

Frequently Asked Questions – Mandate E-Refund for Corporate Income Tax

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General

1. Why is IRAS no longer refunding Corporate Income Tax via cheques?

In line with the Digital Government Blueprint to harness digital technologies to transform public service delivery by 2023, IRAS is committed to taxpayer-centric digital payment and refund services to businesses so that they can enjoy fast, secure and seamless e-payment and e-refund. To encourage businesses to receive Corporate Income Tax refunds electronically, we will no longer refund Corporate Income Tax credits via cheques but will do it via GIRO and PayNow instead and be ready to help businesses to onboard GIRO and PayNow.

2. When does the mandatory E-Refund for Corporate Income Tax take effect?

It will take effect on **3 Jan 2022**.

3. What are the benefits of E-Refund as opposed to cheque refund?

Your business will receive Corporate Income Tax refunds earlier, and automatically into your business' bank account. E-Refunds are secure, convenient and environmentally friendly. There will be no more cheques lost in mails and the inconvenience of requesting for cheque reissuance which in turn eliminates administrative fee for cheque handling.

4. Why is mandatory E-Refund introduced for Corporate Income Tax and GST but not for other types of taxes?

Mandatory e-refund applies to both Corporate Income Tax and GST refunds. Based on our records, majority of Corporate Income Tax and GST taxpayers have bank accounts and are already paying taxes and receiving tax refunds electronically. They are thus more ready to adopt e-refund. Businesses which need help in onboarding e-refund may contact IRAS or their banks for assistance.

Receiving Corporate Income Tax Refund via E-Refund

5. What if my company has two different GIRO bank accounts for Corporate Income Tax and GST payment, respectively?

If your company is paying Corporate Income Tax and GST via GIRO separately with 2 different bank accounts owned by the company, any Corporate Income Tax refund will be credited into the same GIRO bank account from which your Corporate Income Tax is paid.

6. What if my company is paying for Corporate Income Tax and GST but only my GST payment is on GIRO?

If your company is paying GST and Corporate Income Tax but only GST is paid via GIRO with your company's bank account, any Corporate Income Tax refund will be credited to the GIRO bank account from which the GST is paid.

7. What if my company has both GIRO and PayNow Corporate?

If your company has signed up for both GIRO and PayNow Corporate separately with 2 different bank accounts owned by the company, the Corporate Income Tax refund will be credited to the GIRO bank account.

8. My company did not sign up GIRO but has registered for PayNow Corporate. Do I need to inform IRAS?

No, you do not need to inform IRAS. Any Corporate Income Tax refunds will be credited into your PayNow Corporate bank account under the UEN of your company. In the event that you have not registered for PayNow Corporate, an e-refund sign up reminder letter will be issued to your company.

For company without an UEN paying for Corporate Income Tax, please refer to Q19.

Please note that for PayNow Corporate, additional proxy can be created by adding 3-digit alpha numeric suffix to the UEN. E.g. UEN 201812345X, Suffix 0A1, Proxy will be 201812345X0A1. However, the Corporate Income Tax PayNow refund is attempted with the UEN without the suffix, E.g. 201812345X.

9. What is reflected on my bank statement after a successful E-Refund?

For GIRO refund, the transaction will be reflected in your bank statement as “ITX <Tax Reference Number>”.

For PayNow refund, the transaction will be reflected in your bank statement as “IRAS internal system number – CIT <Tax Reference Number>”.

10. What if my company does not have a GIRO arrangement with IRAS for Corporate Income Tax or GST nor a bank account registered for PayNow Corporate?

You will need to apply for GIRO or sign up for PayNow Corporate to receive your company tax refunds. Otherwise, your company’s Corporate Income Tax credit will be retained in the Corporate Income Tax account to offset future Corporate Income Tax liabilities.

11. Will there be any late refund interest payable by IRAS if I did not receive my company Corporate Income Tax refund due to unsuccessful GIRO arising from bank account closure or absence of a GIRO/PayNow set up?

No, IRAS will not be liable to pay any late refund interest to your company. An e-refund sign up reminder letter will be issued to your company to remind you to set up GIRO with IRAS or register for PayNow Corporate for your company.

12. My company GIRO arrangement with IRAS to pay Corporate Income Tax is a third party account. Will my company’s Corporate Income Tax refund be refunded to the GIRO bank account?

No, your company’s Corporate Income Tax credits will not be refunded to third parties. Instead, they will be refunded to your company via PayNow using the UEN of your company. The bank account linked to the UEN will receive the Corporate Income Tax refund.

For company without an UEN paying for Corporate Income Tax, please refer to Q19.

13. We are foreign registered companies and do not have any bank account in Singapore. How can we receive Corporate Income Tax refund from IRAS?

Companies without a Singapore bank account may request for Corporate Income Tax refunds to be made by Telegraphic Transfer (TT) to their overseas bank account via the TT request form under ‘Tax refunds via Telegraphic Transfer’ in <https://www.iras.gov.sg/quick-links/refunds>.

All costs incurred in relation to the TT refund shall be borne by the company.

14. My company has a bank account in Singapore but it is maintained in foreign currency (e.g. USD). Can my company’s Corporate Income Tax refund be made to this bank account?

Yes, Corporate Income Tax refund can be made by TT to a Singapore bank account maintained in foreign currency. Please submit a TT request form under ‘Tax refunds via Telegraphic Transfer’ in <https://www.iras.gov.sg/quick-links/refunds>.

All costs incurred in relation to the TT refund shall be borne by the company.

Others

15. What if I want to change my GIRO bank account?

You may submit a [new GIRO application form](#) and reapply for GIRO using the company's new bank account.

Please note that obtaining approval from banks for newly submitted GIRO application form takes time and any GIRO refund to the new bank account may take up to 30 days after the form is submitted.

16. What if I want to change my PayNow Corporate bank account?

You may re-register for PayNow Corporate by linking your company's new bank account to its UEN.

17. What happens if I close my bank account that is registered with Paynow Corporate or have a GIRO arrangement with IRAS for Corporate Income Tax or GST?

Any GIRO/PayNow refunds made to your company after the bank account is closed will be unsuccessful and a letter will be sent to your company to apply for e-refund.

To ensure that the Corporate Income Tax refunds due to your company can be received in a timely manner, please submit a [new GIRO application form](#) and reapply for GIRO using the company's new bank account, or register for PayNow Corporate by linking your company's new bank account to its UEN before you close the old bank account.

18. My company does not have any bank account. Can my company's Corporate Income Tax refund be made by GIRO/Paynow to a third party (e.g. Company's director)?

No. We are unable to refund Corporate Income Tax to third parties. Thus please open a Singapore bank account and sign up for GIRO with the new bank account or register with PayNow Corporate in order to receive your Corporate Income Tax refund. Corporate Income Tax credits that are not refunded will be retained in the Corporate Income Tax account and will be used to offset future Corporate Income Tax liabilities. Any balance Corporate Income Tax credit will be refunded after you sign up for GIRO or register for PayNow Corporate for your company. Please refer to <https://www.iras.gov.sg/quick-links/refunds> for information on circumstances where automatic tax refunds will not be made.

19. Can a non-UEN registered company register for Paynow Corporate?

No. Paynow Corporate is meant for Singapore entities registered with UEN.

You may sign up for GIRO for your company to receive the Corporate Income Tax refund electronically. If you do not intend to sign up for GIRO, please submit a request to receive your refund via direct credit by using the relevant form below.

For Singapore bank direct credit

- [Corppass Login \(for companies\)](#)
- [No Singpass/Corppass \(for taxpayers with no Singpass/Corppass\)](#)

For Overseas bank direct credit

- [Corppass Login \(for companies\)](#)
- [No Singpass/Corppass \(for taxpayers with no Singpass/Corppass\)](#)

Please note that IRAS does not refund to third party bank accounts. The bank account holder's name has to match the taxpayer's name.

20. How can I check if my company has registered for PayNow Corporate?

You may wish to approach your bank directly on this check as PayNow records are maintained by your bank.