

Factsheet on Unique Establishment Identifier (UEI)

Background

Currently, establishments have to use different identification numbers when interacting with different public sector agencies. The more commonly used identifiers include the ACRA number issued by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority to registered companies, businesses and limited liability partnerships, the ROS number issued by Registry of Societies to registered societies, the Central Registration (CR) number issued by the Department of Statistics to various categories of establishments as required for survey or statistical purposes, and the CPF employer number issued by the Central Provident Fund Board to all employers.

Need for UEI

2 Having a Unique Establishment Identifier (UEI) for establishments in Singapore, similar to the NRIC number for individuals, will reduce the number of identifiers that establishments have to use. A UEI will provide a common means of identifying establishments across public sector agencies, and enable public sector agencies to share basic non-confidential information on establishments more effectively to deliver better and more personalised services.

3 A public consultation exercise was conducted from 3 Dec 2005 to 13 Jan 2006 on the proposal for a UEI. 79% of the respondents opined that a UEI would be useful. Based on the positive feedback received, the Government has decided to proceed with the implementation of UEI.

Implementation of UEI

4 To minimise changes needed, the ACRA number which is issued to about 85% of establishments today will be leveraged on to be the UEI for businesses and local companies registered with ACRA. The remaining 15% of establishments such as societies, embassies, local representative offices of foreign companies, and management corporations etc which do not have ACRA numbers (as they are not registered with ACRA) will be issued with a new 10 digit identifier as their UEI.

5 To facilitate the transition to UEI, conversion software that maps the UEI to existing identifiers will be provided to public, private and social sector agencies.

6 An open tender will be called in the first quarter of 2007 for the setting up of a UEI issuance system and development of conversion tools. By January 2009, all establishments will be issued with a UEI.