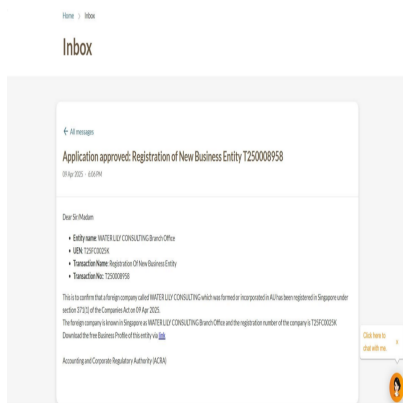




Move a Foreign Company to Singapore: Test Re-Domiciliation First

Description

Re-domiciliation moves an existing foreign company's legal registration to Singapore while preserving its corporate history, contracts, assets, liabilities, rights and obligations. The entity must pass size, financial-health and home-jurisdiction tests before a non-refundable S\$985 application. [ACRA re-domiciliation guide](#). [ACRA foreign-business structures guide](#).

Choose the branch that matches your case

Situation	Next step
Want a new Singapore subsidiary with separate identity	Incorporation may fit better than re-domiciliation
Want to keep the same corporate identity and contracts	Test re-domiciliation
Meet two of three size thresholds	Continue to solvency and legal checks
Home jurisdiction does not permit outward transfer	Re-domiciliation cannot proceed on the standard route

Choose continuity deliberately

Re-domiciliation is not the same as forming a subsidiary or registering a branch. The same entity moves its legal home and becomes a Singapore company limited by shares. [ACRA re-domiciliation guide](#).

That continuity can preserve contracts and history, but counterparties, licences and financing documents still need review for consent or notice clauses.

Pass two of three size tests

ACRA requires any two of total assets over S\$10 million, annual revenue over S\$10 million and more than 50 employees. A parent is assessed on a consolidated basis; a subsidiary usually on a standalone basis unless the stated parent route applies. [ACRA foreign-business structures guide](#).

Use the latest supported financial and headcount records. A forecast is not the same as meeting the threshold.

Document financial health

The entity must have no basis for being unable to pay debts, must be able to meet debts for 12 months after application, have assets at least equal to liabilities including contingent liabilities and not be in liquidation or similar proceedings.

Directors should test contingent claims and guarantees, not only the face of the balance sheet.

Check the home-jurisdiction law

The place of incorporation must allow transfer, and the entity must comply with that law. It must have passed its first financial year end and apply in good faith without intent to defraud creditors.

Obtain local counsel confirmation early. Singapore approval cannot cure a prohibition in the original jurisdiction.

Prepare the document set

Reserve an eligible company name, assemble identity and share-capital details, prepare a Singapore constitution, certify incorporation and constitution records, translate non-English documents properly and provide the required financial statements and declarations.

ACRA says specified certified documents should generally be prepared within four months before application unless approval is obtained.

Budget time and fee

The transfer application fee is S\$985 and non-refundable. ACRA gives a 40-working-day processing time from a complete submission, with referral-authority review potentially adding time.

Do not schedule a legal-home cutover around the earliest possible date. Build conditions into contracts and operational plans.

Plan the two post-approval clocks

After approval, existing charges must be registered with ACRA within 30 days. Within 60 days, submit proof of deregistration in the original jurisdiction and issue new Singapore share and debenture certificates.

A S\$200 extension application can give more time for deregistration proof if filed before the deadline, but it does not replace the other tasks.

Map the first Singapore reporting period

The first financial year starts immediately after the last financial year end stated in the transfer application and ends on the proposed Singapore FYE. Normal Companies Act filing and AGM rules then apply.

Align the audit, tax and group reporting calendars before submission so the transition does not create an accidental short or long period.

Build a dated decision record

Write down the exact outcome you need: screen eligibility and plan the 30-day and 60-day post-approval filings before paying the transfer fee. Keep the household, company, product, trip or booking facts that produced the result beside it. A result based on different facts is not a precedent, even when the headline issue looks similar.

Record the date and the controlling page you checked. For this decision, the source set is ACRA re-domiciliation guide; ACRA foreign-business structures guide. Save the relevant reference number, model, class, property detail, deadline, service route or ticket choice. That makes it possible to reconstruct the decision if a rule, inventory position or personal fact changes.

Use two working aids instead of a single yes-or-no note. First, make a three-route branch-subsiary-re-domiciliation matrix. Second, add a 30-day and 60-day post-approval control calendar. The first shows how the facts map to the official rule or live service; the second exposes the timing, cost, trade-off or follow-up action that a simple eligibility answer can hide.

Set a stop condition before acting. Pause if you encounter treating re-domiciliation as a new entity, using forecasts for size thresholds, ignoring contingent liabilities, or if any fact no longer matches the source you checked. Re-run the relevant official tool or contact the competent organisation. The purpose of the record is not paperwork for its own sake. It prevents an old screenshot, rough estimate or remembered rule from becoming an expensive assumption.

Work the example before the real decision

A foreign company has S\$14 million revenue, S\$12 million assets and 38 employees. It meets two size thresholds, but that only clears the size gate. The board still needs the 12-month solvency statements, home-jurisdiction permission, certified documents and a post-approval charge and deregistration plan.

Reader checklist

1. Compare subsidiary, branch and re-domiciliation
2. Prove two size thresholds

3. Complete the 12-month solvency test
4. Confirm home-law permission
5. Reserve the name
6. Prepare certified and translated documents
7. Calendar 30-day and 60-day actions

Mistakes to avoid

- Treating re-domiciliation as a new entity
- Using forecasts for size thresholds
- Ignoring contingent liabilities
- Submitting stale certified records
- Waiting until day 60 to start deregistration

Related next reads

After screen eligibility and plan the 30-day and 60-day post-approval filings before paying the transfer fee, [check ACRA annual-return deadlines](#). You can also [audit payroll records](#).

Questions readers ask

What is the ACRA transfer fee?

S\$985, non-refundable.

How long is processing?

ACRA states 40 working days from a complete submission, subject to extra review.

What must happen within 30 days after approval?

Register existing charges with ACRA.

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