

ANNEX G – BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON UNIQUE ENTITY NUMBER (UEN)

UEN is an iGov2010 initiative to delight customers and connect citizens through infocomm. It is a multi-agency initiative, co-led by the Ministry of Finance and the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority, and managed by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, in partnership with other government agencies.

Background

Currently, government agencies do not have a common identification number for entities. The latter have to use different identification numbers to interact with different government agencies. This is inconvenient for the entities, and inefficient for the government.

The proposal of having a Unique Entity Number (UEN) for entities in Singapore, similar to the NRIC number for individuals, was mooted in 2005. A public consultation exercise was conducted from December 2005 to January 2006. 79% of the respondents opined that a UEN would be useful. Based on this positive feedback, the government decided to proceed with the UEN project.

To prepare entities and government agencies for UEN implementation, the government has conducted extensive consultations with the various stakeholders. The first public announcement was made in May 2006, at the launch of the iGov2010 government infocomm masterplan, informing the public that the government will introduce a unique identification number for all entities by 2009.

In recent months, government agencies also held seminars and focus group discussions with representatives from key industries (e.g. banking, logistics, telecommunications companies and freight forwarders) to inform them of UEN implementation and solicit their feedback.