

Global and APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) System

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

In brief

The Global and APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) certification shows that a data controller protects personal data when it moves across borders. In Singapore, IMDA is the Accountability Agent and certifies organisations after an assessment by an appointed body. ICFC prepares you for that assessment.

What it is

CBPR is a voluntary, enforceable certification for organisations that control personal data moving across borders. The Global CBPR System launched on 2 June 2025 alongside the APEC system; IMDA certifies Singapore organisations using appointed assessment bodies.

Who it is for

Data controllers that transfer personal data between Singapore and other participating economies.

How ICFC helps

Service	What we offer
Audit	Third-party assessments: Certification is awarded under the scheme run by IMDA as Singapore's recognised Accountability Agent. Where appointed, our auditors carry out assessments on behalf of the certification body; the certificate or mark is never issued by ICFC. Second-party audits: Supplier and partner checks against the scheme requirements, on behalf of your organisation. Readiness and internal audits: A pre-assessment that shows exactly what the formal assessment will look for, with a prioritised action list.
Consulting	Funding: We explain which scheme, if any, applies and what it 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 CBPR: 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 scheme, check funding. IMDA indicates that funding support may be available for part of the consultancy and certification costs. Check the IMDA information kit and Enterprise Singapore before you apply.

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. What is the difference between CBPR and PRP?

A. CBPR is for organisations that control personal data. PRP is for processors that handle data on behalf of controllers.

Q. What is Global CBPR?

A. A certification run by the Global CBPR Forum that extends the APEC system beyond APEC. Organisations already APEC CBPR certified are recognised under the global system.

Q. Which economies take part?

A. Members of the Global CBPR Forum include Singapore, the United States, Japan, Korea, Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines and Chinese Taipei.

Q. Does CBPR replace PDPA compliance?

A. No. It adds an internationally recognised layer for cross-border transfers on top of your PDPA obligations.

Related services

- Global and APEC Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP)
 - Data Protection Trustmark (DPTM) SS 714
 - ISO/IEC 27701 Privacy Information Management System (PIMS)
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Talk to us

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