

# **Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Regulations 2019**

## **Table of Contents**

### **Enacting Formula**

**1 Citation and commencement**

**2 Definition**

**3 Prescribed internet intermediaries**

**4 Persons prescribed under section 23(1)(b), (c) and (d) of Act**

**5 Digital advertising intermediaries**

**6 Requirements for Part 3 Directions and Part 4 Directions**

**7 Requirements for Declarations**

**8 Requirements for Account Restriction Directions**

**9 Service of Part 3 Directions**

**10 Service of Part 4 Directions and other directions, orders and notices**

**11 Reasonable efforts prescribed for purposes of section 32(11) of Act**

**12 Prescribed period for sections 33(1)(a), 34(1)(a) and 37(1), (2) and (3) of Act**

**13 Applications to vary or cancel Direction or Remedial Order, or to suspend, vary or cancel Declaration**

**14 Period for Minister to determine application under regulation 13**

## **15 Codes of practice**

## **16 Criteria under section 54(1) of Act**

### **No. S 662**

#### **PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION ACT 2019 (ACT 18 OF 2019)**

#### **PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION REGULATIONS 2019**

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 62 of the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019, the Minister for Communications and Information makes the following Regulations:

### **Citation and commencement**

**1.** These Regulations are the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Regulations 2019 and come into operation on 2 October 2019.

### **Definition**

**2.** In these Regulations, “business address” means —

- (a) in the case of a body corporate (including a limited liability partnership) or unincorporated association —
  - (i) the body corporate’s or unincorporated association’s registered office, or principal office, in Singapore; or
  - (ii) in the absence of a registered office, or principal office, in Singapore, the body corporate’s or unincorporated association’s last known place of business in Singapore;
- (b) in the case of an individual, the individual’s usual or last known place of business in Singapore; and
- (c) in the case of a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership), the partnership’s principal or last known place of business in Singapore.

### Prescribed internet intermediaries

3.—(1) For the purpose of sections 21(2), 22(2) and 23(1)(a) of the Act, the prescribed internet intermediaries are —

- (a) Google LLC, in respect of Google Search;
- (b) Facebook, Inc., in respect of —
  - (i) Facebook; and
  - (ii) Instagram;
- (c) Twitter, Inc., in respect of Twitter;  
*[S 74/2020 wef 31/01/2020]*
- (d) SPH Magazines Pte. Ltd., in respect of HardwareZone.com; and
- (e) Baidu, Inc., in respect of Baidu.

(2) For the purposes of sections 21(2) and 22(2) of the Act, the following are also prescribed internet intermediaries:

- (a) Google LLC, in respect of YouTube;
- (b) WeChat International Pte Ltd., in respect of WeChat.

(3) For the purpose of section 40 of the Act, the prescribed internet intermediaries are —

- (a) Google LLC, in respect of YouTube;
- (b) Facebook, Inc., in respect of —
  - (i) Facebook;
  - (ii) Facebook Messenger; and  
*[S 438/2020 wef 03/06/2020]*
  - (iii) Instagram;  
*[S 438/2020 wef 03/06/2020]*
  - (iv) *[Deleted by S 438/2020 wef 03/06/2020]*
- (ba) WhatsApp Inc., in respect of WhatsApp;  
*[S 438/2020 wef 03/06/2020]*
- (c) Twitter, Inc., in respect of Twitter;  
*[S 74/2020 wef 31/01/2020]*
- (d) SPH Magazines Pte. Ltd., in respect of HardwareZone.com; and
- (e) WeChat International Pte Ltd., in respect of WeChat.

### **Persons prescribed under section 23(1)(b), (c) and (d) of Act**

4.—(1) For the purpose of section 23(1)(b) of the Act, the prescribed holder of a permit under section 21 of the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act (Cap. 206) is Singapore Press Holdings Limited.

(2) For the purpose of section 23(1)(c) of the Act, the prescribed broadcasting licensees within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Broadcasting Act (Cap. 28) are —

- (a) Mediacorp Pte. Ltd.;
- (b) Mediacorp TV Singapore Pte. Ltd.;
- (c) StarHub Cable Vision Ltd.; and
- (d) SingNet Pte. Ltd.

(3) For the purpose of section 23(1)(d) of the Act, the prescribed holders of a licence under section 5 of the Telecommunications Act (Cap. 323) are —

- (a) Singtel Mobile Singapore Pte. Ltd.;
- (b) StarHub Mobile Pte. Ltd.; and
- (c) M1 Limited.

### **Digital advertising intermediaries**

5. For the purpose of sections 37(3) and 47(1) of the Act, the prescribed digital advertising intermediaries are —

- (a) Google, in respect of Google Ads; and
- (b) Facebook, Inc., in respect of Facebook Audience Network.

### **Requirements for Part 3 Directions and Part 4 Directions**

6. A Part 3 Direction or Part 4 Direction must contain —

- (a) the online location where the subject statement or subject material (as the case may be) is communicated;
- (b) the basis on which the subject statement or the statement contained in the subject material (as the case may be) is determined to be a false statement of fact;
- (c) a statement that the Minister is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to issue the Part 3 Direction or Part 4 Direction;
- (d) the email address at which any application to the Minister to vary or cancel

the Part 3 Direction or Part 4 Direction must be sent; and

- (e) a statement to the effect that any application to the Minister to vary or cancel the Part 3 Direction or Part 4 Direction must be in writing and —
  - (i) either —
    - (A) be made and completed in the form that may be obtained from the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) specified in the Direction; or
    - (B) if not made and completed in that form, meet the requirements mentioned in regulation 13(3); and
  - (ii) be sent by email to the email address specified in the Direction.

### **Requirements for Declarations**

7. A Declaration must contain —

- (a) the email address at which any application to the Minister to suspend, vary or cancel the Declaration must be sent; and
- (b) a statement to the effect that any application to the Minister to suspend, vary or cancel the Declaration must be in writing and —
  - (i) either —
    - (A) be made and completed in the form that may be obtained from the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) specified in the Declaration; or
    - (B) if not made and completed in that form, meet the requirements mentioned in regulation 13(3); and
  - (ii) be sent by email to the email address specified in the Declaration.

### **Requirements for Account Restriction Directions**

8. An Account Restriction Direction must contain —

- (a) details of the specified online account that is the subject of the Account Restriction Direction;
- (b) the basis on which —
  - (i) the subject statement communicated using the specified online