

Business Bulletin

Harmonising of work pass policies: New changes to work pass requirements for Dependant’s Pass holders.

In a move to align the requirements with other foreigners working in Singapore, Dependant's Pass (DP) holders working in Singapore will soon have to secure a work pass if they want to work in Singapore. We take a look at the practical impact of this change on DP holders, employers and businesses.

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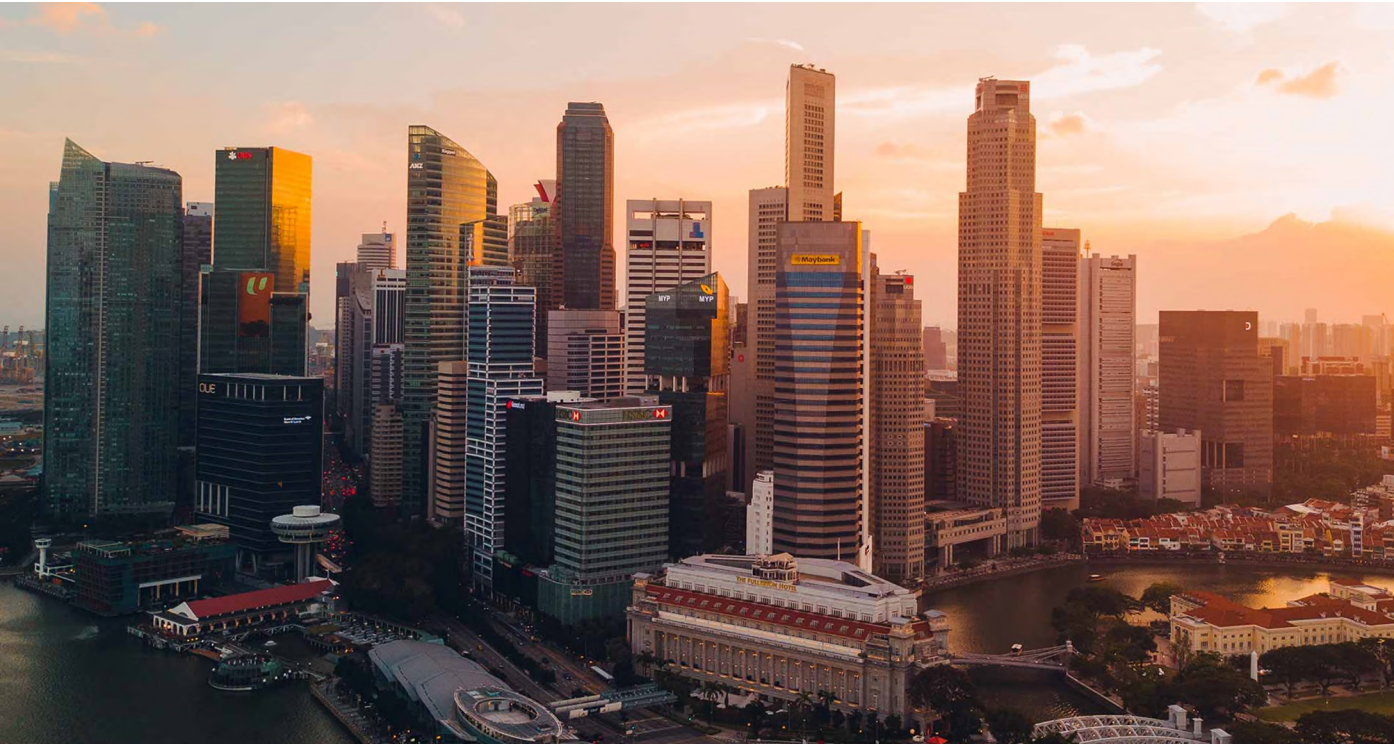
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The right balance? The SGX's proposed regulatory framework for SPACs

The value of global deals involving special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) this year stands at a record amount. Some of Southeast Asia's biggest technology companies are also looking to go public by merging with US-listed SPACs, leaving Asian bourses with some introspection to do. On 31 March 2021, the Singapore Exchange issued a consultation paper in relation to a proposed regulatory framework for the listing of SPACs on its Mainboard to seek market feedback for its proposals. Does this proposed framework strike the right balance of being sufficiently robust whilst remaining attractive to SPACs and their sponsors?

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Translating the Resource Sustainability Act for your Business

In order to reduce waste being sent to the Semakau landfill, Singapore introduced the Zero Waste Masterplan in 2019. The masterplan, along with the Resource Sustainability Act (RSA), 2019 provides the strategy and the legal framework to position Singapore as a sustainable, resource-efficient nation. These new developments apply to three waste-generating sectors – electrical and electronic waste, food waste and packaging waste. In a series of 3 articles, the authors address the unique requirements that apply to these 3 sections under the RSA.

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Scammed or hacked? Overview of common fraud techniques and the corporate response playbook

Scams and cyber attacks – it can happen to any corporate entity. Nobody is immune to scams and cyber-attacks. With the increase in scammers’ levels of sophistication, their targets have also increased in scale. Scammers even routinely target multinational corporates and banks which have far more robust defences and highly trained personnel than the average SME.

As such, the authors seek to suggest a quick response playbook that companies can consider adopting and for determining their responses during a time-sensitive period when faced with such issues.

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Working from home – some legal considerations

Just over a year ago, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced a “circuit breaker” which closed most work places except for essential services and key economic sectors such as food establishments, markets and supermarkets, clinics, hospitals, utilities, transport and key banking services. The default for most Singaporeans then was work from home, and we have reverted to this recently with the Phase-2 (Heightened Alert) lasting from 16 May 2021 to 13 June 2021.

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Extension of the deadline to deliver vacant possession – the Nuts and Bolts of new Part 8C of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020

This article is an update of an earlier article published on 6 November 2020, and which incorporates the new amendments to Part 8C of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 pursuant to the new COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Amendment No. 2) Bill passed in Parliament on 5 April 2021 (Bill No. 10/2021).

In sum, this new Part 8C allows both housing developers and commercial developers to extend the original deadline to deliver possession of the units to purchasers under the sale and purchase agreements (Original Delivery Date) to a later date (Extended Delivery Date), subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. As at the date of publication of this article, Part 8C has not come into operation yet.

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Litigation Briefs

Introduction of actuarial tables for determining the multiplier in personal injury and death claims in Singapore: Is this a prelude to larger claims against doctors and healthcare providers?

Pursuant to a recent amendment of the Supreme Court and State Courts Practice Directions, Singapore courts will refer to actuarial tables published by the Singapore Academy of Law to determine an appropriate multiplier in personal injury and death claims heard on or after 1 April 2021. This will likely lead to greater certainty and precision in the quantification of damages in personal injury and death claims. However, it is also likely that the quantum of damages arrived at using the actuarial tables will increase due to the general increase in multiplier values in the actuarial tables, as compared with past cases. Medical practitioners, healthcare institutions and their indemnity providers ought to be prepared for an increase in the claim amount and awards for any ongoing or imminent claims against them.

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Service of a Writ of Summons on companies during the “new normal” - A case comment on *Genuine Pte Ltd v HSBC Bank Middle East Ltd Dubai* [2021] SGHC 104

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, “work from home” (WFH) arrangements have become the “new normal”. This raises the question: if a Writ is served on a company’s registered address when there is no one on-site to collect it, will the Writ be considered validly served? We take a look at the recent Singapore High Court (SGHC) decision of *Genuine Pte Ltd v HSBC Bank Middle East Ltd Dubai* [2021] SGHC 104 (Genuine).

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Simplified Insolvency Programme

The Simplified Insolvency Programme (SIP) has been instituted to facilitate the restructuring or liquidation of micro and small companies (MSCs) which have been severely impacted by COVID-19. The SIP was ushered in by the *Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution (Amendment) Act 2020* (IRDA Amendment Act) and recently commenced on 29 January 2021. This article seeks to give an overview of the SIP which aims to provide simpler, faster and lower-cost restructuring and insolvency processes for cash-strapped MSCs.

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Singapore's new insolvency law: a status report on the progress of the new regime

Insolvency laws used to be a strictly territorial matter. However, given the increasing interconnectedness of the world, Courts have adopted a more universalist approach and have begun to recognise the insolvency laws of other jurisdictions. As a reflection of its cosmopolitan and global outlook, the laws and the Courts of Singapore have adopted a more international approach towards the application of insolvency laws. Foreign companies considering restructuring their debts in Singapore are likely to find themselves in Singapore an environment with a robust framework for debt restructuring and skilled professional advisors.

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Copyright reform in Singapore continues release of draft Bill for public consultation

In February 2021, Ministry of Law (MinLaw) and Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) released a draft Copyright Bill (the draft Bill) for public consultation. The draft Bill is significant because it is the first time the existing Copyright Act (the Act) is being restructured and rewritten as a whole. Piecemeal legislative amendments over decades have kept the Act relevant to technological advancements, especially with the dawn of computers and the Internet. However, the amendments have made the Act more lengthy and complex. An overhaul is needed to make the law more understandable and accessible to the public. The draft Bill also aims to implement wide-ranging changes proposed in the Copyright Review Report published by MinLaw and IPOS in 2019. This article summarises some key changes.

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Global Employment Lawyer – Issue 2 / 2021

In this issue, we provide a brief summary of the key employment and labour law changes that will have an impact on employers around the world. Unsurprisingly, many of the developments reported in the first quarter of this year continue with COVID-19 dominating the employment landscape. In our "In Conversation with" feature, we introduce Anna Karina Jiménez, Co-Head of Dentons' Central and South America Regional Employment and Labour Practice Group. We conclude with a round-up of relevant Dentons news and upcoming webinars and events.

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Accolades

Best Lawyers 2022

27 Dentons Rodyk lawyers have been recognised in the 2022 edition of Best Lawyers in Singapore. Our lawyers were nominated by their peers as leading practitioners in their fields of practice, and you may view the full list [here](#). In addition, we are also pleased to share that Senior Partner **Edmund Leow, SC** received the 2022 “Lawyer of the Year” award for his work in Tax Law in Singapore. Only a single lawyer with the highest overall peer-feedback in each practice area and community is honoured with this award.

IFLR1000 Banking and Finance Rankings (31st edition)

Dentons Rodyk has been ranked by IFLR1000 in 3 practice areas – **Banking and Finance, Banking (Foreign), and Project Finance (Foreign)**. IFLR1000 is a guide to the world’s leading financial and corporate law firms and lawyers in over 120 jurisdictions worldwide.

India Business Law Journal’s International A-List 2021

Senior Partner **S. Sivanesan** has been recognized in India Business Law Journal’s The International A-List 2021. The International A-List, which aims to recognize top India-focused lawyers at international law firms, is based on extensive research conducted by India Business Law Journal and the collective views of in-house counsel and private practice lawyers in India.

Asian Legal Business (ALB) Asia IP Rankings 2021

Dentons Rodyk is ranked **Tier 1 for Singapore Patents** and **Tier 1 for Singapore Copyright/Trademarks** in ALB’s Asia IP Rankings 2021. ALB’s annual IP rankings showcases fine work in patents, trademark and copyright done by law firms across Asia. The publication draws information from firm submissions, interviews, editorial resources and market suggestions to identify and rank the top firms for Intellectual Property in Asia.

Asia IP Copyright Survey 2021

Dentons Rodyk is ranked **Tier 1** in Asia IP’s Copyright Survey 2021. Asia IP is the region’s leading source of intellectual property intelligence and analysis for IP-owning companies and law firms, and their annual rankings help provide an overview of the leading IP practices across Asia-Pacific.



About Dentons Rodyk

Situated at the southern most tip of Southeast Asia, Singapore is a massive regional hub for global commerce, finance, transportation and legal services. This important island city-state is a vital focal point for doing business throughout the Asia Pacific region.

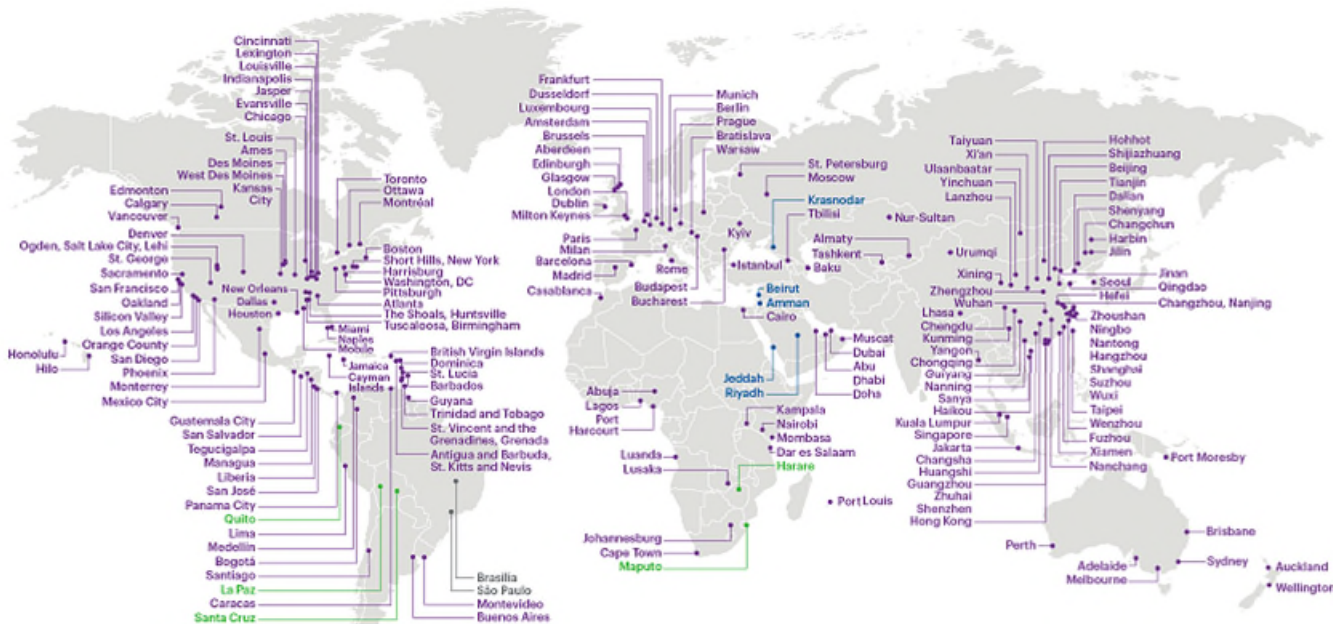
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Our team of around 200 lawyers can help you complete a deal, resolve a dispute or solve your business challenge.

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Our locations



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Locations in gray represent Brazil Strategic Alliance.

June 2021

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