

Client Alert

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Singapore launches pilot Data Protection Trustmark certification scheme

On 25 July 2018, the Infocomm Media Development Authority ("IMDA") and Personal Data Protection Commission ("PDPC") launched an open call for organisations to participate in a pilot for Singapore's Data Protection Trustmark ("DPTM") certification.

Under the DPTM certification scheme, organisations are evaluated by independent assessment bodies to determine if their data protection policies and practices are aligned with the DPTM certification requirements. The three assessment bodies that have been appointed by the IMDA are ISOCert, Setsco Services and TUV SUD PSB.

The scheme is open to all organisations which are based in Singapore. Organisations may apply to the IMDA and select an assessment body thereafter to conduct the assessment at a fee (starting from S\$1,400). The assessment body will submit its assessment to the IMDA, which will issue the DPTM certification upon granting its approval. Certified organisations will be able to use and display a DPTM logo in their business communications for the duration of the certification, which is three years.

Organisations will be assessed on their data protection policies and practices in respect of the following:

(1) Governance and transparency

- (a) Queries, complaints and dispute resolution handling processes;
- (b) Data breach management plan;
- (c) Appointment of a Data Protection Officer;
- (d) Data protection governance structure; and
- (e) Internal communication of policies to employees.

(2) Management of personal data

- (a) Collection of personal data and notification of individuals of purposes for collection;
- (b) Obtaining of individuals' consent;
- (c) Use and disclosure of personal data; and
- (d) Data transfer.





(3) Care of personal data

- (a) Protection of data;
- (b) Data retention and disposal; and
- (c) Keeping of accurate and complete records of personal data.

(4) Individuals' rights

- (a) Withdrawal of consent for the collection, use or disclosure of personal data; and
- (b) Individuals' access to and correction of their personal data.

At present, there are eight organisations that will be undergoing the pilot programme. Organisations that are interested to participate in the pilot may sign up by 30 September 2018. All participating organisations will undergo the full DPTM certification process and the certification awarded remains valid after the pilot ends.

The announcement marks a welcome development that is likely to provide certified organisations with a competitive advantage, as they would be able to demonstrate to their customers that they have a robust data protection framework in place. This is especially important in light of the growing ubiquity of data-driven technologies in the delivery of services.

We attach a link to the press release [here](#).

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