# KEY FACTS

### OVERVIEW

- Important gateway to the emerging economies of Southeast Asia.
- Independent state with a stable political structure, a well-established legal system based on English common law and a strong economy.
- Pro-business environment.
- Singapore has committed to complying with Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) guidelines and is part of their 'white list'.

## TAXATION

- Singapore resident companies can benefit from a broad treaty network of more than 70 double taxation agreements in force.
- Singapore resident companies are generally entitled to income tax exemptions on foreign-sourced dividends, foreign branch profits, and foreign-sourced service income subject to meeting certain criteria.
- No capital gains tax.
- Corporate tax rate is a flat 17% with a lower effective tax rate due to available applicable tax exemptions and incentives.
- Taxation of income in Singapore is assessed on a territorial and remittance basis; only income accrued in or derived from Singapore, or income derived overseas but received in Singapore, is subject to tax.
- All foreign source income received by individuals in Singapore is tax exempt.
- No estate duty.

### COMPANIES

Companies can be incorporated under the Singapore Companies Act as private or public, limited by shares, by guarantee or unlimited. A Singapore company may be deemed resident or non-resident depending on its place of central management and control.

### **Highlights**

- Suffixes to denote limited liability: "Private Limited" or "Pte Ltd" for privately held companies.
- No public disclosure of beneficial ownership information.
  - Only shareholder information is public. Trident Trust Singapore can provide nominee shareholder and trustee services.



KEY FACTS

- No object clauses required in the Memorandum of Association.
- Minimum issued share capital: one share of \$1.00 in any currency.
- Name check is free for up to three names.
- Processing time: one day upon receipt of all due diligence documents, Company Establishment Form and payment of fees and security deposit (where applicable).
- Commencement of business: immediately upon notification of incorporation from the Registry.
  - Companies with restricted business activities may need to obtain licence(s) or approval(s) from the relevant Regulatory Authorities prior to commencement of business.

# **Statutory Requirements**

- Minimum of one resident individual Director.
- Minimum of one resident individual Secretary.
- Minimum of one Shareholder (corporation or individual).
  - 100% foreign ownership is allowed.
- · Local registered office required.
- · Board meetings can be conducted anywhere in the world.
- Annual accounts in compliance with the Singapore financial reporting standards.
- Requirement to file accounts.
- · Requirement to file annual return.
- Requirement for audit but there are exemptions
  - Dormant companies with no accounting transactions for the financial year in question or which have not commenced business since incorporation; or
  - Small private companies\* which fulfil at least two of the following criteria, regardless of its shareholding structure: (i) total annual revenue of not more than \$\$10 million; (ii) total assets of not more than \$\$10 million; or (iii) number of employees of not more than 50.
- Requirement to file tax return with the Singapore tax authority.
- · Change in domicile is not permitted.

Please contact any Trident Trust office worldwide for further information about our services and fees. Office contact details are included on the following page.

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<sup>\*</sup>A subsidiary or holding company may only qualify as a small company if it is a small company itself and if the group qualifies under the "small company" criteria on a consolidated basis. Where the holding company is a foreign company that does not prepare consolidated financial statements, the consolidated total assets should be determined by the aggregation of the total assets of all the members of the group, and the consolidated revenue should be determined by the aggregated revenue of all the members of the group.



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