



ACCREDITATION SCHEME

FOR

STOREFRONT BUSINESSES

INFORMATION & APPLICATION KIT

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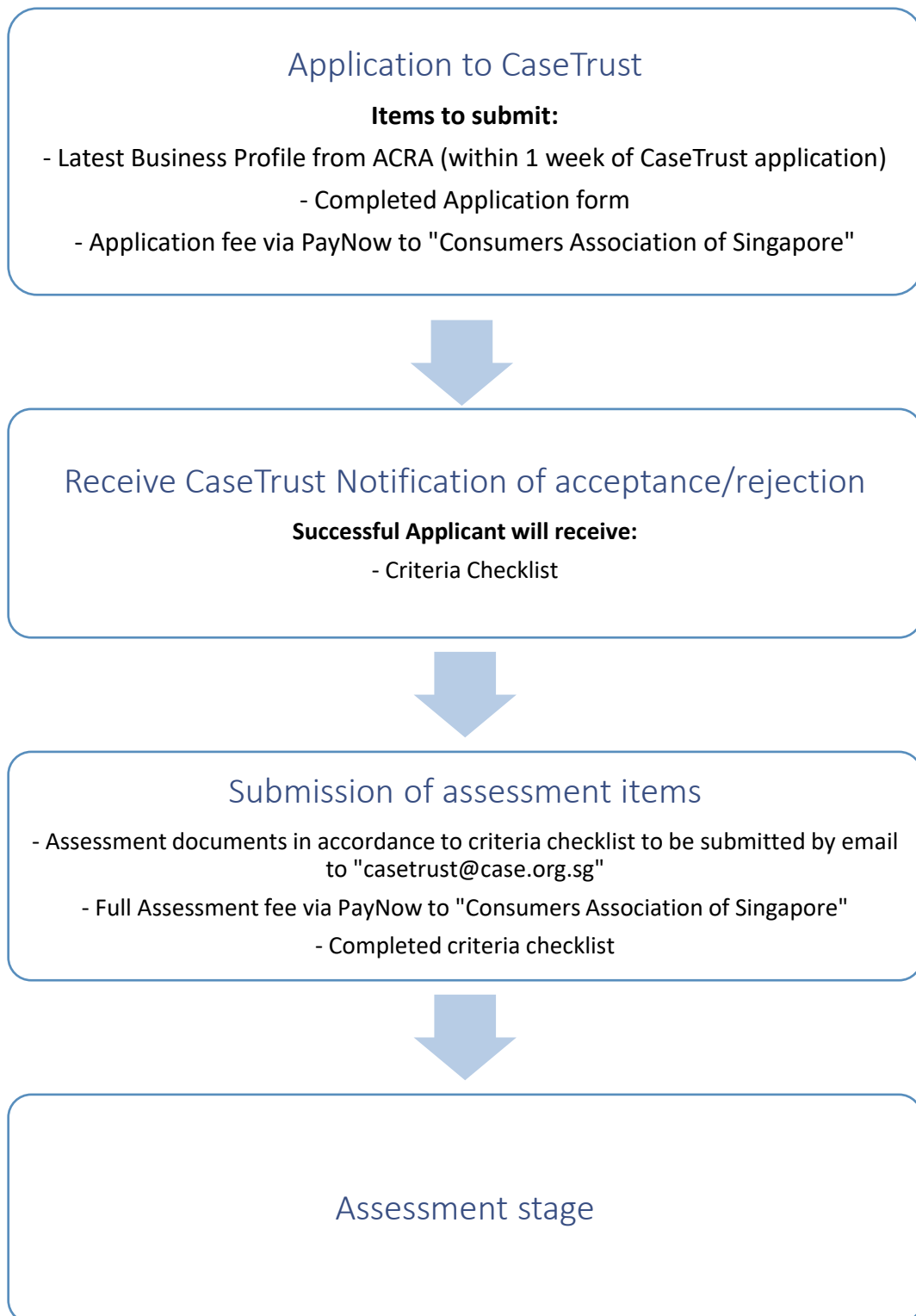
Introduction

The CaseTrust Accreditation Scheme for Storefront Businesses was developed by CaseTrust, the accreditation arm of the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE), for the retail and service industry.

Under this scheme, the businesses are audited under a set of stringent and comprehensive criteria, covering the aspects of proper store policies, ethical advertising and proper dispute resolution procedures, staff capabilities as well as training.

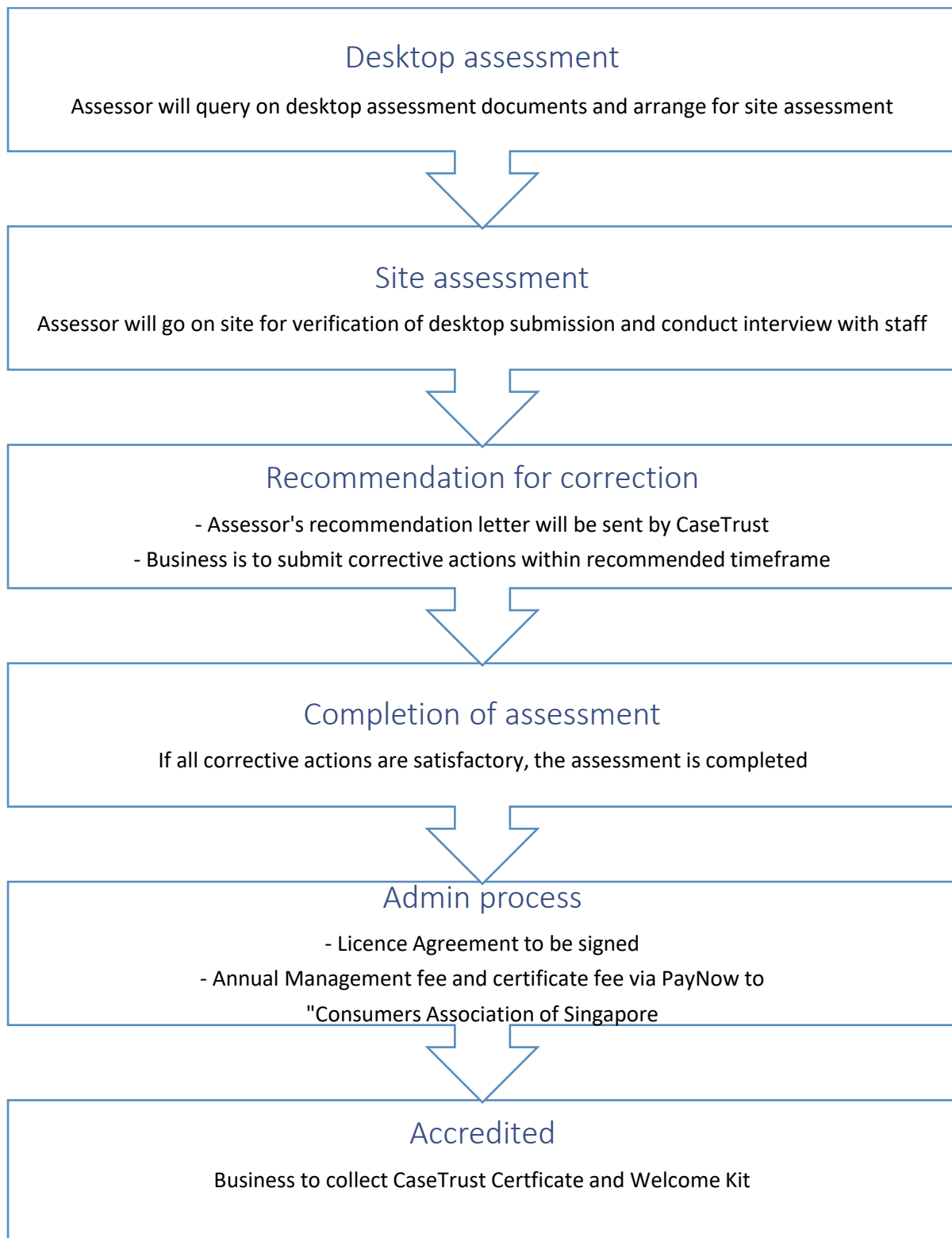
Businesses who qualify to obtain the CaseTrust accreditation will be able to display the CaseTrust logo on their shop fronts and marketing materials as an outward sign of their commitment to fair trading. For consumers, this is assurance that these businesses have good sales/after-sales service, business integrity, well-trained staff and well-maintained retail facilities.

CaseTrust Application Stages



Note: The application will be considered Null & Void if complete set of required assessment items are not submitted within 6 months from date of application.

CaseTrust Assessment Stages



Note: It will take around 3-4 months from the date applicant commences the assessment stage (through submission of all required assessment items) to complete the accreditation assessment process.

CaseTrust Criteria for Storefront Businesses

The full criteria checklist, incorporating assessment elements and document checklists, will be made available to businesses upon submission of the CaseTrust application form and application fee.

Policies	
Goods & Services	
A1	My business offers goods and services of satisfactory quality as defined in the Sales of Goods Act S14 (2), Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act and Lemon Law.
Terms & Conditions of Sales	
A2	My business clearly states the terms and conditions of any warranties or service guarantees to protect customers against product defects and non-performance.
A3	My business has an exchange and refund policy clearly stipulating the time frame and conditions for any exchange and refund.
A4	My business clearly states the terms and conditions for any deposits paid should the transaction be cancelled.
A5	My business clearly states the terms and conditions applicable to the redemption of vouchers.
Pricing & Payment	
A6	My business is committed to display discounted prices clearly.
A7	My business clearly states the payment methods and channels available to customers.
A8	My business is committed to avoid over or under-charging and to ensure correct change is given.
A9	My business clearly states any delivery and/or shipping charges incurred.
A10	My business clearly states any additional charges for extra services such as alterations, repairs, gift- wrapping and express delivery.
Security	
A11	My business is committed to maintain the confidentiality of customer data.

Communication

External Communication

B1	My business provides effective mode(s) of communication for customers.
B2	My business has a system in place to inform CaseTrust in writing of any change 7 days before implementation; including policies, ACRA business profile, ownership of the business, contact person for CaseTrust, addition/cessation of branches, change of business contacts information etc.

Advertising & Promotion

B3	<u>Accuracy of Information</u> My business ensures that all goods and services are accurately described and portrayed in all marketing communications.
B4	<u>Adequacy of Information</u> My business ensures that its marketing communications include sufficient details on prices, quality, availability and terms of sales.
B5	My business sells what is advertised and promoted.
B6	My business maintains a sufficient stocks for all promotional items.
B7	My business clearly states the period for which promotions are valid.
B8	My business clearly spells out details of the mechanism for any lucky draw, free merchandise/service, and/or contest.

Practices & Systems

Retailing

C1	<u>Deposit/Reservations</u> a. My business provides customers with receipts to acknowledge payment of deposits or reservation charges. b. Receipts for deposits and reservations have full detailed information.
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C2	<p><u>Proof of Purchase</u></p> <p>a. My business issues receipt/ sale slips to customer with details of the purchases of the goods/ services provided.</p> <p>b. The receipt and sales slip reflect relevant detailed information.</p>
C3	<p><u>Exchange and Refund</u></p> <p>My business honours our exchange and refund policies promptly within the stipulated time frame and conditions.</p>
C4	<p><u>Delivery</u></p> <p>a. My business provides delivery forms.</p> <p>b. Delivery forms show full detailed information. My business gets customer’s signature acknowledging receipt of delivery. A copy of the delivery form is given to the customer.</p> <p>c. My business keeps customer updated on the status of their deliveries should the need arise.</p>
Feedback Management	
C5	My business has a system to document complaint cases and has a complaints resolution procedure.
C6	My business informs complainants of the status of the complaint investigation.
C7	My business resolves complaints within a maximum of 21 days upon receipt of complaint.
C8	My business informs customers of alternative forms of redress should the business be unable to resolve the complaint within the time frame, E.g. CASE Mediation Centre.
Security	
C9	My business has a system to keep all customers’ particulars confidential.
Goods & Services	
C10	My business has a system for ensuring the quality of products and services offered for sale. Goods and services offered are fit for consumption and not past expiry date.

Personnel

Performance

D1 My business ensures that customer support and service staff do not practice any unethical sales tactics.

Knowledge

D2 My business ensures staff is able to provide accurate, timely and comprehensive product and service information to customers and to perform service to the expected levels.

Fee Structure

(Fees are inclusive of GST)

	Small Business Sales Turnover < S\$1M	Medium Business Sales Turnover S\$1M – S\$15M	Large Business Sales Turnover > S\$15M
Application	S\$216.00	S\$216.00	S\$216.00
*Full Assessment	S\$734.40	S\$1,836.00	S\$2,700.00
**Interim Assessment	S\$367.20	S\$918.00	S\$1,350.00
Annual Management	S\$648.00	S\$1,296.00	S\$2,160.00

Note: As evidence of sales turnover, latest Tax Return form B, C or C-S which was submitted to IRAS is required.

Other Charges

(Fees are inclusive of GST)

	Fee
Certificate printing	Complimentary
Additional Certificate printing	S\$16.20
Mediation at CASE Mediation Centre	Complimentary
CaseTrust decal	S\$2.16

Fee breakdown Illustration

Small Storefront Business Accreditation Over 4 Years

(Fees are inclusive of GST)

	Preliminary	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Application	S\$216	-	-	-	-
*Full Assessment	S\$734.40	-	-	-	-
**Interim Site Assessment (Storefront)	-	-	-	S\$367.20	-
Annual Management	-	S\$648	S\$648	S\$648	S\$648
Total	S\$950.40	S\$648	S\$648	S\$1,015.20	S\$648

Medium Storefront Business Accreditation Over 4 Years

(Fees are inclusive of GST)

	Preliminary	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Application	S\$216	-	-	-	-
*Full Assessment	S\$1,836	-	-	-	-
**Interim Site Assessment (Storefront)	-	-	-	S\$918	-
Annual Management	-	S\$1,296	S\$1,296	S\$1,296	S\$1,296
Total	S\$2,052	S\$1,296	S\$1,296	S\$2,214	S\$1,296

Large Storefront Business Accreditation Over 4 Years

(Fees are inclusive of GST)

	Preliminary	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Application	S\$216	-	-	-	-
*Full Assessment	S\$2,700	-	-	-	-
**Interim Site Assessment (Storefront)	-	-	-	S\$1,350	-
Annual Management	-	S\$2,160	S\$2,160	S\$2,160	S\$2,160
Total	S\$2,916	S\$2,160	S\$2,160	S\$3,510	S\$2,160

Important Note

1. Fees are inclusive of the prevailing GST rate and are subject to change, depending on economic situation and discretion of the CaseTrust department.
2. *Full-term assessment (Desktop & Site) is conducted every four (4) years.
3. **Interim assessment (Site only) is conducted on the third (3rd) year of every accreditation cycle.
4. Application fee is to be paid together with submission of application form. Full assessment fee is to be paid at the submission of desktop assessment documents.
5. The application will be considered NULL & VOID if:
 - a. Documents and fee for assessment are not submitted within 6 months from date of application.
 - b. The Applicant failed to obtain CaseTrust accreditation within the period of 1 year from date of application.
6. The Applicant must go through the full assessment first, and the interim assessment after 2 years.
 - a. CASE reserves the right to perform more than one interim assessment during the 4 years period.
7. If the Applicant does not pass the assessment, a re-assessment fee equivalent to the full assessment fee must be paid.
8. The annual management fee is payable only after the Applicant passes the assessment process.
9. Below are the cancellation fees in the event the Applicant cancels its application under the following circumstances:
 - a. Application fee is strictly non-refundable.
 - b. Assessment fees are refundable if withdrawal request is made within 3 days from the submission of assessment items.
 - c. If withdrawal request is made after 3 days from submission of assessment items, but at least 4 days before commencement of site assessment, 50% of the assessment fees will be refundable.
 - d. Assessment fees are strictly non-refundable if withdrawal request is made less than 4 days before site assessment.

Application Terms and Conditions

Application

1. The Applicant is bound by the Terms and Conditions herein and such variations, which may from time to time, be made by the CaseTrust department; and upon submission of their application to the CaseTrust department.
2. The Applicant must not have five (5) or more complaints with breaches of the Consumer Protection Fair Trading Act (CPFTA) lodged against it, and must have a clean track record with CASE and relevant authorities (within a period of 12 months before the date of application) in order to qualify for the accreditation scheme.
3. Businesses with different ACRA numbers are considered separate entities, even if they are under the same holding company. Separate applications will be required.
4. An application for CaseTrust accreditation must be accompanied by:
 - a. Completed application form as prescribed, together with any supporting documents required
 - b. Application fee
5. The application fee herein will not be refunded if the Applicant fails to qualify for assessment for any reason whatsoever.
6. If the Applicant fails the prescribed assessment conducted, the Applicant may be given a further opportunity to apply for re-assessment so long as the Applicant does not exceed 2 further assessments. All assessment fees, if any, must be paid by the Applicant.
7. The Applicant may ask for a review of the assessment with reasons. Upon receipt of the review fee, the Applicant's request will be considered by the CaseTrust department. Such review will be allowed at the discretion of the CaseTrust department and will be final. This review fee will be refunded if the review is found in the Applicant's favour.
8. Where there is a need for the Applicant to engage a consultancy firm, the Applicant will liaise directly with such consultant(s) and the appropriate fees paid to the consultancy firm for their services. Such consultants and consultancy firms are independent third parties and are not endorsed by either CASE or the CaseTrust department. CASE and the CaseTrust department will under no circumstance be liable for any advice rendered by such consultancy firms.
9. Applicants whose desktop submission is insufficient as determined by the assessor, will have to submit the corrective actions within 2 months from the date of notification. Failing which, the Applicant is deemed to have failed the desktop assessment.
10. Applicants who pass the desktop assessment but subsequently fail the site assessment are deemed to have failed the assessment.

Accreditation Details

11. Accreditation for the Scheme will be for a period of 4 years, renewable subject to the assessment, investigation results, feedback from the public i.e. complaints if any, and other relevant factors. The CaseTrust department reserves the right to revoke or not renew the accreditation should businesses fail to adhere to the standards set by the CaseTrust department.
12. Businesses who make changes to its ownership/partnership/directorship after obtaining accreditation may be subjected to re-assessment and have to furnish CASE with a deed of assignment. This assessment shall be independent of other assessments that the business is scheduled to undertake.

Standards

13. Businesses are required to maintain the CaseTrust standards as stated, among other things, in the assessment criteria provided. The criteria may be revised from time to time and the businesses must be so bound by such.
14. Upon acceptance of accreditation, store-based retailers are required to display their policies clearly in their stores or such policies must be easily accessible to consumers.
15. Businesses are required to comply with all government laws, rules, and regulations at all times. Should the accredited businesses be found to be in breach of such laws, rules, and regulations, the accredited business has been made aware of the CaseTrust department's empowerment to suspend, expel, or blacklist, either singly or jointly, depending on the severity of the non-compliance, or by any other appropriate means.
16. Businesses must have a criterion to deal with complaints and a dispute resolution programme in place and, which is transparent and known to consumers. If the consumer who has a dispute with a CaseTrust accredited business requests for mediation at CASE Mediation Centre, the CaseTrust accredited business must attend the mediation session arranged by CASE.
17. In order to uphold the standards, which may be updated from time to time, set by CaseTrust, all businesses shall adhere to the Code of Practice and abide by penalties imposed upon breach/infringement of the Code of Practice.

Conditions Precedent

18. Businesses should allow CaseTrust representatives into their premises for auditing and/or investigation purposes, whether notified or not.
19. The business agrees to indemnify and keep CASE, its directors, employees, officers, agents or representatives) fully and effectively indemnified against any and all actions, liabilities, cost, claims (including third party), losses, damages, proceedings and/or expenses (including all

legal costs on an indemnity basis) arising from or in connection with the business's application for CaseTrust accreditation scheme.

Audit/Investigation

20. The business has been made aware of the CaseTrust department's empowerment to deal with breach/infringement of the Code of Practice. Businesses who commit a breach/infringement shall be suspended, expelled or blacklisted, either singly or jointly, depending on the severity of the breach/infringement, or by any other appropriate means.
21. Businesses are required to undergo an interim assessment before being lifted from suspension orders.

Termination

22. Upon termination and expiry of CaseTrust accreditation scheme, all CaseTrust related materials including the CaseTrust decal must be returned to CASE office within 7 days, and such materials and such decals should not be used in any manner whatsoever by the businesses before its return.
23. The CaseTrust department reserves the right to revoke accreditation should businesses fail to adhere to the licence agreement or breach the Terms and Conditions herein, or for whatsoever reasons, as the CaseTrust Department deems fit.

Application Form

CaseTrust Accreditation Scheme for Storefront Businesses



Instructions

- You can submit your application online via our website www.casetrust.org.sg or simply by clicking [here](#). **Otherwise**, you can fill in the form below and send to CaseTrust office.
- Please type or write clearly using black or blue ink.
- Where not applicable, please fill in the blanks as NA.
- Please note that blank answers may result in processing delay.
- Attach separate sheets if space provided is insufficient.
- ^ Delete where appropriate

Particulars of your business

Name of Business:

Address (mailing):

Tel:

Fax:

Website:

Email:

ACRA Registration no.:

Date of Registration:

Has your business or any of your Directors/Partners/Owners ever been rejected, suspended or removed from any accreditation scheme, including but not limited to this Scheme? ^ **YES / NO**
Please provide details (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Has your business or any of your Directors/Partners/Owners ever been convicted of any criminal offence or infringed any regulatory requirements? ^ **YES / NO**
Please provide details (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Optional - Only if you are engaging a consultant for CaseTrust Assessment

Name of Consultancy Business:

Name of consultant(s):

Tel:

Tel (alternative):

Email:

Contact Particulars

Name of Director/Owner: ^Dr/Mr/Mrs/Mdm/Ms

Designation of Director/Owner:

Name of Contact Person for CaseTrust: ^Dr/Mr/Mrs/Mdm/Ms

Designation of Contact Person for CaseTrust:

Tel:

Email:

Size of Business

- Small – Sales Turnover less than S\$1M
- Medium – Sales Turnover between S\$1M and S\$15M
- Large – Sales Turnover more than S\$15M

Nature of Business

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apparels | <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture/furnishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books, Stationery, Hobbies, Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Pets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department Store / Supermarket | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Appliances | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | Type: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Beverages | <input type="checkbox"/> Others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral | please specify: _____ |

If Business is a subsidiary of a Holding Company

Name of Holding Company:

Address:

Tel:

Tel (alternative):

Email:

Fax:

Declaration

I / We declare that:

- All the information given is accurate and truthful.
- I have read and understood the Information & Application Kit and agree to the Terms and Conditions.

Director/Owner **Signature:**

Director/**Owner Name:**

Designation:

Date:

Particulars of the outlets

Total number of outlets:

Outlet Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Number of staff:

Size of Outlet (sq m):

Outlet Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Number of staff:

Size of Outlet (sq m):

Outlet Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Number of staff:

Size of Outlet (sq m):

Outlet Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Number of staff:

Size of Outlet (sq m):

Outlet Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Number of staff:

Size of Outlet (sq m):

Please make copies if business have more than 5 outlets.

CaseTrust Application Submission Checklist

- CaseTrust Application Form / [Online Submission](#)
- Latest Tax Return Form B, C or C-S which was submitted to IRAS is required
- [Business Profile from ACRA](#) (within one (1) week of CaseTrust application)
- Application Fee of \$216 can be made by PayNow to '**Consumers Association of Singapore**'.

PayNow Instructions

1. PayNow is to be made to UEN: S71SS0016L, Consumers Association of Singapore
2. Within the field, <Transfer Details> please indicate your business name
3. Send a screen shot of the successful payment page to this email casetrust@case.org.sg

Please send your application documents to:

CaseTrust Department
Consumers Association of Singapore
170 Ghim Moh Road
#05-01 Ulu Pandan Community Building
Singapore 279621

Thank you for your interest in CaseTrust.

You are a step closer to be recognised as a reliable company that consumers can count on.

We look forward to having you on board.