



**AGC COMPLETES UNIVERSAL REVISION OF ACTS –
2020 REVISED EDITION TO TAKE EFFECT
FROM 31 DECEMBER 2021**

The Law Revision Commission and the Attorney-General's Chambers (“AGC”) have completed a universal revision of Singapore's Acts of Parliament. The 2020 Revised Edition of Acts will come into force on 31 December 2021.

2 The 2020 Revised Edition comprises more than 500 Acts of Parliament, which have been revised and updated to 1 December 2021. When published, it will be the sole and only proper Statute Book of Singapore with respect to the Acts contained in it. All revised Acts will be accessible at [Singapore Statutes Online](#) and in hard copy.

3 The revisions to the Acts include several new and improved features:

i *Simplified and modernised language*

Plain English is used as far as possible, including gender-neutral language where appropriate. Archaic words and long expressions are replaced with simpler alternatives without any change in meaning. Please refer to Annex A for an example.

ii *Streamlined and more informative citations*

The short title of a revised Act now includes the year the Act was enacted, while Chapter numbers are no longer required. This allows users to distinguish Acts that have been repealed and re-enacted from earlier Acts with the same title, and will give some historical context to the Act. Please refer to Annex B for examples.

iii *Comprehensive legislative history*

A legislative history continues to be provided for every revised Act but with additional information about the progress of the Bill through

Parliament, amendments made to the Act over time, any consolidations during revision exercises, any changes to the short title, among other details. Diagrams are provided for Acts with complex legislative histories. Information on predecessor Acts which were repealed is also included. Please refer to Annex C for an example.

4 The 2020 Revised Edition marks the completion of a project that started more than 5 years ago. The genesis of it was the Plain Laws Understandable by Singaporeans (“PLUS”) project that started in 2013. AGC’s Legislation Division has since embarked on various initiatives to transform how it writes new legislation to ensure that the law will be effective, navigable and readable to all its readers, and not just judges and lawyers. Revising the existing stock of Acts to simplify the language is in line with that spirit of keeping Singapore laws accessible.

5 The last universal revision of Acts was the 1985 Revised Edition of Acts, which came into force in 1987.

6 AGC’s Chief Legislative Counsel, Ms Jeanne Lee, said, “The 2020 Revised Edition is a significant undertaking that took a number of years to complete due to the large number of Acts. The project started life as part of the PLUS initiative. The size of our statute book has more than tripled since the last universal revision of Acts - we now have 512 Acts comprising almost 27,000 pages compared with 387 Acts comprising approximately 8,000 pages in the 1985 Revised Edition. Revising the Acts gave us a better appreciation of our unique heritage and history as we have laws from the colonial era, laws from the Straits Settlements government, laws from India and Malaysia, and English law that applies to Singapore, as well as laws made by our own Parliament. The challenge was to strike a balance between updating the Acts, while respecting our heritage, and making the laws plainer while not changing their meaning. The revision reflects AGC’s commitment to clear, readable, and easily understood legislation. We hope that users of Singapore legislation will find these improvements helpful.”

7 Please refer to Annex D and Annex E for more details on the 2020 Revised Edition of Acts.

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL’S CHAMBERS
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Annex A

Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992

PART ~~2~~H

CONFISCATION OF BENEFITS OF DRUG DEALING OR
CRIMINAL CONDUCT

[21/2014]

Confiscation orders

~~6.4.~~6.4.—(1) Subject to section ~~27~~30, where a defendant is convicted of one or more drug dealing offences, the court ~~shall~~must, ~~on the~~ application of the Public Prosecutor, make a confiscation order against the defendant in respect of benefits derived by ~~him~~the defendant from drug dealing if the court is satisfied that ~~such~~those benefits have been so derived.

[21/2014]

(2) If the court is satisfied that benefits have been derived by the defendant from drug dealing, the court ~~shall~~must, at any time after sentencing or otherwise dealing with ~~him~~the defendant in respect of the offence or, ~~as the case may be,~~ any of the offences concerned; ~~(as~~ the case may be), determine in accordance with section ~~10~~13 the amount to be recovered in ~~his~~the defendant's case by virtue of this section.

[~~25/99;~~ 21/2014]

Replacing “shall”

Other editorial changes to simplify the language

Gender-neutral language

Annex B

What to expect in the 2020 Revised Edition of Acts

Act	Before and After 2020 Revised Edition of Acts
Penal Code	<u>Before</u> : This Act shall be called the Penal Code. (2008 Revised Edition)
	<u>After</u> : This Act is the Penal Code 1871.
Women's Charter	<u>Before</u> : This Act may be cited as the Women's Charter. (2009 Revised Edition)
	<u>After</u> : This is the Women's Charter 1961.
POFMA	<u>Before</u> : This Act is the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019 ... (Act 18 of 2019)
	<u>After</u> : This Act is the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019.

Annex C

Criminal Procedural Code

Existing	2020 Revised Edition of Acts			
<p style="text-align: center;">LEGISLATIVE HISTORY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE (CHAPTER 68)</p> <p>This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Criminal Procedure Code. It is not part of the Code.</p> <p>1. Act 15 of 2010—Criminal Procedure Code 2010</p> <p>Date of First Reading : 26 April 2010 (Bill No. 11/2010 published on 26 April 2010)</p> <p>Date of Second and Third Readings : 19 May 2010</p> <p>Date of commencement : 2 January 2011</p> <p><i>Note: The Criminal Procedure Code 2010 repealed and re-enacted with amendments the Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 68, 1985 Revised Edition).</i></p> <p>2. Act 3 of 2011—Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 2011 (Consequential amendments made to Act by)</p> <p>Date of First Reading : 22 November 2010 (Bill No. 35/2010 published on 22 November 2010)</p> <p>Date of Second and Third Readings : 10 January 2011</p> <p>Date of commencement : 20 July 2011</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE (CHAPTER 68)</p> <p>This Legislative History is a service provided by the Law Revision Commission on a best-efforts basis. It is not part of the Act.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pictorial Overview of Predecessor Acts</u></p> <div style="text-align: center;"><table border="1" style="margin: auto;"><tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Part 1 Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 21, 1936 Revised Edition)</td><td style="padding: 5px;">Part 2 Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 68, 1985 Revised Edition)</td><td style="padding: 5px;">Part 3 Criminal Procedure Code 2010 (2020 Revised Edition)</td></tr></table></div> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Legislative History Details</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">PART 1 CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE (CHAPTER 21, 1936 REVISED EDITION)</p> <p>1. Ordinance V of 1870 — Criminal Procedure Ordinance, 1870</p> <p>Bill : S.S.G.G. No. 22/1870</p> <p>First Reading : 23 May 1870</p> <p>Second Reading : 25 May 1870</p> <p>Notice of Amendments : 27 June 1870</p> <p>Third Reading : 27 June 1870</p> <p>Commencement : 27 June 1870 (passed)</p> <p>2. Ordinance VI of 1873 — The Criminal Procedure Ordinance, 1873</p> <p>Bill : Information not available</p> <p>First Reading : 4 June 1873</p> <p>Second Reading : 28 July 1873</p> <p>Notice of Amendments : 2 September 1873</p> <p>Third Reading : 9 September 1873</p> <p>Commencement : 9 September 1873 (passed)</p>	Part 1 Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 21, 1936 Revised Edition)	Part 2 Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 68, 1985 Revised Edition)	Part 3 Criminal Procedure Code 2010 (2020 Revised Edition)
Part 1 Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 21, 1936 Revised Edition)	Part 2 Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 68, 1985 Revised Edition)	Part 3 Criminal Procedure Code 2010 (2020 Revised Edition)		

Annex D



The New 2020 Revised Edition of Acts

Over 500 Acts in the Singapore Statute Book are revised.
The Acts are updated to 1 December 2021.

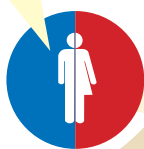
SIMPLIFIED LANGUAGE

Language in most Acts is simplified and modernised.
The revisions do not change the meaning of the legislation.

Gender-neutral language

e.g. "chairperson"
instead of "chairman"

"him or her"
instead of just "him"



Archaic words and long expressions simplified

e.g. "Despite" instead of
"Notwithstanding"

"To avoid doubt" instead of
"For the avoidance of doubt"



Precise word choice

e.g. "must" instead
of "shall"



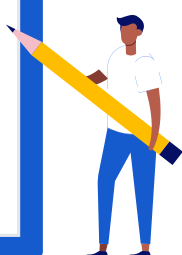
Lengthy provisions broken down into sub-provisions



STREAMLINED AND MORE INFORMATIVE CITATIONS

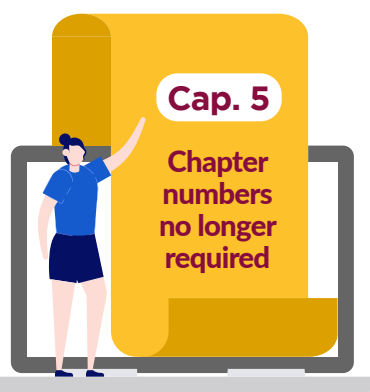
Short titles of revised Acts include the year of enactment

e.g. "Penal Code 1871"

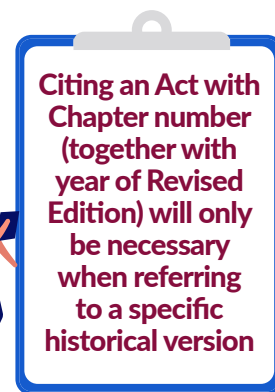


Cap. 5

Chapter numbers no longer required



Citing an Act with Chapter number (together with year of Revised Edition) will only be necessary when referring to a specific historical version



FULL AND UPDATED LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES

Legislative history is found at the end of every Act.

Legislative history includes information on predecessor Acts which were repealed.



The legislative history includes information about the progress of the Bill through Parliament, amendments made to the Act over time and the revised editions of the Act.

For Acts with complex legislative histories, diagrams are provided.

The Revised Edition of Acts is available online at the [Singapore Statutes Online](#) website.
For more information, please visit the [Revised Editions of Legislation](#) on the AGC website.

Annex E



The New 2020 Revised Edition of Acts

Over 500 Acts in the Singapore Statute Book are revised. The Acts are updated to 1 December 2021.

Why is there a need for universal revision?

The last universal revision of Acts was carried out about 35 years ago with the publication of the 1985 Revised Edition of Acts.

A universal revision of all in-force Acts will as far as possible ensure consistency in house styles and expressions, and accuracy in cross-references, across all Acts.



What changes will we see to the Acts?

Generally, revised Acts use **simpler or shorter word alternatives** and **gender-neutral language**.

There are **stylistic changes** like replacing Roman numbers with Arabic numerals. Some Acts have **renumbered provisions**.

The citations of revised Acts are **more informative**, and **Chapter numbers will no longer be required** when citing an Act revised in the 2020 Revised Edition.

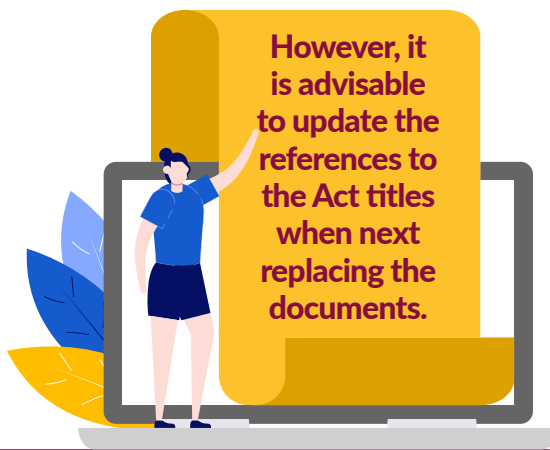
Legislative histories of revised Acts are much **more comprehensive**, with **diagrams** to aid interpretation.



When the 2020 Revised Edition of Acts comes into operation, do existing documents or guides which make references to the Acts need to be updated to reflect the year of enactment?

Unless the contrary intention appears, a reference to an Act by its previous or current short title will be taken to refer to the latest in-force version of the Act with the revised short title. It is not necessary to change the title of the Act in those documents immediately as the documents do not become invalid.

However, it is advisable to update the references to the Act titles when next replacing the documents.



Where can I obtain a copy of the 2020 Revised Edition?



The copies will be made available on Singapore Statutes Online, and for sale at **TOPPAN**.

The Revised Edition of Acts is available online at the **Singapore Statutes Online** website. For more information, please visit the **Revised Editions of Legislation** on the AGC website.