

**Small Claims Tribunals Act
(CHAPTER 308)**

Table of Contents

Long Title

Part I PRELIMINARY

1 Short title

2 Interpretation

Part II ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION OF TRIBUNALS

3 Establishment of tribunals

4 Appointment and qualification of Referees

5 Jurisdiction of tribunal

6 Exclusion of other jurisdictions

7 Transfer of claims

8 No division of claims

9 Abandonment of part of claim to give tribunal jurisdiction

10 Transfer of counterclaim from tribunal to court

11 Costs in transferred cases

12 Functions of tribunal

13 Registry

14 Appointment of Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrars and other officers

15 Lodging claims

16 Contents of claim

17 Powers of Registrar

18 Consultation before Registrar by electronic means

19 Service of claim and notice of hearing

20 Claim may be admitted by telephone or in writing

21 Parties

22 Hearing to be informal

23 Right of audience

24 Proceedings to be in private

25 Proceedings before tribunal conducted by electronic means, etc.

26 Claims may be heard together

27 Representative claims

28 Evidence

29 Judgment in default of appearance

30 Control of procedure

31 No costs allowed in proceedings

32 Frivolous or vexatious claims

33 Adjournments

34 Withdrawal of claim

35 Orders of tribunal

36 Enforcement of orders to pay money

37 Enforcement of work orders

Part III APPEAL

38 Appeal on point of law

39 Powers of High Court on appeal

Part IV MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

40 Order of tribunal to be final

41 Setting aside of order

42 Stay of execution on appeal

43 Contempt of tribunal

44 Protection of Referees, etc.

45 Publication of orders

46 Person not precluded from filing claim in court

47 Rules

Legislative History

SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS ACT

(CHAPTER 308)

(Original Enactment: Act 27 of 1984)

REVISED EDITION 1998

(15th December 1998)

An Act to make provision for the establishment, jurisdiction and powers of Small Claims Tribunals and the appointment, powers and duties of Referees in such tribunals and the administration of justice therein.

[15th January 1985]

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Small Claims Tribunals Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“claim” means a claim lodged with a tribunal under section 15;

“claimant” means a person who lodges a claim with a tribunal and includes any person who becomes a party to the proceedings on any claim in the capacity of a claimant;

“court” means any court of competent jurisdiction in Singapore;

“party” means a claimant or respondent and any person joined as a third party;

“prescribed limit” means \$10,000 or such other sum as the Minister may, after consultation with the Chief Justice, by order published in the *Gazette*, substitute therefor;

[\[S 321/97\]](#)

“Referee” means a Referee appointed under section 4(1);

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Small Claims Tribunals appointed under section 14 and includes the Deputy Registrar and an Assistant Registrar;

“Registry” means the Registry of Small Claims Tribunals established under section 13;

“respondent” means any person against whom a claim is made and any person who becomes a party to the proceedings on any claim in the capacity of a respondent;

“rules” means rules made under section 47;

“tribunal” means a Small Claims Tribunal constituted under section 4 of the Subordinate Courts Act (Cap. 321);

“work order” means an order to rectify a defect in goods or to make good any deficiency in the performance of services, by doing such work or attending to such matters (including the replacement of goods or parts thereof) as may be specified in the order.

[\[17/95; 4/96\]](#)

PART II

ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION OF TRIBUNALS

Establishment of tribunals

3. The President may, under section 4 of the Subordinate Courts Act, constitute one or more Small Claims Tribunals as he thinks fit to exercise the jurisdiction in respect of claims created by this Act.

Appointment and qualification of Referees

4.—(1) A tribunal shall be presided over by a Referee appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

(2) No person shall be appointed to be a Referee unless he is a qualified person within the meaning of the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161).

(3) Every person appointed to be a Referee shall hold office for such term as may be specified in the instrument of his appointment, and may from time to time be reappointed.

(4) Any appointment of a Referee made under subsection (1) may at any time be revoked by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

Jurisdiction of tribunal