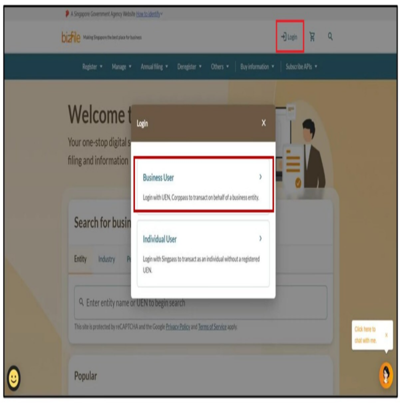

Changing a Company Financial Year End: The ACRA Test

Description

A company can change its current or immediately preceding financial year end in Bizfile, but not after the related AGM, annual return or financial-statement deadline has passed. ACRA approval is needed for a period longer than 18 months or another change within five years.

A Singapore company director or secretary considering a different financial year end faces a narrower question than the headline suggests: decide whether the change can be filed, whether approval is required and which compliance dates must be rebuilt. The table separates the branches that change the answer before the practical checks and worked example.

Choose the branch before acting

Situation	Practical next step
Current financial period still open	Check the new period length and file before dependent deadlines
Immediately preceding period	Confirm none of the AGM, annual-return or financial-statement deadlines has passed
New period exceeds 18 months	Prepare an ACRA approval application
Another FYE change within five years	Expect approval rather than an instant update

Check whether the period is still changeable

ACRA permits a change to the current financial year end or the one immediately before it. The route closes once the relevant AGM, annual-return or financial-statement deadline has passed, so date the decision before editing accounting calendars. [ACRA changing a financial year end].

The filing itself is free. Where approval is required, ACRA indicates processing can take up to 14 working days, which means a company should not build a tax or audit timetable on an assumed instant approval. ACRA changing a financial year end.

Identify the two approval triggers

Approval is required if the resulting financial period would exceed 18 months. It is also required where the company changed its financial year end within the previous five years, subject to ACRAâ??s stated exceptions and current Bizfile prompts. ACRA changing a financial year end.

A longer first set of accounts can affect audit work, consolidation and tax computations. Before choosing a date for group alignment or seasonality, ask the accountant and auditor to map every reporting period that the change creates. ACRA changing a financial year end.

Rebuild the compliance calendar

The FYE anchors the deadlines for holding an AGM, filing the annual return and preparing financial statements. A successful change therefore creates a new chain of dates; it is not a cosmetic profile update. ACRA annual-return deadlines.

Corporate income-tax filing uses its own rules and periods. Notify the tax adviser, payroll and finance teams, reconcile any estimated chargeable income period, and preserve the approved ACRA notice with the board decision. ACRA changing a financial year end.

Document the business reason

Record why the new date improves reportingâ??such as group consolidation or an operating cycleâ??and why the transition period is appropriate. This helps directors show that the calendar was changed deliberately rather than to evade a missed filing. ACRA changing a financial year end.

If a deadline has already passed, fix that compliance failure through the correct late-filing route instead of attempting to move the FYE backwards. The company should not assume a profile change erases an existing obligation. ACRA changing a financial year end.

Put the numbers or sequence to work

A company with a 31 December FYE wants to move to 30 June, creating an 18-month transition period. It first confirms that the relevant statutory deadlines have not passed and that it has not changed FYE within five years. If the proposed period were 19 months, ACRA approval would be required. The board calendar is updated only after the filing outcome is saved.

The example is a planning model, not a quoted price, official calculator result, medical instruction or promised outcome. Replace its assumptions with the issued notice, live service, signed contract, current timetable or professional advice that controls the real decision.

Before you commit

1. Identify the current and proposed FYE
2. Calculate the transition period in months
3. Check AGM, annual-return and statement deadlines
4. Review the prior five-year change history
5. Obtain board approval and professional input
6. File in Bizfile and save the outcome
7. Rebuild ACRA, audit and tax calendars

A useful working note combines **a changeability-and-approval decision tree** with **a dependency map from FYE to AGM, annual return, accounts and tax**. Enter only details that can be tied to a current document or live record.

Missteps that change the answer

- Changing an FYE after a deadline has passed
- Missing the 18-month approval trigger
- Forgetting a change within five years
- Assuming tax periods update automatically
- Using the change to disguise a late filing

If one of these conditions appears, pause before payment, submission, travel or implementation and reconcile it through the relevant official service. Save the issued result or acknowledgement; a search snippet or forwarded screenshot cannot establish a current entitlement.

Board minutes should match the calendar

The directorsâ?? resolution, Bizfile submission and finance timetable should all show the same old FYE, new FYE and transition period. Add the approval status where relevant. A later auditor or company secretary should be able to reconstruct the reason and the date dependencies without relying on the memory of the person who filed the change.

Related next steps

Once this decision is settled, you may need to map the annual-return deadline. The next adjacent check is to check the small-company audit test.

Common questions

Is there an ACRA filing fee?

ACRA states that changing the FYE is free. ACRA changing a financial year end.

When is approval needed?

For a period over 18 months or generally for another change within five years. ACRA annual-return deadlines.

How long can approval take?

ACRA indicates up to 14 working days. ACRA changing a financial year end.

Rules, service details and schedules can change. Reopen the linked official page before acting when the date, eligibility, payment destination, safety instruction or live availability is decisive.

Date Created
27/07/2026
Author
rachelng