

Singapore Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) Alert: Public feedback on draft e-Tax Guide & Updates to IRAS CRS FAQs

PwC Singapore
Tax Bulletin –
Common
Reporting
Standard (CRS)

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Public consultation on draft IRAS CRS e-Tax Guide

On 25 August 2017, IRAS released the draft IRAS e-Tax Guide for public feedback. The public consultation period is from *25 August to 25 September 2017*. This draft e-Tax Guide is intended to assist businesses and those affected by CRS, in particular SGFIs, in understanding the CRS framework and their CRS compliance obligations.

Comments on the draft e-Tax Guide should be submitted via this [feedback template](#) and to be emailed to CRS@iras.gov.sg by 25 September 2017. Comments obtained after this deadline will not be entertained.

If you would like PwC Singapore to convey your feedback to the Singapore IRAS, please feel free to contact us at tax.enquiries.sg@sg.pwc.com in the week of 22 September 2017.

Update on IRAS CRS FAQs

On 25 August 2017, IRAS provided updated commentary to the [CRS FAQs](#). We highlight the update and provide our commentary below:

FAQ E.23: Undocumented accounts: Singapore indicia

A Reporting SGFI conducting an electronic record search on a preexisting individual account may discover indicia listed in subparagraphs B(2)(a) to B(2)(e) of Section III of the CRS pointing towards Singapore tax residence, and a hold mail or in-care-of address in a foreign jurisdiction. This account should not be reported as an undocumented account, and the account holder should be treated as a Singapore tax resident.

PwC Commentary: This differs from the IRAS E23 FAQ added on 18 July 2017, where the account holder was said to be treated as both tax resident in Singapore and Jurisdiction X. The rationale for this change is due to the OECD CRS, sub-paragraph B(5) of Section III which states that the 'hold mail/in case of address' indicia works independently (i.e. no other indicia listed in sub-para B(2)(a) to (e) is identified for the account holder). Hence, in this FAQ provided, given that the account holder has Singapore residence based on sub-paragraph B(2)(c), (d) and (e) indicia, sub-paragraph B(5) is not applicable.

SGFIs may wish to reconcile the indicia in respect of the hold mail or in-care-of address by raising this point with the account holder for clarification.

FAQ F.1: Gross proceeds reporting

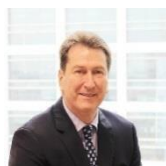
The reporting of gross proceeds under the CRS is only required from Reporting Year (“RY”) 2018 and onwards, whereas the reporting of gross proceeds under FATCA is required from RY 2016 onwards. Where Reporting SGFIs are reliant on the same reporting solutions to cover the reporting requirements under FATCA and CRS, such SGFIs may prefer to align both sets of reporting requirements. IRAS has clarified that the CRS Regulations only require the reporting of gross proceeds from RY 2018 onwards. Reporting SGFIs have to ensure that any early reporting of CRS information does not conflict with their duty not to do so under any laws, contracts or rules of professional conduct.

PwC Commentary: The IRAS updated this FAQ to indicate that the reporting of gross proceeds under FATCA is required from RY 2016 onwards, and not RY2017 onwards. This change has now been reflected in this IRAS FAQ, which is now consistent with the IRAS e-tax guide issued for FATCA and the regulations. The table below summarizes the details:

Reporting Year	For the periods	For custodial accounts: Gross proceeds	
		FATCA	CRS
2016	1.1.2016 to 31.12.2016	✓	X
2017	1.1.2017 to 31.12.2017	✓	X
2018	1.1.2018 to 31.12.2018	✓	✓

Your PwC contacts

If you require further assistance in respect of CRS matters, please reach out to our PwC FATCA and CRS team.



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