

Overview of Stamp Duty

Frequently asked Questions relating to stamp duty	Answer
1. What is stamp duty?	Stamp duty is a tax on documents that effect a transfer of interest in any immovable property ("property") in Singapore, and any stock and shares.
2. Who should pay stamp duty?	<p>Check the terms of the document (e.g. tenancy agreement) to determine who is contractually required to pay the Stamp Duty. When the terms do not state who is liable, the party to pay Stamp Duty will follow that as specified in the Third Schedule of the Stamp Duties Act.</p> <p>For more information, please click here.</p>
3. When do I need to pay stamp duty?	<p>You are required to e-Stamp a document before you sign it. However, if you have signed a document and e-Stamped it within the following time frame, no penalty will be charged:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within 14 days after signing the document if it is signed in Singapore or 2. Within 30 days after receiving the document in Singapore if the document is signed overseas
4. Is there a Stamp Duty Calculator?	Click here to access our online Stamp duty Calculator.
5. How do I e-Stamp my document(s)?	<p>You can e-Stamp your documents easily through any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. e-Stamping portal 2. Service Bureaus (Designated SingPosts) 3. e-Terminals at IRAS Taxpayer and Business Service ("TBSC") <p>For more information, please click here.</p>
6. How can I pay stamp duty?	<p>Stamp duty can be paid by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. e-Nets (via e-Stamping portal) 2. Cheque (Payment slip and cheque at the cheque deposit box or at the service bureaus) 3. Nets (IRAS Taxpayer and Business Service) 4. Cash card (IRAS Taxpayer and Business Service) 5. Cashier's Order (Service Bureaus) 6. Electronic Fund Transfer <p>For more information, please click here.</p>
7. What happens if I am late for stamping?	<p>If you e-Stamp beyond the deadline prior to any audit checks by IRAS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum penalty of \$10 or 5% per annum calculated on a daily basis on the stamp duty payable, whichever is greater, will be imposed on a document that is stamped within 3 months from the due date. 2. A minimum penalty of \$25 or 5% per annum calculated on a daily basis on the stamp duty payable, whichever is

	<p>greater, will be imposed on a document that is stamped after 3 months from the due date.</p> <p>For more information on the IRAS Voluntary Disclosure Programme for Stamp duty, please click here.</p>
8. Can the contracting parties change the date of instrument to avoid paying higher duty?	<p>Evading or paying less stamp duty by executing an instrument where facts and circumstances are not fully and truly set forth is an offence under Section 62 of the Stamp Duties Act.</p> <p>Any person guilty of such an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term of up to 3 years or to both.</p>
9. Can I request for a waiver of late stamping penalty?	Late stamping penalties cannot be waived.
10. Are there any nominal duties that are payable?	<p>Nominal and fixed duties are duties imposed on documents that are in relation to a document liable for full stamp duty.</p> <p>Pursuant to Budget 2011, all nominal and fixed duties except for Declaration of Trust, have been removed.</p>
11. Where can I find the Stamp Duties Act?	You may wish to view the soft copy of the Stamp Duties Act from Singapore Statutes Website .
12. How do I go about applying for a refund of stamp duty?	<p>You may apply for a refund via the e-Stamping Portal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Login with SingPass or CorpPass ID 2. Select "Requests" 3. Select "Apply for Refund" 4. Complete the electronic form 5. Click "Submit" <p>Majority of refund applications are processed within 1 month.</p>
13. Do I have to include Goods and Services Tax (GST) when I compute stamp duty?	The GST should be excluded when computing stamp duty.
14. If the consideration paid is denoted in foreign currencies, which currency should I use for computation purposes?	Computation is based on the Singapore Dollars equivalent of the foreign currencies as at the date of the agreement. You may choose to use the exchange rate from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS).
15. Is exemption of stamp duty applicable for foreign embassy?	Please apply directly to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) for the exemption of stamp duty for foreign embassy. For more information, please click here .
16. Is exemption of stamp duty applicable to documents signed by Government?	<p>Stamp duty will only be exempted on documents executed by the Government of Singapore provided the government is liable for the stamp fees.</p> <p>Government bodies refer to Ministries only, and exclude Statutory boards.</p>