

## The rules they are a changin'

### Changes to the Singapore securities market regulations and Companies Act

EFFECTIVE DATE	Securities market changes in 2014
Jan 1, 2014	A company with a primary Singapore listing must hold its general meetings in Singapore, unless rules in the company's home country prohibit it from doing so.
Feb 24, 2014	Circuit breakers may be imposed on securities that move too sharply in either direction.
Feb 24, 2014	SGX has greater discretion in error trade reporting requirements, and establishes further guidelines for error trades involving structured warrants and futures.
Feb 24, 2014	Closing price methodology introduced for exchange-traded funds.
Mar 3, 2014	Companies must inform SGX of discussions about major deals, and provide a list of people privy to the information. The board must also approve responses to exchange-initiated trading queries.
Apr 8, 2014	SGX may extend trading session when trading restarts for a suspended security.
May 19, 2014	New admissions framework for overseas trading members.
Jul 1, 2014	Remove restrictions against trading designated securities to "immediate bargains", where the securities are delivered on the trade date.
Nov 3, 2014	Secondary listings that maintain a primary listing from recognised developed markets will no longer be subject to additional continuing listing obligations.

EFFECTIVE DATE	Expected in 2015
Jan 19, 2015	Minimum board lot size will be reduced to 100 units from 1,000 units.
Jan 19, 2015	The minimum subscription and allocation value for IPO shares will be S\$500, and must be in multiples of 100 units.
Aug 1, 2015	Listed companies must give the voting breakdown of resolutions at shareholders' meetings instead of simply saying if resolutions were passed.
TARGET DATES	Proposed, post-consultation changes
March 2015 to 2016	Minimum trading price of 20 Singapore cents for Mainboard-listed stocks, to take effect from March 2016 following a 12-month transition period.
Unknown	Independent committees appointed by SGX and MAS to rule on and enforce listings, disciplinary and appeals matters.
Unknown	SGX to be granted greater investigative and disciplinary powers, including requesting for information, approving key officers and directors' appointments and fining companies for rules breaches.
Unknown	Compliance Fund to be established, comprising fines handed out by independent committees, that will fund investor education initiatives.
Unknown	Bond framework will allow issuers to sell wholesale bonds to retail investors after 'seasoning' the notes among institutional players.

## Companies Act changes

### Target date: Q1 2015

- Shares with different voting rights will be allowed, although listing rules have not been changed to allow for multiple-class shares on SGX.
- CEOs will face similar disclosure requirements as directors.
- Private companies may provide financial assistance to acquire their own shares.
- Directors of recently merged companies have to provide a solvency statement
- Small companies will be exempt from audits.
- Certain share custodians may name multiple proxies to company meetings, allowing indirect shareholders like CPF investors to attend meetings.
- Auditors of public interest companies must obtain regulatory approval for premature resignations.
- Foreign companies must file with the Registrar financial statements similar to those expected of a Singapore-incorporated company.
- Registrar may debar directors and company secretaries of companies that fail to lodge required documents in a timely fashion.