

Data Protection Essentials (DPE)

Service information sheet. Cybersecurity, IT and Data Protection. Information checked 11 October 2026.

In brief

Data Protection Essentials (DPE) is an IMDA programme that helps SMEs put basic data protection and security practices in place. The one-stop service and DPE logo come through IMDA-listed DPE service providers. ICFC offers training and consultation to help you prepare and to build toward the Data Protection Trustmark.

What it is

Data Protection Essentials is an IMDA programme that helps SMEs adopt basic data protection and security practices and recover quickly from data breaches. SMEs that complete the one-stop professional service with an IMDA-listed provider and sign a minimum one-year retainer are listed by IMDA and awarded the DPE logo, subject to IMDA's terms.

Who it is for

SMEs registered and operating in Singapore with group annual sales up to S\$100 million or up to 200 employees, that want a practical starting point before the DPTM.

Our role

ICFC provides training and consultation that prepares you for DPE and the DPTM. The DPE one-stop service and the DPE logo are delivered by IMDA-listed DPE service providers. For information on whether ICFC is on IMDA's DPTM consultancy reference list or is an IMDA-listed DPE service provider, please email us through the contact form.

How ICFC helps

Service	What we offer
Audit	How assessment works: DPE is not an audited certification. The one-stop DPE professional service and the DPE logo are delivered through IMDA-listed DPE service providers. ICFC supports you with training and consultation.
Consulting	Funding: We explain the current IMDA and NCSS routes and what each requires before you commit. Non-grant: A fixed-scope engagement: gap assessment, documentation, implementation coaching, internal audit and management review, and support through the formal audit or assessment. How we work: Practical, proportionate systems that your staff can run after we leave.
Training	Classroom: Public and in-house classroom courses on Data Protection Essentials: awareness, implementation and internal auditor levels. Online LMS: Self-paced and live-online courses on the ICFC Digital LMS, with progress tracking and certificates of completion. Funding: Funding depends on each course's approval status, shown on the course page in the LMS.

Funding

IMDA programme, no current grant shown. IMDA's page describes a fixed S\$1,600 grant for DPE implementations completed before 31 March 2024; no current grant is shown. Eligible charities and social service agencies may apply to NCSS Tech-and-GO!. Check IMDA before you plan on funding.

Impartiality

Impartiality comes first. Every engagement begins with a conflict-of-interest check. We keep consulting and auditing roles separate, and our auditors never audit, on behalf of a certification body, an organisation that ICFC has consulted on the same scope within the period set by that body.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Is DPE a certification?

A. No. It is an IMDA programme. SMEs that complete the one-stop service and retainer with a listed provider are listed by IMDA and awarded the DPE logo, subject to IMDA's terms.

Q. Is there still an IMDA grant for DPE?

A. IMDA's page describes a fixed S\$1,600 grant for implementations completed before 31 March 2024. No current grant is shown, so check IMDA before you plan on one.

Q. Does DPE make us PDPA compliant?

A. IMDA states that implementing DPE does not mean an organisation is fully compliant with the PDPA. It is a strong baseline.

Q. Should we do DPE or DPTM?

A. Smaller organisations often start with DPE and move to DPTM as data volumes or customer expectations grow.

Related services

- Data Protection Trustmark (DPTM) SS 714
 - CSA Cyber Essentials mark
 - ISO/IEC 27701 Privacy Information Management System (PIMS)
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Talk to us

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