does not apply when the business entities concerned are related.)
- The plural version of the name
- The type and case of letters, spacing between letters and punctuation marks
- The symbol "&", which has the same meaning as the word "and"

For eg., if the name "AB and C Private Limited" is already registered, then "The AB and C Private Limited", "AB and C Singapore Private Limited" and "AB & C Company" are considered identical.

How do I check for the availability of a name?

After choosing a name for your business entity, please conduct a directory search at www.acra.gov.sg or www.bizfile.gov.sg to check if the name has been taken up by another business entity. When using this free service, please do the following for a more thorough search:

- Enter part of the name. If your chosen name is "Soundtrack Computers", type "Soundtrack", "Sound Track", "Sound", "Sound-Track" etc.

- Check for similar pronunciations. For example, if your chosen name is "Wah", also type "Wa", "Hwa", "Hua" etc.
- Check for different sequence. For example, if your chosen name is "Bags Big and Small", type "Bags Small and Big", "Big and Small Bags" etc.
- Check for similar meanings. For example, if your chosen name is "Rose Transport", type "Rose Transportation", "Rose Forwarding" etc.

You should also check if your chosen name is an existing trademark or patent name. To do this, please visit the website of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) at www.ipos.gov.sg.

How much are the fees?

	Sole-Proprietorship/Partnership	Company	LLP	LP
Name Approval Fee	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
Registration / Incorporation Fee	\$50	\$300	\$150	\$50
Total	\$65	\$315	\$165	\$65

How do I pay for the transactions?

You can make payment by the following modes:

- Credit card (VISA/MasterCard/American Express)
- eNETS Debit*
- CashCard – if you have a Personal Computer Smart Card (PCSC) reader
- Deposit Service Account – for professional firms that lodge transactions on behalf of their clients

*eNETS Debit is an Internet direct debit payment service for participating banks, namely Citibank, DBS and UOB. You need Internet access and a personal Internet banking account with the participating banks to use the eNETS Debit service. This does not apply to corporate bank account users.