

# **REGISTER OF REGISTRABLE CONTROLLERS GUIDANCE FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES**

**VERSION 2.0**

**Issued on 16 June 2025**

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Version	Notes
1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued on 31 March 2017.</li> </ul>
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued on 25 April 2017.</li> <li>Updated paragraphs 1; 2; 2.1; 3.1; 4.1; 5.1 to 5.2; 6.1; 7.1 to 7.2; 8.5; 9.2 and Annex A heading.</li> <li>Paragraph 2.1 updated to clarify that foreign companies that are undergoing winding up or striking off are not exempted.</li> <li>Paragraph 4.1 updated to clarify that (i) if a registrable controller or a person who knows the identity of a registrable controller already gave the requisite information to the foreign company and this information is accurate, the foreign company need not send the notice to that person; and (ii) the foreign company is confident that certain members and/or directors are not registrable controllers and do not know person(s) who are registrable controllers of the foreign company or are likely to have that knowledge, the foreign company need not send the notice to these members and/or directors.</li> <li>Paragraph 5.1 updated to clarify that if a foreign company sends a notice to a registrable controller and the registrable controller does not reply to the notice even though he is a registrable controller, the foreign company should enter the particulars of the registrable controller that the foreign company has in its possession into the register with a note indicating that the particulars have not been confirmed by the registrable controller.</li> <li>Paragraph 5.2 updated to (i) clarify that the date on which an individual or legal entity becomes/ceases to be a registrable controller (that is entered into the register of registrable controllers) should be the actual date that the person becomes/ceases to be a controller, which has to be on or after 31 March 2017; and (ii) provide some examples of the name of corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated.</li> <li>Paragraph 6.1 updated to clarify that if a registrable controller already gave the requisite updated information to the foreign company and this information is accurate, the foreign company need not send the notice to the registrable controller.</li> </ul>

1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued on 11 July 2017.</li> <li>• Updated paragraphs 2; 2.1; 3.3; 7.1 to 7.2; 7.10 to 7.14; 8.5; 9.1; and 9.2.</li> <li>• Paragraph 2 updated to clarify that the register of registrable controllers and the register of nominee directors are two different registers and the definitions of “registrable controller” and “nominee director” are also different.</li> <li>• Paragraph 2.1 updated to clarify that the exemptions only apply to the requirements on a foreign company keeping a register of registrable controllers and they do not apply to the registrable controller’s duty to provide information.</li> <li>• Paragraph 3.3 updated to clarify that foreign companies are required to comply with the form of the register as prescribed in the Regulations and the exact formatting of the register may vary from Annex A, as long as the form as prescribed in the Regulations is complied with.</li> <li>• Paragraphs 7.1 and 7.10 to 7.14 updated with illustrative diagrams.</li> </ul>
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued on 18 September 2017.</li> <li>• Updated paragraphs 6.1 and 9.2.</li> <li>• Paragraph 6.1 amended to state that (i) foreign companies are advised to review and update their registers annually by checking with every registrable controller whose particulars are contained in the register; (ii) a foreign company is required to send a notice to a registrable controller if the foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe a relevant change has occurred in the particulars of the registrable controller or the particulars of the registrable controller are incorrect; (iii) if the foreign company knows for a fact that there are no relevant changes in the particulars of a registrable controller and the particulars are correct, the foreign company need not send the notice; and (iv) foreign companies are advised to document why it is satisfied that no relevant changes have occurred in the particulars of registrable controllers and the particulars are correct, as supporting documents may be requested by public agencies upon inspection of the registers.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paragraph 9.2 updated to provide examples of the supporting documents that must be furnished by foreign companies when requested by the Registrar and public agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>1.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued on 7 September 2018.</li> <li>Amended paragraphs 4.1 and 5.3.</li> <li>Paragraphs 4.1 and 5.3 amended to emphasise that foreign companies need to apply section 386AG of the Companies Act to find out and identify their registrable controllers, and that foreign companies that are of the view that they are unable to identify their registrable controllers should contact ACRA for assistance.</li> </ul>
<b>1.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued on 22 May 2019; Reissued on 11 June 2019.</li> <li>Amended paragraph 3.2; 8.3 and 8.5.</li> <li>Paragraph 3.2 amended to clarify that if a foreign company appoints a registered filing agent to help the foreign company keep its register of registrable controllers and the registered filing agent subsequently resigns, the registered filing agent should hand over the register to the foreign company, who may appoint another registered filing agent for the purpose of keeping the register.</li> <li>Paragraphs 8.3 and 8.5 amended to align with paragraphs 8.3 and 8.5 of the Guidance on registers of registrable controllers for companies (version 1.4).</li> </ul>
<b>1.6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued on 12 July 2021. Reissued on 7 March 2022.</li> <li>Amended paragraphs 2.1; 5.2; 7.1; 7.2; and 7.4. Paragraphs 8.3 and 8.5 are also amended to reinstate amendments introduced under the Guidance on registers of registrable controllers for foreign companies (version 1.5 reissued on 11 June 2019).</li> <li>Paragraph 2.1 amended to provide more details on the reference to section 5B of the Companies Act.</li> <li>Paragraph 5.2 amended to clarify two particulars of registrable corporate controllers, namely (a) legal form of the registrable</li> </ul>

	<p>corporate controller; and (b) statute under which the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 7.1(c) updated to include variable capital companies.</li> <li>• Paragraph 7.2 amended to address some examples of entities that are capable/incapable of being individual/corporate controllers of a foreign company.</li> <li>• Paragraph 7.4 amended to clarify that in respect of the threshold of more than 25% of the shares in the foreign company, no distinction is made between e.g. different classes of shares or shares having different market values, so the foreign company should consider all the shares of the foreign company that an individual/legal entity has an interest in and add them together in determining whether the individual/legal entity has an interest in more than 25% of the shares in the foreign company.</li> <li>• Paragraphs 8.3 and 8.5 amended to reinstate the amendments introduced under the Guidance on registers of registrable controllers for foreign companies (version 1.5 reissued on 11 June 2019).</li> </ul>
<b>1.7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued on 4 October 2022.</li> <li>• Amended paragraphs 5.3; 7.2; and 8.5; and footnote 24. Added paragraph 7.15. Paragraphs 5.3 and 7.15 have been amended/added following the commencement of sections 2(c), (d), (e) and (k) of the Corporate Registers (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2022 on 4 Oct 2022.</li> <li>• References to legislation in this Guidance have also been updated following the 2020 Revised Edition of Acts coming into force on 31 December 2021. For example, references to “Companies Act (Cap. 50)” have been updated to “Companies Act 1967”.</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.3 updated to explain the new requirement for foreign companies to enter the particulars of the directors with executive control and chief executive officers in their registers of registrable controllers if no individual or legal entity having significant interest in or significant control over the foreign company has been identified.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paragraph 7.2 updated to clarify that for the purpose of applying the definition of a corporate controller, where the entity in question is formed or incorporated or existing outside Singapore, whether the entity is a body corporate is determined by the relevant foreign law. If the entity is not a body corporate under the foreign law, then the entity would not be capable of being a corporate controller.</li> <li>Paragraph 7.15 added to explain who is a director with executive control and a chief executive officer of a foreign company.</li> <li>Paragraph 8.5 updated to add the administrator or executor of a deceased's estate as an example of an individual/legal entity who exercises a function under a law.</li> <li>Footnote 24 updated to clarify the statutes under which the entities referred to in the footnote are incorporated/registered.</li> </ul>
<b>1.8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued on 24 April 2023</li> <li>Paragraph 4.1 updated to clarify that notices should minimally be sent out annually to: (a) each director of the foreign company; and (b) each member of the foreign company who directly holds one or more voting shares in the foreign company and where the total votes attached to the share(s) is not less than 5% of the total votes attached to all the voting shares in the foreign company.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued on 16 June 2025.</li> <li>This Guidance was updated in view of amendments to Part 11A of the Companies Act by the Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2024 which commenced on 16 June 2025, and amendments to the Companies (Register of Controllers, Nominee Directors, Nominee Shareholders and Members of Foreign Companies) Regulations 2017 which commenced on 16 June 2025.</li> <li>Paragraphs 2, 6.1, and 6.2 updated and Annex F inserted on requirement to send notices to verify the accuracy of information in their register of controllers with their controllers annually.</li> <li>Paragraph 2.1 amended to insert requirement for exempted foreign companies to declare the category of exemption they</li> </ul>



fall under in their filing under section 373(1) of the Companies Act.

- Paragraph 3.1 amended to reflect the requirement for foreign companies registered from 16 June 2025 to maintain a register from their date of registration.
- Paragraph 3.2 updated to insert requirement for companies to declare the location where the register is kept in their filing under section 373(1) of the Companies Act.
- Paragraph 5.1 updated to extend the prescribed time for foreign companies to update their register of controllers from 2 business days to 7 calendar days.
- Paragraph 5.1 and Annexes B to E updated to require controllers to provide dated signatures and declare that the information they provide is true and accurate.
- Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 updated to insert new particulars of email address and contact number.
- Inserted section 10 on existing requirements for lodging information to the central register of controllers.
- Paragraphs 1, 4.1, 5.1, 8.5, header of 9.1, and Annex A were updated.

## INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 Part 11A of the Companies Act 1967 (“Companies Act”) relates to the register of controllers, nominee directors and nominee shareholders of companies. Part 11A is to be read with the Companies (Register of Controllers and Nominee Directors, Nominee Shareholders and Register of Members of Foreign Companies) Regulations 2017 (the “Regulations”).
- 1.0.2 This Guidance is issued by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (“ACRA”) to help foreign companies understand and comply with the requirements pertaining to the register of registrable controllers. This Guidance is not intended to be exhaustive and does not constitute legal advice. Foreign companies may wish to seek legal advice when in doubt.

## REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

2.0.1 Foreign companies registered under the Companies Act are required to each:

- (i) Maintain a register of registrable controllers containing the particulars of the foreign company's registrable controllers (section 386AF of the Companies Act);
- (ii) Take reasonable steps to identify the registrable controllers of the foreign company, including sending notices to any person whom the foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe is a registrable controller of the foreign company, or has knowledge of someone who is a registrable controller or is likely to have that knowledge (section 386AG of the Companies Act);
- (iii) Keep the particulars in its register of registrable controllers up-to-date by sending notices to registrable controllers whose particulars the foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe have changed or is inaccurate (sections 386AH and 386AI of the Companies Act);
- (iv) Send notices every calendar year to every registrable controller whose particulars are stated in the foreign company's register of controllers on whether any change has occurred in the particulars or any of the particulars is incorrect (section 386AIA of the Companies Act), and
- (v) Produce the register of registrable controllers and any related document to the Registrar, an officer of ACRA or a public agency, upon request (section 386AM of the Companies Act).

2.0.2 Please note that the register of registrable controllers is different from the register of members. These are separate registers. A foreign company must keep both a register of members and a register of registrable controllers. For example, a member of a foreign company whose particulars are kept in the register of members must also be recorded in the register of registrable controllers if that member is a controller of the foreign company.

2.0.3 Please also note that the register of registrable controllers and the register of nominee shareholders<sup>1</sup> are two different registers. The definitions of "registrable controller" and "nominee shareholder" are also different. Depending on the facts and circumstances of a case, an individual may be both, either or neither. The fact that an individual is a registrable controller does not by itself mean that the same individual is a nominee shareholder, and vice versa.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the ACRA-issued Guidance for companies on registers of nominee shareholders.

## 2.1 Exemptions

2.1.1 The following foreign companies are exempted:

- (i) A foreign company that is a Singapore financial institution<sup>2</sup>;
- (ii) A foreign company that is a wholly-owned subsidiary<sup>3</sup> of a foreign company that is a Singapore financial institution;
- (iii) A foreign company which shares are listed on a securities exchange in a country or territory outside Singapore and which is subject to — (i) regulatory disclosure requirements; and (ii) requirements relating to adequate transparency in respect of its beneficial owners, imposed through stock exchange rules, law or other enforceable means; and
- (iv) A foreign company which shares are listed for quotation on an approved exchange in Singapore, such listing being a primary listing.

2.1.2 Foreign companies subject to requirements similar to the substantial shareholder notification and disclosure requirements under Part 7 of the Securities and Futures Act 2001 that listed companies have to comply with would qualify under (iii).

2.1.3 Foreign companies that are undergoing winding up or striking off are not exempted, unless they qualify under one of the above categories.

2.1.4 Please note that the exemptions only apply to the requirements on a foreign company keeping a register of registrable controllers<sup>4</sup>; they do not apply to the registrable controller's duty to provide information<sup>5</sup>. For example, a foreign company X that is a Singapore financial institution is not required to keep a register of registrable controllers, but if X is a registrable controller of a foreign company Y that is not exempted from the requirements on keeping a register of registrable

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<sup>2</sup> For the definition of "Singapore financial institution", please see paragraph 2 of the Fourteenth Schedule to the Companies Act

<sup>3</sup> Please see section 5B of the Companies Act, which contains the rules to be used to determine whether a company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of another company. For your easy reference, we reproduce section 5B below:

Definition of a wholly owned subsidiary

5B. For the purposes of this Act, a corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of another corporation if none of the members of the first-mentioned corporation is a person other than –

- (a) That other corporation;
- (b) A nominee of that other corporation;
- (c) A subsidiary of that other corporation being a subsidiary none of the members of which is a person other than that other corporation or a nominee of that other corporation; or
- (d) A nominee of such subsidiary.

<sup>4</sup> See sections 386AF to 386AIA of the Companies Act.

<sup>5</sup> See sections 386AJ and 386AK of the Companies Act.

controllers, then X is required to provide its information to Y and X's particulars are required to be contained in Y's register of registrable controllers.

- 2.1.5 As part of filing of the financial statements under section 373(1) or any other document instead of its financial statements, exempted foreign companies are required to declare the category of exemption they fall under.

# MAINTAINING A REGISTER OF REGISTRABLE CONTROLLERS

## 3.1 Timelines

3.1.1 Foreign companies are required to each maintain a register of registrable controllers within the following timelines:

- (i) Foreign companies registered on or after 16 June 2025: starting on the date of the foreign company's date of registration;
- (ii) Foreign companies registered on or after 31 March 2017 but before 16 June 2025: Within 30 days after the date of registration;
- (iii) Foreign companies registered before 31 March 2017: Within 60 days after 31 March 2017;
- (iv) Foreign companies which are not required to maintain the register but are subsequently required to do so: within 60 days after the date of being required to maintain the register. For example, a foreign company that was a Singapore financial institution but subsequently ceased to be a Singapore financial institution must keep a register of registrable controllers within 60 days of cessation.

## 3.2 Location of register

3.2.1 Foreign companies may keep their registers of registrable controllers at their registered offices or (ii) the registered offices of any registered corporate service provider appointed by the foreign company for the purpose of keeping the register of registrable controllers.

3.2.2 As part of filing their financial statements or any other document instead of its financial statements under section 373 of the Companies Act, foreign companies are required to state where they keep their register of registrable controllers. Foreign companies are not required to lodge, inform or update ACRA about the address of the location where the register of nominee shareholders is kept. If foreign companies appoint registered corporate service providers to help them keep their registers of registrable controllers and the registered corporate service providers subsequently resign, the registered corporate service providers should hand over the registers to the foreign companies, who may appoint other registered corporate service providers for the purpose of keeping the registers.

## 3.3 Form of register

3.3.1 Foreign companies may keep their registers electronically or in hardcopy format. Foreign companies are required to comply with the form of the register as prescribed in the Regulations. A template is at Annex A. The exact formatting of the register

may vary from Annex A, as long as the form as prescribed in the Regulations is complied with.

## TAKING REASONABLE STEPS AND SENDING OUT NOTICES

### 4.1 Taking reasonable steps

4.1.1 Foreign companies are required to take reasonable steps to find out and identify their registrable controllers. This means a foreign company must minimally send out a notice annually to:

- (i) Each director of the company; and
- (ii) Each member of the company who directly holds one or more voting shares in the company and where the total votes attached to the share(s) is not less than 5% of the total votes attached to all the voting shares in the company.

4.1.2 A copy of this notice is at [Annex B](#).

4.1.3 If a registrable controller or a person who knows the identity of a registrable controller already gave the requisite information to the foreign company and this information is accurate, the foreign company need not send the notice to that person.

### 4.2 Sending out notices

4.2.1 The two types of notice that may be sent are prescribed in the Regulations; for convenient reference, a copy is at [Annexes B and C](#).

4.2.2 The notice at Annex B should be sent to individuals and legal entities that the foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe are registrable controllers of the foreign company.

4.2.3 The notice at Annex C should be sent to individuals and legal entities that the foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that they know or have reasonable grounds to know the identity of a person who is a registrable controller of the foreign company or is likely to have that knowledge.

4.2.4 Foreign companies may send the notice electronically or in hardcopy format. There is no legal requirement for the notice to be sent via registered mail. The notice need not be signed by a director or authorised representative of the foreign company.

4.2.5 Foreign companies are strongly encouraged to document the sending of notices and the receipt of replies to notices.



# ENTERING PARTICULARS INTO THE REGISTER OF REGISTRABLE CONTROLLERS

## 5.1 When to enter particulars

5.1.1 Foreign companies are required to enter/update particulars of registrable controllers into their registers of registrable controllers within 7 calendar days after the particulars have been “confirmed” by the controller.

5.1.2 For registrable controllers whose particulars are not stated in the register<sup>6</sup>, particulars are confirmed if:

- (i) The registrable controller (X) or a registered corporate service provider (acting on behalf of X) replies to a notice confirming that X is a registrable controller and provides X’s particulars to the foreign company; or
- (ii) X notifies the foreign company that he is a registrable controller and provides his particulars to the foreign company.

5.1.3 For registrable controllers whose particulars as stated in the register are outdated<sup>7</sup>, particulars are confirmed if:

- (i) The registrable controller (X) or a registered corporate service provider (acting on behalf of X) replies to a notice confirming that a change in X’s particulars that are stated in the register of registrable controllers has occurred and provides X’s new particulars to the foreign company; or
- (ii) X notifies the foreign company that a change in X’s particulars that are stated in the register of registrable controllers has occurred and provides X’s new particulars to the foreign company.

5.1.4 For registrable controllers whose particulars as stated in the register are inaccurate<sup>8</sup>, particulars are confirmed if the registrable controller (X) or a registered corporate service provider (acting on behalf of X) replies to a notice confirming that X’s particulars that are stated in the register of registrable controllers are incorrect and provides X’s correct particulars to the foreign company.

5.1.5 The particulars or new particulars provided must be accompanied by:

- (i) A statement made by the controller that the information provided in his or her confirmation or notification (as the case may be) is true and accurate; and

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<sup>6</sup> See paragraphs 4.1 to 4.2.

<sup>7</sup> See paragraphs 6.1 to 6.2.

<sup>8</sup> See paragraphs 6.1 to 6.2.

- (ii) The controller's signature and the date of the signature affixed immediately below the statement.

5.1.6 If the particulars of a registrable controller are not confirmed, a foreign company must enter or update the particulars that the foreign company has in its possession into its register **with a note indicating that the particulars have not been confirmed by the registrable controller**. This must be done within 7 calendar days after the end of 30 days after the date on which the notice is sent by the foreign company to the registrable controller.

5.1.7 For example, if a foreign company sends a notice to a registrable controller and the registrable controller does not reply to the notice and confirm that he is a registrable controller even though he is a registrable controller, the foreign company should enter the particulars of the registrable controller that the foreign company has in its possession into the register with a note indicating that the particulars have not been confirmed by the registrable controller.

## 5.2 Particulars to be entered

5.2.1 The particulars to be entered in the register are as follows:

5.2.2 For registrable individual controllers

- Full name;
- Aliases, if any;
- Residential address;
- Email address;
- Contact number;
- Nationality;
- Identity card number or passport number;
- Date of birth;
- Date on which the registrable individual controller became an individual controller of the foreign company; and
- Date on which the registrable individual controller ceased to be an individual controller of the foreign company, if applicable.

5.2.3 For registrable corporate controllers

- Name;
- Unique entity number issued by the Registrar, if any;
- Address of registered office;
- Email address;
- Contact number;

- Legal form of the registrable corporate controller<sup>9</sup>;
- Jurisdiction where, and statute<sup>10</sup> under which, the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated;
- Name of the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated, if applicable;
- Identification number or registration number of the registrable corporate controller on the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated, if applicable;
- Date on which the registrable corporate controller became a corporate controller of the foreign company; and
- Date on which the registrable corporate controller ceased to be a corporate controller of the foreign company, if applicable.

5.2.4 The date on which an individual or legal entity becomes/ceases to be a registrable controller (that is entered into the register of registrable controllers) should be the actual date that the person becomes/ceases to be a controller, which has to be on or after 31 March 2017 as the law commenced on that date.

5.2.5 The following are some examples of the name of corporate entity register in the jurisdictions where registrable corporate controllers are formed or incorporated:

- (i) If the registrable corporate controller is a local company incorporated under the Companies Act, the name of the register would be the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority.
- (ii) If the registrable corporate controller is a company incorporated under the United Kingdom's Companies Act 2006, the name of the register would be UK Companies House.

### **5.3 Foreign companies that are of the view that they have no registrable controllers or are unable to identify a registrable controller**

5.3.1 Foreign companies are required to find out and identify their registrable controllers under section 386AG of the Companies Act.

5.3.2 Where a foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that (a) the foreign company has no registrable controller; or (b) the foreign company has a registrable controller but has not been able to identify the registrable controller, each

<sup>9</sup> "Legal form of the registrable corporate controller" refers to the type of legal entity that the registrable corporate controller is. For example, if a registrable corporate controller is a private company incorporated under the Singapore Companies Act, then the "legal form" of this registrable corporate controller should be indicated as "Private company".

<sup>10</sup> "Statute under which the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated" refers to the legislation under which the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated.

director with executive control<sup>11</sup> and each chief executive officer<sup>12</sup> (“CEO”) of the foreign company is taken to be a registrable controller of the foreign company.

5.3.3 This means that the foreign company must enter the following in its register of registrable controllers:

- (i) A note starting –
  - a. That the foreign company knows, or has reasonable grounds to believe, as the case may be — (A) that the foreign company has no registrable controller; or (B) that the foreign company has a registrable controller but has not been able to identify the registrable controller; and
  - b. That each director with executive control and each CEO of the foreign company is taken to be a registrable controller of the foreign company; and
- (ii) The particulars of each director with executive control and each CEO of the foreign company.

5.3.4 The particulars of a director with executive control or CEO are:

- Full name;
- Aliases, if any;
- Residential address;
- Email address;
- Contact number;
- Nationality;
- Identity card number or passport number;
- Date of birth;
- Date on which the director with executive control or CEO is taken to be a registrable controller of the foreign company; and
- Date on which the director with executive control or CEO is no longer taken to be a registrable controller of the foreign company, if applicable.

5.3.5 The foreign company must enter the note and particulars in its register of registrable controllers within 2 business days after the date on which the foreign company (i) knows, or has reasonable grounds to believe that the company has no registrable controller; or (ii) having taken the reasonable steps required by section 386AG(1) of

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<sup>11</sup> Please refer to paragraph 7.15 of this Guidance which explains who is a director with executive control of a foreign company.

<sup>12</sup> Please refer to paragraph 7.15 of this Guidance which explains who is a CEO of a foreign company.

the Companies Act<sup>13</sup>, forms the opinion that it is unable to identify the registrable controller.

5.3.6 The foreign company must update its register of registrable controllers for any changes in the particulars within 2 business days after the date on which the foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that the change to the particulars has occurred<sup>14</sup>.

5.3.7 If the foreign company subsequently enters the particulars of a registrable controller into its register of registrable controllers<sup>15</sup>, it must, at the same time, enter in its register of registrable controllers a note stating (a) that each director with executive control and each CEO of the foreign company is no longer taken to be a registrable controller of the foreign company; and (b) the date on which the particulars of the registrable controller were entered in its register of registrable controllers.

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<sup>13</sup> Please see paragraph 4.1 and 4.2 of this Guidance.

<sup>14</sup> For avoidance of doubt, the requirements for a foreign company to (a) take reasonable steps and send out notices; and (b) keep particulars up-to-date and correct inaccuracies as described in paragraph 4.1 to 4.2 and 6.1 to 6.2 of this Guidance respectively do not apply to the particulars of a director with executive control and a CEO mentioned in this paragraph. For example, a foreign company is not required to send the notice mentioned in paragraph 4.2 or 6.2 to its director(s) with executive control or CEO(s).

<sup>15</sup> Please see paragraph 5.1 of this Guidance.

## KEEPING PARTICULARS UP-TO-DATE AND CORRECTING INACCURACIES

### 6.1 Duty to keep particulars up-to-date and correcting inaccuracies

6.1.1 Foreign companies are required to (i) keep the particulars in their registers up-to-date and (ii) correct inaccuracies in the particulars.

6.1.2 Foreign companies are advised to review and update their registers annually<sup>16</sup> by checking with every registrable controller whose particulars are contained in the register on whether a relevant change<sup>17</sup> has occurred in the particulars and whether any of the particulars are incorrect. A foreign company is required to send a notice to a registrable controller if the foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe a relevant change has occurred in the particulars of the registrable controller<sup>18</sup> or the particulars of the registrable controller are incorrect<sup>19</sup>.

6.1.3 If a foreign company has received credible information (e.g. from newspaper reports or law enforcement authorities) that the particulars of a registrable controller are outdated or inaccurate, the foreign company should send a notice to the registrable controller.

6.1.4 If the foreign company knows for a fact that there are no relevant changes in the particulars of a registrable controller and the particulars are correct, the foreign company need not send the notice. Foreign companies are advised to document why it is satisfied that no relevant changes have occurred in the particulars of registrable controllers and the particulars are correct, as supporting documents may be requested by public agencies upon inspection of the registers.

6.1.5 If a registrable controller already confirmed to the foreign company that its particulars are up-to-date or gave the requisite updated information to the foreign company, the foreign company need not send the notice to the registrable controller.

6.1.6 A foreign company is to check annually with their registrable controllers whose particulars are stated in the register of controllers if there has been a change in their particulars or if their particulars are incorrect, by giving notice to every such controller.

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<sup>17</sup> A relevant change occurs if (i) an individual or legal entity ceases to be a registrable controller in relation to the foreign company or (ii) any other change occurs as a result of which the particulars of the registrable controller in the foreign company's register of registrable controllers are incorrect or incomplete.

<sup>18</sup> A copy of the notice is at Annex D.

<sup>19</sup> A copy of the notice is at Annex E.

## 6.2 Sending out of notices

- 6.2.1 The notices are prescribed in the Regulations; a copy of the notice for updates is at Annex D and a copy of the notice for corrections is at Annex E, and a copy of the notice for annual updates of register is at Annex F.
- 6.2.2 Foreign companies may send the notice electronically or in hardcopy format. There is no legal requirement for the notice to be sent via registered mail. The notice need not be signed by a director or authorised representative of the foreign company.
- 6.2.3 Foreign companies are strongly encouraged to document the sending of notices and the receipt of replies to notices.

## WHO IS A REGISTRABLE CONTROLLER OF A FOREIGN COMPANY?

### 7.1 Registrable controller

7.1.1 “Registrable” controllers of a foreign company are required to be registered in the foreign company’s register of registrable controllers.

7.1.2 A controller (A) of a foreign company (X) is registrable, unless:

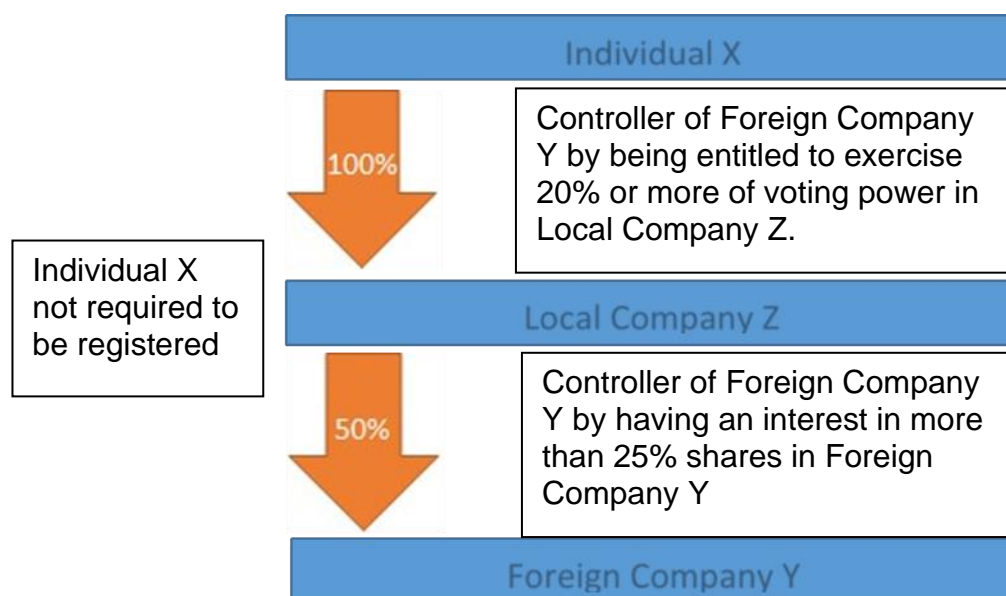
- (i) A’s significant interest in or significant control over X is only through one or more controllers (B) of X;
- (ii) A is a controller of B (or each B if more than one); and
- (iii) B (or each B if more than one) is either –
  - a. A company or foreign company which is required to keep a register of registrable controllers under the Companies Act;
  - b. A company or foreign company that is exempted from the requirement to keep a register of registrable controllers under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Schedules to the Companies Act respectively;
  - c. A corporation which shares are listed for quotation on an approved exchange under the Securities and Futures Act 2001;
  - d. A limited liability partnership which is required to keep a register of registrable controllers of limited liability partnerships under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005;
  - e. A limited liability partnership that is exempted from the requirement to keep a register of registrable controllers of limited liability partnerships under the Sixth Schedule to the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005;
  - f. A trustee of an express trust to which Part 7 of the Trustees Act 1967 applies; or
  - g. A variable capital company incorporated under the Variable Capital Companies Act 2018.

7.1.3 The criteria in (i), (ii) and (iii) must be fulfilled before a controller may be considered as not registrable with respect to a foreign company.

7.1.4 The requirement that controllers of a foreign company must be “registrable” before their particulars are captured in the register of registrable controllers of that foreign company helps avoid duplicative reporting.



7.1.5 Example 1: If (i) individual X is a controller of a foreign company Y only because he wholly owns local company Z which in turn has an interest in 50% of the shares in foreign company Y<sup>20</sup> and (ii) company Z is required to keep a register of registrable controllers, individual X is not a registrable controller with respect to foreign company Y and so individual X's particulars are not required to be contained in foreign company Y's register of registrable controllers.

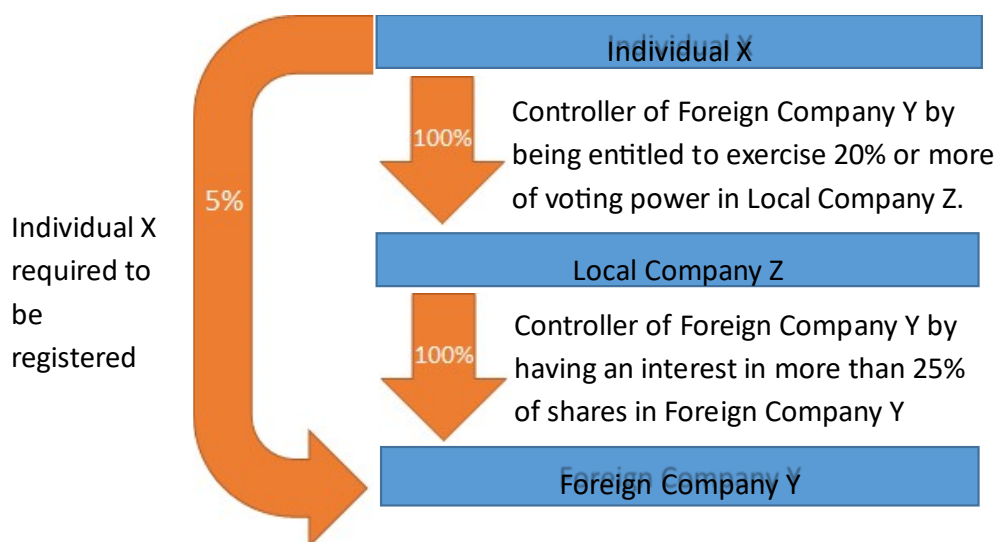


7.1.6 Individual X's particulars would instead be captured in local company Z's register of registrable controllers.

7.1.7 Example 2: If individual X is a controller of a foreign company Y not only because he wholly owns local company Z which in turn has an interest in 50% of the shares in foreign company Y, but also because he himself has an interest in 5% of the shares in foreign company Y<sup>21</sup>, then individual X is a registrable controller with respect to foreign company Y and so individual X's particulars are required to be contained in foreign company Y's register of registrable controllers. Individual X's particulars would also be captured in local company Z's register of registrable controllers, if company Z is required to keep a register of registrable controllers.

<sup>20</sup> See paragraphs 7.4 and 7.11.

<sup>21</sup> See paragraphs 7.4 and 7.11.



## 7.2 Definition of individual and corporate controllers

7.2.1 Controllers may be individual or corporate controllers. By default, all controllers are registrable in the respective registers of controllers<sup>22</sup>.

7.2.2 An individual controller is an individual who has a significant interest in, or significant control over, the foreign company<sup>23</sup>.

7.2.3 A corporate controller is a legal entity which has a significant interest in, or significant control over, the foreign company. A legal entity is any body corporate formed or incorporated or existing in Singapore or outside Singapore and includes a foreign company registered under the Companies Act<sup>24</sup>. Where the entity in question is formed or incorporated or existing outside Singapore, whether the entity is a body corporate is determined by the relevant foreign law. If the entity is not a body corporate under the foreign law, then the entity would not be capable of being a corporate controller.

7.2.4 Please note that individual controllers who have significant interest in, or significant control over, a foreign company indirectly through a legal entity or a chain of legal

<sup>22</sup> See paragraph 7.1.

<sup>23</sup> E.g. a bankrupt individual is capable of being an individual controller of a foreign company.

<sup>24</sup> E.g. (a) a company limited by guarantee incorporated under the Companies Act; (b) a variable capital company incorporated under the Variable Capital Companies Act 2018; (c) a company incorporated under the Companies Act that is in liquidation; (d) a trustee that is a legal entity; and (e) a foreign government that is a legal entity, are capable of being a corporate controller of a foreign company. A limited partnership registered under the Limited Partnerships Act 2008 and a sub-fund of a variable capital company incorporated under the Variable Capital Companies Act 2018 are not legal entities and hence are incapable of being a corporate controller of a foreign company.

entities must by default<sup>25</sup> be recorded in the register of registrable controllers of the foreign company.

### 7.3 Significant interest and significant control

7.3.1 For foreign companies with share capital, an individual or legal entity has a “significant interest” in the foreign company if the individual or legal entity:

- (i) Has an interest in more than 25% of the shares in the foreign company; or
- (ii) Has an interest in one or more voting shares in the foreign company and the total votes attached to that share, or those shares, is more than 25% of the total voting power in the foreign company.

7.3.2 For foreign companies without share capital, an individual or legal entity has a “significant interest” in a foreign company if the individual or legal entity holds, whether directly or indirectly, a right to share in more than 25% of the capital, or more than 25% of the profits, of the foreign company.

7.3.3 For all foreign companies, an individual or legal entity has a “significant control” over a foreign company if the individual or legal entity:

- (i) Holds the right, directly or indirectly, to appoint or remove the directors or equivalent persons of the foreign company who hold a majority of the voting rights at meetings of the directors or equivalent persons on all or substantially all matters;
- (ii) Holds, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of the rights to vote on those matters that are to be decided upon by a vote of the members or equivalent persons of the foreign company; or
- (iii) Has the right to exercise, or actually exercises, significant influence or control over the foreign company.

### 7.4 Significant interest: (i) Interest in more than 25% of the shares in a foreign company with share capital

7.4.1 ***This only applies to foreign companies with share capital.***

7.4.2 Foreign companies should review their registers of members and constitution (or equivalent). The information in the register of members and relevant documents will help the foreign company to determine whether any individual/legal entity has an interest in more than 25% of the shares in the foreign company.

7.4.3 In respect of the threshold of more than 25% of the shares in the foreign company, no distinction is made between e.g. different classes of shares (e.g. ordinary shares

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<sup>25</sup> See paragraph 7.1.

and preferences shares; shares denominated in different currencies) or shares having different market values, so the foreign company should consider all the shares of the foreign company that an individual/legal entity has an interest in and add them together in determining whether the individual/legal entity has an interest in more than 25% of the shares in the foreign company.

7.4.4 Please see paragraphs 7.11 to 7.14 of this Guidance for more information on paragraph 4 of the Sixteenth Schedule, which sets out the rules that apply in determining whether an individual/legal entity has an “interest” in share(s) of a foreign company, as well as addresses special situations such as joint interests, joint arrangements and nominees.

## **7.5 Significant interest: (ii) Interest in voting share(s) with more than 25% of the total voting power in a foreign company with share capital**

**7.5.1 *This only applies to foreign companies with share capital.***

7.5.2 The laws of a foreign company’s home jurisdiction and the constitution of a foreign company (or equivalent) may set out the voting rights attached to the foreign company’s shares (or equivalent).

7.5.3 Foreign companies should review the laws of their home jurisdiction, their registers of members and constitution (or equivalent). The information in the register of members and relevant documents will help the foreign company to determine whether any individual/legal entity has an interest in voting shares with more than 25% of the total voting power in the foreign company.

7.5.4 Please note that (i) treasury shares and (ii) shares mentioned in section 21(4B) or (6C) of the Companies Act<sup>26</sup> should not be included in determining whether an individual/legal entity has an interest in voting shares with more than 25% of the total voting power in the foreign company.

7.5.5 Please see paragraphs 7.11 to 7.14 of this Guidance for more information on paragraph 4 of the Sixteenth Schedule, which sets out the rules that apply in determining whether an individual/legal entity has an “interest” in share(s) of a foreign company, as well as addresses special situations such as joint interests, joint arrangements and nominees.

## **7.6 Significant interest: (iii) Right to share in more than 25% of the capital or profits of a foreign company without share capital**

**7.6.1 *This only applies to foreign companies without share capital.***

7.6.2 The laws of a foreign company’s home jurisdiction and the constitution of a foreign company (or equivalent) may provide for the distribution of the capital and/or profits of the foreign company. Foreign companies should review the laws of their home

<sup>26</sup> These are shares in a holding company that are held by a subsidiary of the holding company in certain circumstances stipulated in section 21.

jurisdiction, their registers of members and constitution (or equivalent). The information in the register of members and relevant documents will help the foreign company to determine whether any individual/legal entity holds the right to share in more than 25% of the capital or profits of the foreign company.

7.6.3 This criterion of significant interest encompasses both direct and indirect holding of the right to share in more than 25% of the capital or profits of the foreign company. For indirect holdings, please see paragraph 7.10 of this guidance for more information.

7.6.4 Please also see paragraphs 7.12 to 7.14 of this Guidance for more information on paragraph 4 of the Sixteenth Schedule, which addresses special situations such as joint holdings, joint arrangements and nominees.

### **7.7 Significant control: (i) Right to appoint or remove directors who hold a majority of voting rights at meetings of the directors**

7.7.1 Foreign companies should consider whether anyone has the right to appoint or remove directors (or equivalent) who hold a majority of voting rights at meetings of the directors. The laws of a foreign company's home jurisdiction and the constitution of a foreign company (or equivalent) may set out how directors are to be appointed and/or removed and the voting rights of directors at meetings of the directors.

7.7.2 Foreign companies should review the laws of their home jurisdiction, their registers of members and constitution (or equivalent). The information in the register of members and relevant documents will help the foreign company to determine whether any individual/legal entity has an interest in voting shares with more than 25% of the total voting power in the foreign company.

7.7.3 This criterion of significant control encompasses both direct and indirect holding of the right to appoint or remove directors who hold a majority of voting rights at meetings of the directors. For indirect holdings, please see paragraph 7.10 of this Guidance for more information.

7.7.4 Please also see paragraphs 7.12 to 7.14 of this Guidance for more information on paragraph 4 of the Sixteenth Schedule, which addresses special situations such as joint holdings, joint arrangements and nominees.

### **7.8 Significant control: (ii) More than 25% of the rights to vote on those matters that are to be decided upon by the members of the foreign company**

7.8.1 Foreign companies should review the laws of their home jurisdiction and their constitutions (or equivalent), and consider whether anyone has more than 25% of the right to vote on those matters that are to be decided upon by the members (or equivalent) of the foreign company.

7.8.2 For example, the laws of the foreign company's home jurisdiction may provide for how matters are to be decided upon by the members of the foreign company. The

foreign company's constitution (or equivalent) may also provide how certain matters are to be decided upon by the members of the foreign company.

7.8.3 This criterion of significant control encompasses both direct and indirect holding of the right to vote on those matters that are to be decided upon by the members of the foreign company. For indirect holdings, please see paragraph 7.10 of this Guidance for more information.

7.8.4 Please also see paragraphs 7.12 to 7.14 of this Guidance for more information on paragraph 4 of the Sixteenth Schedule, which addresses special situations such as joint holdings, joint arrangements and nominees

## **7.9 Significant control: (iii) Right to exercise or actually exercises significant influence or control over the foreign company**

7.9.1 An individual or legal entity that does not meet the criteria set out in paragraphs 7.4 to 7.8 may meet this criterion instead. Please refer to paragraphs 8.1 to 8.5 of this Guidance for further explanation of this criterion.

7.9.2 In assessing whether there are individuals and/or legal entities that meet this criterion, foreign companies should (i) review all the relevant documents and information at their disposal (e.g. constitution; register of members; and register of directors and chief executive officers or equivalent) and all the circumstances relating to the foreign company; and (ii) consider and apply the principles, factors and examples described in paragraphs 8.1 to 8.5.

7.9.3 Please also see paragraphs 7.12 to 7.14 of this Guidance for more information on paragraph 4 of the Sixteenth Schedule, which addresses special situations such as joint holdings, joint arrangements and nominees

## **7.10 Indirect holding**

7.10.1 An individual/legal entity may indirectly hold (i) the right to share in more than 25% of the capital or profits of the foreign company<sup>27</sup>; (ii) the right to appoint or remove directors who hold a majority of voting rights at meetings of the directors<sup>28</sup>; and/or (iii) the right to vote on those matters that are to be decided upon by the members of the foreign company<sup>29</sup>.

7.10.2 Foreign companies should consider whether the individual/legal entity holds the right through a legal entity or chain of legal entities. For example, a registrable individual controller that indirectly holds the right to appoint or remove the directors of foreign company X who hold a majority of voting rights at meetings of the directors

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<sup>27</sup> See paragraph 7.6.

<sup>28</sup> See paragraph 7.7.

<sup>29</sup> See paragraph 7.8.

through a chain of legal entities would by default<sup>30</sup> have to be recorded in X's register of registrable controllers.

7.10.3 An individual/legal entity holds a right indirectly if the individual/legal entity has a "majority stake" in a legal entity and that legal entity -

- (i) Holds that right; or
- (ii) Is part of a chain of legal entities each of which (other than the last) has a majority stake in the entity immediately below it in the chain, and the last of which holds the right in that right.

7.10.4 A has a majority stake in B if:

- (i) A holds a majority of the voting rights in B;
- (ii) A is a member of B and has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the board of directors of B;
- (iii) A is a member of B and controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other members, a majority of the voting rights in B; or
- (iv) A has the right to exercise, or actually exercises, significant influence or control over B<sup>31</sup>.

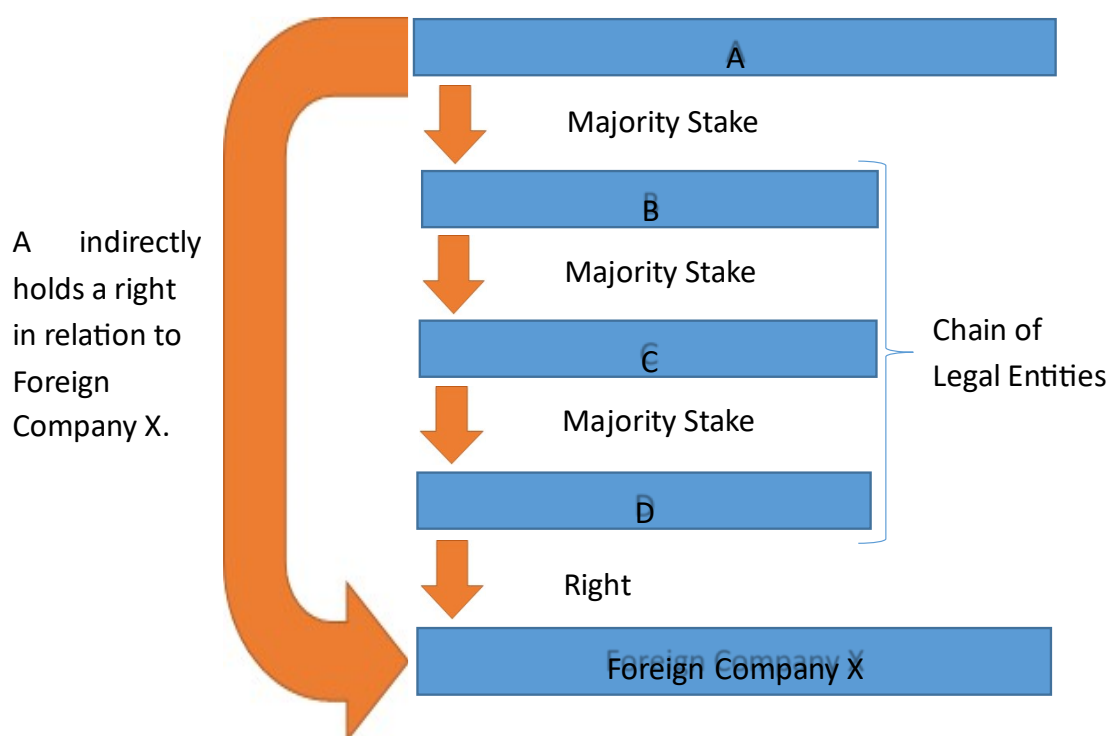
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<sup>30</sup> See paragraph 7.1.

<sup>31</sup> See paragraph 8.1 to 8.5.



## 7.10.5 Illustration of indirect holding of a right:



## 7.11 “Interest”

7.11.1 In determining whether an individual/legal entity has an “interest” in share(s) of the foreign company, foreign companies should subject to sections described in paragraphs 7.12 to 7.14, apply sections 7(1A) to (6A), (8), (9) and (10) of the Companies Act<sup>32</sup>.

7.11.2 The general rule is that an individual/legal entity has an interest in shares if he/it has authority (whether formal or informal, or express or implied) to dispose of, or to exercise control over the disposal of, those shares<sup>33</sup>. It is immaterial that the authority of an individual/legal entity to dispose of, or to exercise control over the disposal of, particular shares is, or is capable of being made, subject to restraint or restriction<sup>34</sup>. It is also immaterial, for the purposes of determining whether an

<sup>32</sup> See paragraph 4(1) of the Sixteenth Schedule to the Companies Act. Section 7 is well-established. In addition to the register of registrable controllers, section 7 applies to Division 4 of Part 4 (substantial shareholdings register) and sections 163 (approval of company required for loans and quasi-loans to, and credit transactions for benefit of, persons connected with directors of lending company, etc), 164 (register of directors’ and chief executive officer’s shareholdings) and 165 (general duty of directors and chief executive officers to make disclosure). Section 7 is similar to section 4 of the Securities and Futures Act, which applies to Part 7 of the Act on disclosure of interests in corporations listed on approved exchanges, including the register of substantial shareholders that such corporations must keep.

<sup>33</sup> Section 7(1A).

<sup>34</sup> Section 7(1B).



individual/legal entity has an interest in a share, that the interest cannot be related to a particular share<sup>35</sup>.

7.11.3 Where any property held in trust consists of or includes shares and an individual/legal entity knows, or has reasonable grounds for believing, that he/it has an interest under the trust, he/it shall be deemed to have an interest in those shares<sup>36</sup>. Typically, these individuals and/or legal entities would be the beneficiaries of the trust.

7.11.4 Where a legal entity has, or is deemed to have, an interest in a share and (a) the legal entity is, or its directors are, accustomed or under an obligation whether formal or informal to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of an individual/legal entity; or (b) an individual/legal entity has a controlling interest in the legal entity, that an individual/legal entity shall be deemed to have an interest in that share<sup>37</sup>.

7.11.5 Where a legal entity has, or is by the provisions of section 7 (apart from subsection (4A)) deemed to have, an interest in a share and — (a) an individual/legal entity is; (b) the associates<sup>38</sup> of an individual/legal entity are; or (c) an individual/legal entity and his/its associates are, entitled to exercise or control the exercise of not less than 20% of the voting power in the first-mentioned legal entity, that individual/legal entity shall be deemed to have an interest in that share<sup>39</sup>.

7.11.6 For example, local company X has an interest in more than 25% of the shares in foreign company Y, and individual Z is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of 20% or more of the voting power in local company X. Individual Z would be deemed to have an interest in more than 25% of the shares in foreign company Y and is by default<sup>40</sup> a registrable controller of foreign company Y.

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<sup>35</sup> Section 7(8).

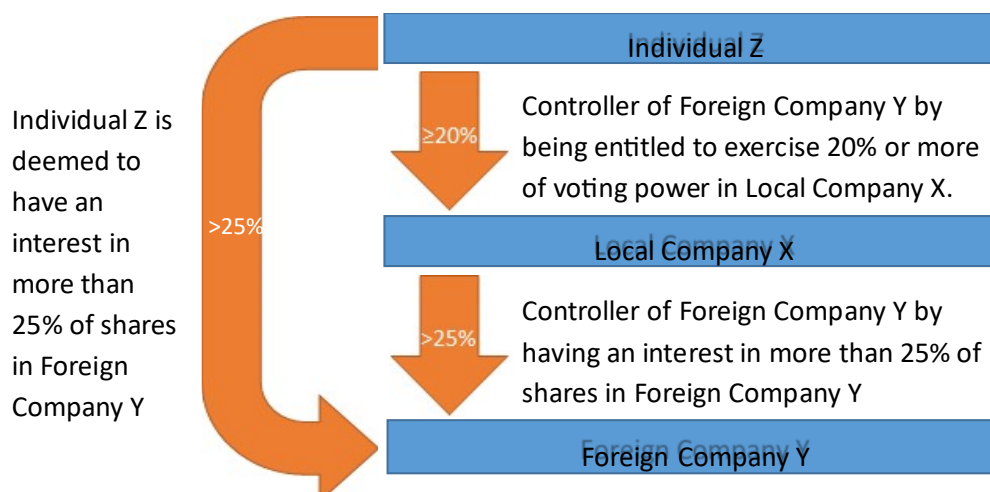
<sup>36</sup> Section 7(2).

<sup>37</sup> Section 7(4).

<sup>38</sup> Section 7(5) provides that a person is an associate of another person if the first-mentioned person is — (a) a subsidiary of that other person; (b) a person who is accustomed or is under an obligation whether formal or informal to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of that other person in relation to the share referred to in section 7(4A); or (c) a body corporate that is, or a majority of the directors of which are, accustomed or under an obligation whether formal or informal to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of that other person in relation to the share referred to in section 7(4A).

<sup>39</sup> Section 7(4A).

<sup>40</sup> See paragraph 7.1.



7.11.7 Section 7(6) provides for a list of situations where an individual/legal entity shall be deemed to have an interest in a share (e.g. where an individual/legal entity has entered into a contract to purchase a share).

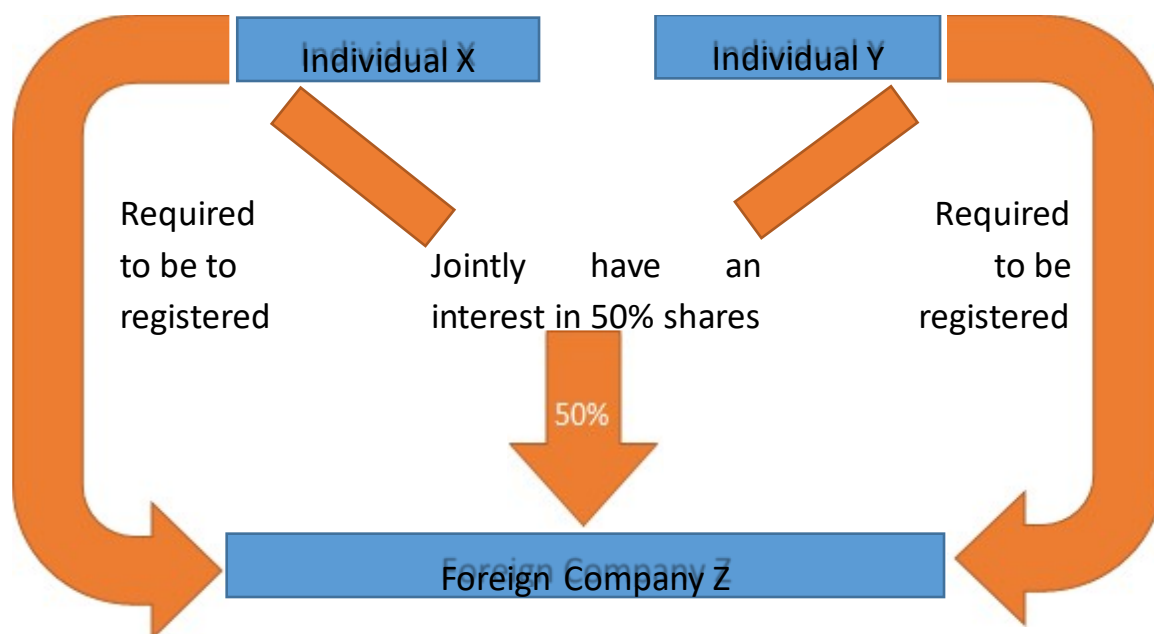
7.11.8 Section 7(9) provides for a list of situations where an interest in a share may be disregarded (e.g. where the interest is that of an individual/legal entity who holds the share as bare trustee).

## 7.12 Joint interest in shares or holding of right

7.12.1 If 2 or more individuals/legal entities jointly have an interest in a share, or jointly hold a right, each is considered as having an interest in that share, or as holding that right, as the case may be.

7.12.2 For example, if individuals X and Y jointly have an interest in 50% of the shares in foreign company Z, both are considered to each have an interest in 50% of the shares in Z, so both are controllers of Z and the particulars of both must by default<sup>41</sup> be separately entered in Z's register of registrable controllers.

<sup>41</sup> See subheader 7.1.



### 7.13 Joint arrangements

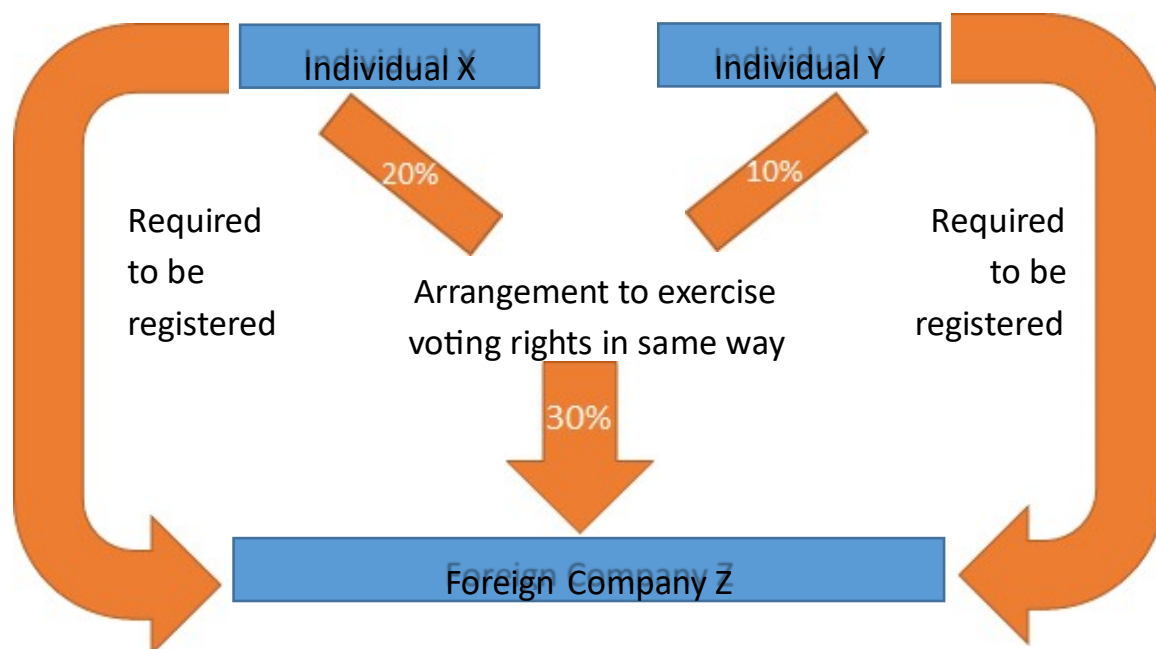
7.13.1 A joint arrangement is an arrangement between two or more individuals/legal entities having an interest in shares or between holders of rights that they will exercise all or substantially all the rights conferred by their respective shares (or rights) jointly in a way that is pre-determined by the arrangement.

7.13.2 An arrangement includes (i) any scheme, agreement or understanding, whether or not it is legally enforceable and (ii) any convention, custom or practice of any kind. For something to count as an arrangement, there must be at least some degree of stability about it, so one-off “arrangements” do not qualify.

7.13.3 If two or more individuals/legal entities have an arrangement, each of them is treated as having an interest in the combined shares of all of them, or holding the combined rights of all of them, as the case may be.

7.13.4 For example, if individuals X and Y own shares that carry 10% and 20% of the voting rights in foreign company Z respectively, and they have an arrangement between themselves to always exercise their voting rights in the same way, both are treated as having an interest in the combined shares of all of them (i.e. 30%), so both are controllers of Z and the particulars of both must by default<sup>42</sup> be separately entered in Z’s register of registrable controllers.

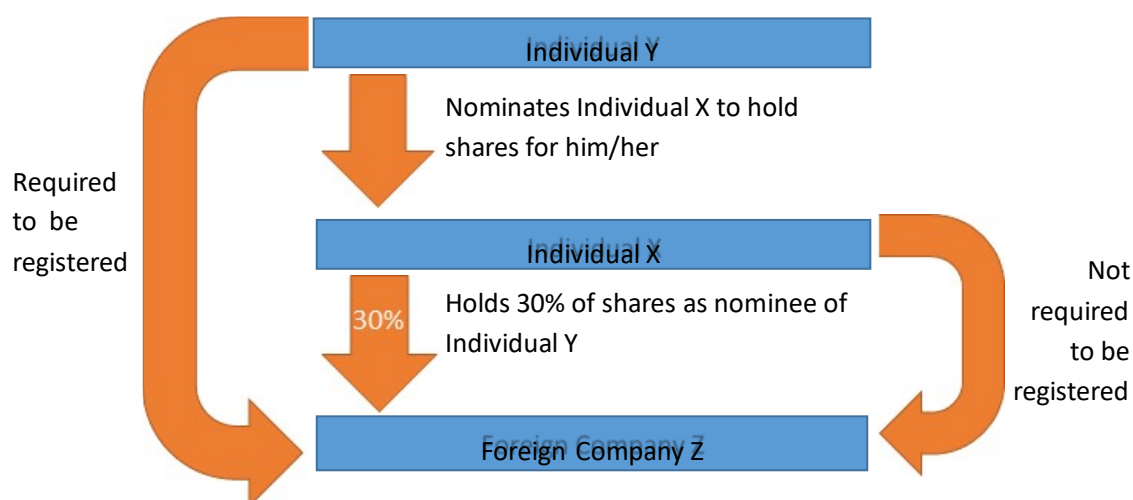
<sup>42</sup> See paragraph 7.1.



## 7.14 Nominees

7.14.1 A share or right held by an individual/legal entity as nominee for another is to be considered as held by the other.

7.14.2 For example, if individual X holds 30% of the shares in foreign company Z as a nominee for individual Y, the shares are considered to be held by Y, so Y (and not X) is a controller of Z and Y's particulars must by default<sup>43</sup> be entered in Z's register of registrable controllers.



<sup>43</sup> See paragraph 7.1.

### 7.15 Directors with executive control and CEOs - situation where no registrable controller with significant interest or significant control has been identified

7.15.1 Where a foreign company knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that (a) the foreign company has no registrable controller; or (b) the foreign company has a registrable controller but has not been able to identify the registrable controller, each director with executive control and each CEO of the foreign company is taken to be a registrable controller of the foreign company and their particulars must be entered into the foreign company's register of registrable controllers<sup>44</sup>.

7.15.2 This paragraph explains who are the director(s) with executive control and who are the CEO(s) of a foreign company.

7.15.3 A director with executive control, in relation to a foreign company, is a director<sup>45</sup> of the foreign company who exercises executive control over the daily or regular affairs of the foreign company through a senior management position<sup>46</sup>.

7.15.4 This could include a director that has the power or authority to make decisions that could:

- (i) Affect the whole or a significant part of the business of the foreign company (e.g. enter the foreign company into significant contracts; appoint key employees of the foreign company); and/or
- (ii) Significantly affect the financial standing of the foreign company (e.g. take up a significant loan on behalf of the foreign company; manage key assets of the foreign company).

7.15.5 A CEO, in relation to a foreign company, is any one or more persons, by whatever name described, who — (a) is in direct employment of, or acting for or by arrangement with, the foreign company; and (b) is principally responsible for the management and conduct of the business of the foreign company, or part of the business of the foreign company, as the case may be<sup>47</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup> Please refer to paragraph 5.3 of this Guidance which explains the requirement for foreign companies to enter the particulars of the directors with executive control and chief executive officers in their registers of registrable controllers if no individual or legal entity having significant interest in or significant control over the foreign company has been identified.

<sup>45</sup> A director includes any person occupying the position of director of a corporation by whatever name called and includes a person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors or the majority of the directors of a corporation are accustomed to act and an alternate or substitute director. See section 4(1) of the Companies Act.

<sup>46</sup> See section 386AFA(8) of the Companies Act.

<sup>47</sup> See sections 386AFA(8) read with 4(1) of the Companies Act.

## RIGHT TO EXERCISE OR ACTUALLY EXERCISES SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE OR CONTROL

### 8.1 General

8.1.1 An individual/legal entity is a controller of a foreign company if the individual/legal entity (i) has the right to exercise or (ii) actually exercises, significant influence or control over the foreign company.

8.1.2 This section explains the above criteria and provides some principles, factors and examples that foreign companies should consider in determining whether an individual/legal entity falls within the criteria. It also provides some examples of roles and relationships that an individual/legal entity may have with a foreign company, which would not, on their own, result in that individual/legal entity meeting the criteria.

8.1.3 This section is not exhaustive. Foreign companies may wish to seek legal advice when in doubt.

### 8.2 “Significant influence” and “significant control”

8.2.1 Where an individual/legal entity can direct the activities of a foreign company, this would be indicative of “significant control”.

8.2.2 Where an individual/legal entity can ensure that a foreign company generally adopts the activities which the individual/legal entity desires, this would be indicative of “significant influence”.

8.2.3 It is not necessary for an individual/legal entity exercising “significant influence” and/or “significant control” to do so with a view to gaining economic benefits from the policies or activities of the foreign company.

### 8.3 Right to exercise significant influence or control over the foreign company

8.3.1 An individual/legal entity may hold a right to exercise significant influence or control over a foreign company as a result of a variety of circumstances, including the foreign company’s constitution (or equivalent), the rights attached to shares or securities which the individual/legal entity holds, a shareholder’s agreement, and any other agreement.

8.3.2 The following are some non-exhaustive examples of what might constitute a right to exercise significant influence or control.

- (i) An individual/ legal entity has absolute decision making and/or veto rights over decisions relating to the running of the business of the foreign company, such as:
  - Adopting or amending the foreign company’s business plan;

- Changing the nature of the foreign company's business;
- Making any borrowing from lenders;
- Appointment or removal of the chief executive officer;
- Establishing or amending any profit-sharing, bonus or other incentive schemes for directors or employees;
- Granting options under a share option or other share-based incentive scheme

## 8.4 Actually exercises significant influence or control over the foreign company

8.4.1 In determining whether an individual/legal entity might actually exercises significant influence or control over a foreign company, all relationships that the individual/legal entity has with the foreign company or the management of the foreign company should be taken into account, to identify whether the cumulative effect of those relationships leads to the individual/legal entity actually exercising significant influence or control over the foreign company.

8.4.2 The following are some non-exhaustive examples of how an individual/legal entity might actually exercise significant influence or control over a foreign company.

- (i) An individual/legal entity is significantly involved in the management and direction of the foreign company.
  - For example, an individual, who is not a member or director of a foreign company, regularly or consistently directs or influences a significant section of the board of directors and/or the chief executive officer of the foreign company; or is regularly consulted on Board decisions and/or by the chief executive officer and whose views influence decisions made by the board and/or the chief executive officer.
- (ii) The recommendations of an individual/legal entity is always or almost always followed by members holding the majority of the voting rights in a foreign company, when they are deciding how to vote.
  - For example, the founder of a foreign company's business who is no longer a member or director of the foreign company makes recommendations to the shareholders of the foreign company and these recommendations are always or almost always followed by the shareholders.

## 8.5 Expected roles

8.5.1 The following is a non-exhaustive list of roles and relationships which would not, on their own, result in the relevant individual/legal entity being considered to having the right to exercise or actually exercising significant influence or control over a foreign company.

- (i) An individual/legal entity provides advice or direction in a professional capacity, for example, as:



- Lawyer;
  - Accountant;
  - **Registered corporate service provider;**
  - Management consultant;
  - Investment manager<sup>48</sup>;
  - Tax advisor; or
  - Financial advisor.
- (ii) An individual/legal entity deals with the foreign company under a third party commercial or financial agreement, for example, as:
- Supplier;
  - Customer; or
  - Lender
- (iii) An individual/legal entity exercises a function under a law, for example, as:
- Administrator or executor of a deceased's estate;
  - Regulator;
  - Liquidator;
  - Receiver or manager; or
  - Judicial Manager
- (iv) An individual who is an employee of the foreign company acting in the course of his or her employment.
- (v) An individual who is a director of the foreign company.
- (vi) An individual/legal entity which makes recommendations to members of the foreign company on an issue or set of issues on a one-off occasion, which is subject to a vote by the members.

8.5.2 Please note that an individual/legal entity that performs an excepted role may, because of circumstances and factors, still be a controller of a foreign company.

8.5.3 For example, a director of a foreign company may also own important assets and/or has key relationships that are important to the running of the foreign company's business (e.g. key intellectual property rights) and uses this additional power to influence the outcome of important decisions related to the running of the business of the foreign company. This individual would not be able to rely on the excepted role of a director, to avoid being considered as a person that has the right to exercise or actually exercises significant influence or control over the foreign company.

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<sup>48</sup> E.g. an individual or legal entity (e.g. a financial institution) that is engaged to provide professional investment management services to a foreign company (e.g. research and dealing in the foreign company's assets such as securities and bonds on behalf of the foreign company for investment purposes).



## PRIVACY AND ACCESS TO REGISTERS OF REGISTRABLE CONTROLLERS

### 9.1 Registers of registrable controllers are not to be made public

9.1.1 Foreign companies must not disclose or make available for public inspection the register or any particulars contained in the register. Auditors are also not entitled to have access to the register.

9.1.2 For example, if a member of the public or a member of a foreign company approaches the foreign company and requests for access to the foreign company's register of registrable controllers and the information contained therein, the foreign company must decline the request and not provide such access.

### 9.2 Registers of registrable controllers must be made available to the Registrar and public agencies

9.2.1 Foreign companies must make available their registers of registrable controllers, the information contained in the registers, and any document relating to the registers and the keeping of the registers<sup>49</sup> ("supporting documents"), to (i) the Registrar and ACRA officers, and (ii) public agencies and their officers (e.g. the Singapore Police Force; the Commercial Affairs Department; the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau; the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore).

9.2.2 When approached by these agencies, foreign companies must cooperate with the agencies and provide the requested information and documents to these agencies. Agencies may inspect, examine and make copies of the registers and the supporting documents produced.

9.2.3 The following are some examples of the supporting documents that must be furnished when requested by the agencies. These documents serve to provide confidence that the registers have been kept up-to-date and are accurate.

- (i) If a registrable controller is a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident, a copy of NRIC;
- (ii) If a registrable controller is a foreign individual, a copy of passport and document to verify the residential address (e.g. utility bill);

<sup>49</sup> Section 386AM(1) of the Companies Act states:

"The Registrar or an officer of the Authority may –

- (a) Require a company or foreign company to which this Part applies to produce its register, its register of nominee shareholders and any other document relating to those registers or the keeping of those registers;
- (b) Inspect, examine and make copies of the registers and any document so produced; and
- (c) Make such inquiry as may be necessary to ascertain whether the provisions of this Part are complied with."

- (iii) If a registrable controller is a foreign legal entity that is not registered in Singapore, a copy of the certificate of registration from the jurisdiction of incorporation and, if the registered office address is not shown on the certificate, document to verify the address (e.g. utility bill); and
- (iv) Records of information received from the registrable controllers that led to their particulars being inserted in the register of registrable controllers. Some examples include (i) replies by registrable controllers to notices that the foreign company sent to them; (ii) any correspondence from registrable controllers that they independently send to the foreign company (i.e., not a reply to a notice) (e.g. emails, hardcopy letters).

## LODGING INFORMATION TO THE CENTRAL REGISTER OF CONTROLLERS

### 10.1 Central register of controllers

- 10.1.1 Since 30 July 2020, ACRA has kept a central register of controllers. Foreign companies must file all information kept in their registers of controllers with ACRA.
- 10.1.2 Foreign companies registered on or after the 16 June 2025 must file information on their registrable controllers at the time of the application for registration.
- 10.1.3 Subsequently, foreign companies must file updates with ACRA within 2 business days after entering or updating the information in their register.

## ANNEX A – TEMPLATE FOR REGISTER OF REGISTRABLE CONTROLLERS

Date of entry	Name of controller	Particulars	Remarks
02/04/2017	John Tan	<p>Full name: John Tan Ah Kow</p> <p>Alias: Ah Loong</p> <p>Residential address: 1 Flower Road, Singapore 123456</p> <p>Email address: JohnTan@Johntan.com</p> <p>Contact number: 1234 5678</p> <p>Nationality: Singaporean</p> <p>Identity card number: S1234567A</p> <p>Date of birth: 01/01/1970</p> <p>Date on which the registrable individual controller became an individual controller of [name of foreign company]: 31/03/2017</p>	<p>Notice sent to John Tan on 31/03/2017</p> <p>Confirmation received from John Tan on 01/04/2017</p>
04/04/2017	Ali Mohd Hassan	<p>Full name: Ali Mohd Hassan</p> <p>Alias: N.A.</p> <p>Residential address: 1 Sunrise Road, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</p> <p>Email address: Ali@AliMohdHassan.com</p> <p>Contact number: 1234 5678</p> <p>Nationality: Malaysian</p> <p>Passport number: 123456</p> <p>Date of birth: 01/02/1971</p>	<p>Confirmation received from Ali Mohd Hassan on 03/04/2017</p>

		Date on which the registrable individual controller became an individual controller of [name of foreign company]: 02/04/2017	
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Date of entry	Name of controller	Particulars	Remarks
10/04/2017	John Tan	<p>Full name: John Tan Ah Kow</p> <p>Alias: Ah Loong</p> <p>Residential address: 1 Flower Road, Singapore 123456</p> <p>Email address: JohnTan@JohnTan.com</p> <p>Contact number: 1234 5678</p> <p>Nationality: Singaporean</p> <p>Identity card number: S1234567A</p> <p>Date of birth: 01/01/1970</p> <p>Date on which the registrable individual controller ceased to be an individual controller of [name of foreign company]: 07/05/2025</p>	Confirmation received from John Tan on 09/04/2017
06/04/2017	Ali Mohd Hassan	<p>Full name: Ali Mohd Hassan</p> <p>Alias: N.A.</p> <p>Residential address: 29 Harbour Road, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</p> <p>Email address: Ali@AliMohdHassan.com</p> <p>Contact number: 1234 5678</p>	<p>Notice sent to Ali Mohd Hassan on 03/04/2017</p> <p>Confirmation received from Ali Mohd Hassan on 05/04/2017 on change of residential address.</p>

		Nationality: Malaysian Passport number: 123456 Date of birth: 01/02/1971	Date of change of particulars: 02/04/2017
04/05/2017	Alan Subramaniam	Full name: Alan Kelvin Subramaniam Alias: N.A. Residential address: 1 Ocean Road, Sydney, Australia Email address: Alan@AlanKelvin.com Contact number: 1234 5678 Nationality: Australia Passport number: 234567 Date of birth: 01/03/1972 Date on which the registrable individual controller became an individual controller of [name of foreign company]: 02/04/2017	As of 04/05/2017, Alan Subramaniam has not confirmed his particulars.

Date of entry	Name of controller	Particulars	Remarks
19/05/2017	ABC Limited	Name: ABC Limited Unique entity number issued by the Registrar: N.A. Address of registered office: 1 Brick Road, United Kingdom Email address: ABC@ABCLimited.com Contact number: 1234 5678	Notice sent to ABC Limited on 14/05/2017. Confirmation received from ABC Limited on 18/05/2017.

		<p>Legal form: Private limited company</p> <p>Jurisdiction where and statute under which the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated: United Kingdom, Companies Act 2006</p> <p>Name of the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated: UK Companies House</p> <p>Identification number or registration number on the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where the registrable corporate controller is formed or incorporated: 01234567</p> <p>Date on which the registrable individual controller became an individual controller of [name of foreign company]: 12/05/2017</p>	
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## ANNEX B – NOTICE FOR CONTROLLERS

Date of notice: [Date that the notice is sent]

Dear [Addressee],

We know or have reasonable grounds to believe that you are a registrable controller of [name of company or foreign company].

This notice is sent under section 386AG(2)(a) of the Companies Act 1967 and requires you to provide the following information within 30 days after the date of this notice. Please send your reply to [address of company or foreign company]. Failure to provide the information required by this notice may be an offence.

1. Are you a registrable controller of [name of company or foreign company]?

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is yes and you are an individual, please provide the particulars in sub-paragraph (a). If your reply is yes and you are a legal entity, please provide the particulars in sub-paragraph (b).

(a) If your reply is yes and you are an individual, please provide the following particulars:

- (i) your full name: .....
- (ii) your aliases, if any: .....
- (iii) your residential address: .....
- (iiia) your email address: .....
- (iiib) your contact number: .....
- (iv) your nationality: .....
- (v) your identity card number or passport number: .....
- (vi) your date of birth: .....
- (vii) the date on which you became an individual controller of [name of company or foreign company]: .....

(b) If your reply is yes and you are a legal entity, please provide the following particulars:

- (i) your name: .....



- (ii) your unique entity number issued by the Registrar, if any: .....
- (iii) the address of your registered office: .....
- (iiia) your email address: .....
- (iiib) your contact number: .....
- (iv) your legal form: .....
- (v) the jurisdiction where, and statute under which, you are formed or incorporated: .....
- (vi) the name of the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction in which you are formed or incorporated, if applicable: .....
- (vii) the identification number or registration number on the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where you are formed or incorporated, if applicable: .....
- (viii) the date on which you became a corporate controller of [name of company or foreign company]: .....

2. Do you know or have reasonable grounds to believe that any other person is a registrable controller of [name of company or foreign company] or is likely to have that knowledge?

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is yes and the person is an individual, please provide the particulars in sub-paragraph (a). If your reply is yes and the person is a legal entity, please provide the particulars in sub-paragraph (b).

(a) If your reply is yes and the person is an individual, please provide the following particulars to the best of your knowledge:

- (i) the person's full name: .....
- (ii) the person's aliases, if any: .....
- (iii) the person's residential address: .....
- (iiia) the person's email address: .....
- (iiib) the person's contact number: .....
- (iv) the person's nationality: .....

- (v) the person's identity card number or passport number: .....
- (vi) the person's date of birth: .....
- (vii) the date on which the person became an individual controller of [name of company or foreign company]: .....
- (b) If your reply is yes and the person is a legal entity, please provide the following particulars to the best of your knowledge:
  - (i) the person's name: .....
  - (ii) the person's unique entity number issued by the Registrar, if any: .....
  - (iii) the address of the person's registered office: .....
  - (iiia) the person's email address:
    - .....
  - (iiib) the person's contact number:
    - .....
  - (iv) the person's legal form: .....
  - (v) the jurisdiction where, and the statute under which, the person is formed or incorporated:
    - .....
  - (vi) the name of the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction in which the person is formed or incorporated, if applicable: .....
  - (vii) the identification number or registration number on the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where the person is formed or incorporated, if applicable: .....
    - ... (viii) the date on which the person became a corporate controller of [name of company or foreign company]:
      - .....

In this notice —

“controller”, “corporate controller”, “individual controller” and “legal entity” have the meanings given to them in section 386AB of the Companies Act 1967;

“identity card” has the meaning given to it in section 2(1) of the National Registration Act 1965;

“registrable” has the meaning given to it in section 386AC of the Companies Act 1967.

Yours sincerely,

[Name of director, secretary or authorised representative of the company or foreign company]

Director / Secretary / Authorised representative\*

\* Delete as appropriate

[Name of company or foreign company]

[To be completed by [Addressee]]

The information that I have provided in response to this notice is true and accurate.

[To affix signature of Addressee and date of the signature]

## ANNEX C – NOTICE FOR PERSONS WHO KNOW CONTROLLERS

Date of notice: [Date that the notice is sent]

Dear [Addressee],

We know or have reasonable grounds to believe that you know or have reasonable grounds to know the identity of a person who is a registrable controller of [name of company or foreign company] or is likely to have that knowledge.

This notice is sent under section 386AG(2)(b) of the Companies Act 1967 and requires you to provide the following information within 30 days after the date of this notice. Please send your reply to [address of company or foreign company]. Failure to provide the information required by this notice may be an offence.

If you are a registrable controller of [name of company or foreign company], please notify [name of company or foreign company] that you are a registrable controller and provide your particulars to the [name of company or foreign company], as required under section 386AJ of the Companies Act 1967.

1. Do you know or have reasonable grounds to believe that any other person is a registrable controller of [name of company or foreign company] or is likely to have that knowledge?

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is yes and the person is an individual, please provide the particulars in sub-paragraph (a). If your reply is yes and the person is a legal entity, please provide the particulars in sub-paragraph (b).

(a) If your reply is yes and the person is an individual, please provide the following particulars to the best of your knowledge:

(i) the person's full name: .....

(ii) the person's aliases, if any: .....

(iii) the person's residential address: .....

(iiia) the person's email address:  
.....

(iiib) the person's contact number:  
.....

- (iv) the person's nationality: .....
- (v) the person's identity card number or passport number: .....
- (vi) the person's date of birth: .....
- (vii) the date on which the person became an individual controller of [name of company or foreign company]: .....
- (b) If your reply is yes and the person is a legal entity, please provide the following particulars to the best of your knowledge:
  - (i) the person's name: .....
  - (ii) the person's unique entity number issued by the Registrar, if any: .....
  - (iii) the address of the person's registered office: .....
  - (iiia) the person's email address:
    - .....
  - (iiib) the person's contact number:
    - .....
  - (iv) the person's legal form: .....
  - (v) the jurisdiction where, and statute under which, the person is formed or incorporated:
    - .....
  - (vi) the name of the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where the person is formed incorporated, if applicable: .....
  - (vii) the identification number or registration number on the corporate entity register of the jurisdiction where the person is formed or incorporated, if applicable: .....
  - (viii) the date on which the person became a corporate controller of [name of company or foreign company]:
    - .....

In this notice —

“controller”, “corporate controller”, “individual controller” and “legal entity” have the meanings given to them in section 386AB of the Companies Act 1967;

“identity card” has the meaning given to it in section 2(1) of the National Registration Act 1965;

“registrable” has the meaning given to it in section 386AC of the Companies Act 1967.

Yours sincerely,

[Name of director, secretary or authorised representative of the company or foreign company]

Director / Secretary / Authorised representative\*

\* Delete as appropriate

[Name of company or foreign company]

[To be completed by [Addressee]]

The information that I have provided in response to this notice is true and accurate.

[To affix signature of Addressee and date of the signature]

## ANNEX D – NOTICE FOR CHANGE IN PARTICULARS

Date of notice: [Date that the notice is sent]

Dear [Addressee],

We know or have reasonable grounds to believe that that a relevant change has occurred in your particulars that are stated in the register of controllers of [name of company or foreign company].

This notice is sent under section 386AH(1) of the Companies Act 1967 and requires you to provide the following information within 30 days after the date of this notice. Please send your reply to [address of company or foreign company]. Failure to provide the information required by this notice may be an offence.

1. Are you still a registrable controller of [name of company or foreign company]?

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is no, please state the date on which you ceased to be a registrable controller of [name of company or foreign company]: .....

2. Your particulars that are stated in the register of controllers of [name of company or foreign company] are set out below. Has a relevant change in your particulars set out below occurred?

[Set out particulars of addressee that are stated in the register of controllers]

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is yes, please provide the following information:

(a) the date of the change: .....

(b) the particulars of the change: .....

In this notice, “register of controllers” has the meaning given to it in section 386AB of the Companies Act 1967;

Yours sincerely,

[Name of director, secretary or authorised representative of the company or foreign company]

Director / Secretary / Authorised representative\*

\* Delete as appropriate

[Name of company or foreign company]

[To be completed by [Addressee]]

The information that I have provided in response to this notice is true and accurate.

[To affix signature of Addressee and date of the signature]



## ANNEX E – NOTICE FOR INCORRECT PARTICULARS

Date of notice: [Date that the notice is sent]

Dear [Addressee],

We know or have reasonable grounds to believe that your particulars that are stated in the register of controllers of [name of company or foreign company] are incorrect.

This notice is sent under section 386AI(1) of the Companies Act 1967 and requires you to provide the following information within 30 days after the date of this notice. Please send your reply to [address of company or foreign company]. Failure to provide the information required by this notice may be an offence.

1. Your particulars that are stated in the register of controllers of [name of company or foreign company] are set out below. Are your particulars set out below correct? [Set out particulars of addressee that are stated in the register of controllers]

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is no, please provide the correct particulars: .....

In this notice, “register of controllers” has the meaning given to it in section 386AB of the Companies Act 1967;

Yours sincerely,

[Name of director, secretary or authorised representative of the company or foreign company]

Director / Secretary / Authorised representative\*

\* Delete as appropriate

[Name of company or foreign company]

[To be completed by [Addressee]]

The information that I have provided in response to this notice is true and accurate.

[To affix signature of Addressee and date of the signature]

## ANNEX F – NOTICE FOR ANNUAL UPDATES OF REGISTER

Date of notice: [Date that the notice is sent]

Dear [Addressee],

We seek your confirmation:

- (a) whether or not you are still a registrable controller of [name of foreign company];
- (b) whether or not any relevant change has occurred in your particulars that are stated in the register of controllers of [name of foreign company]; and
- (c) whether your particulars that are stated in the register of controllers of [name of foreign company] are correct.

This notice is sent under section 386AIA(1) of the Companies Act 1967 and requires you to provide the following information within 30 days after the date of this notice. Please send your reply to [address of foreign company]. Failure to provide the information required by this notice may be an offence.

1. Are you still a registrable controller of [name of foreign company]?

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is no, please state the date on which you ceased to be a registrable controller of [name of foreign company]:

.....

2. Your particulars that are stated in the register of controllers of [name of foreign company] are set out below. Has any relevant change occurred as a result of which any of those particulars is incorrect or incomplete?

[Set out particulars of addressee that are stated in the register of controllers]

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is yes, please provide the following information:

- (a) the date of the relevant change: .....
- (b) the correct or complete particulars: .....

3. Your particulars that are stated in the register of controllers of [name of foreign company] are set out under paragraph 2. Are your particulars set out under paragraph 2 correct?

Your reply: Yes / No\*

\* Delete as appropriate. If your reply is no, please provide the correct particulars:

.....

In this notice, “register of controllers” has the meaning given to it in section 386AB of the Companies Act 1967.

Yours sincerely,

[Name of director, secretary or authorised representative of the foreign company]

Director / Secretary / Authorised representative\*

\* Delete as appropriate

[Name of foreign company]

[To be completed by [Addressee]]

The information that I have provided in response to this notice is true and accurate.

[To affix signature of Addressee and date of the signature]

# About Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) is the regulator of business registration, financial reporting, public accountants, and corporate service providers. We are responsible for developing the accountancy sector and setting the accounting standards for companies, charities, co-operative societies, and societies in Singapore. ACRA fosters a vibrant and trusted business environment that enables innovation and growth and contributes towards making Singapore the best place for business.

For more information, please visit [www.acra.gov.sg](http://www.acra.gov.sg)

