

**Census Act**  
**(CHAPTER 35)**

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## **CENSUS ACT**

### **(CHAPTER 35)**

**(Original Enactment: Act 47 of 1973)**

An Act relating to the taking of a census in Singapore from time to time.

[7th September 1973]

### Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Census Act.

### Interpretation

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

“census officer” means any person appointed under section 4, 5 or 6;

“competent authority” means any public officer or any statutory body established by or under any written law or any officer thereof, being under any obligation imposed by any written law to observe secrecy in respect of any particulars or information obtained by the public officer or the statutory body or officer thereof in the administration of that written law;

“dwelling-house” means a building, erection or tenement, whether permanent or temporary, which is wholly or partly used for the purpose of human habitation and includes any ship or vessel in Singapore;

“schedule” means a schedule in the prescribed form in which are, or are to be, entered the prescribed particulars required for the purposes of a census;

“Superintendent” means the Superintendent of Census appointed under section 4.

[\[20/86; 8/90\]](#)

### Power to direct census to be taken

3. The Minister may by notification in the *Gazette* direct that a census be taken throughout Singapore or of any specified area of Singapore of the population, housing, agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, trade, labour, industry, building and construction, commerce, education, health and family planning, transportation or such other matters as he may consider necessary or desirable and may by the same or a different notification prescribe —

- (a) the date on which the census is to be taken; and
- (b) the particulars to be obtained for the purposes of the census.

### **Appointment of Superintendent of Census**

4.—(1) The Minister may appoint an officer, to be called the Superintendent of Census, to supervise the taking of any census directed to be taken under the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Superintendent, in the exercise of his powers and in the performance of his duties under this Act or any rules made thereunder, shall be subject to the control of, and shall comply with any directions given by, the Minister.

### **Appointment of Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Census**

5. The Minister may appoint for specified areas such Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Census, and assign such functions to them as he considers necessary for the purpose of any census directed to be taken under the provisions of this Act.

### **Appointment of supervisors and enumerators**

6. The Superintendent may, by writing under his hand, appoint such supervisors, enumerators and other census officers as he considers necessary to supervise or take or aid in the taking of a census within any specified area, and may at any time revoke those appointments.

### **Census officers**

7.—(1) Every census officer shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code (Cap. 224).

(2) Every census officer appointed under section 6 shall carry with him at all times when on duty the letter of appointment furnished to him under that section and shall produce the letter for inspection by any person who may in good faith question his authority as a census officer.

### **Occupier to allow access and permit affixing of numbers**

8. Every person occupying any dwelling-house or other premises shall allow any census officer such access thereto as may be necessary for the purposes of a census, and shall allow him to paint, mark or affix on or to the dwelling-house or other premises such letters, marks or numbers as the Superintendent considers necessary for the purposes of the census and to make any alterations to those letters, marks or numbers.

### **Questions by census officers**

9. Every census officer may ask all persons within the limits of the area for which he is appointed such questions as may be necessary to obtain the information required for

the purposes of the census.

### **Delivery and filling in of schedule**

**10.**—(1) A census officer may leave at any dwelling-house or other premises within the area for which he is appointed a schedule to be filled in by the occupier of the dwelling-house or other premises or of any specified part thereof.

(2) The occupier shall, within the time mentioned therein, fill in the schedule, or cause it to be filled in, in the manner prescribed and shall thereafter deliver the schedule to an enumerator or a supervisor appointed for the area in which the dwelling-house or other premises is situated or to any other person as the Superintendent may direct.

(3) If the occupier is unable either to fill in the schedule or cause it to be filled in, in the manner prescribed, he shall preserve it in the condition in which he received it and shall deliver it to the enumerator, supervisor or other person, as the case may be, who shall, after exercising the powers conferred upon him by section 9, fill in the schedule in the manner prescribed.

(4) At any time before or within one year (or such longer period as may be prescribed) after the date prescribed for the taking of a census, if directed by the Superintendent to do so, any census officer may visit any dwelling-house or other premises within the area for which he is appointed, for the purpose of checking any information obtained or of obtaining further information for the purposes of the census, and may, if satisfied that a schedule is incorrect in any material particular, make any necessary correction thereon.

### **Enumeration of persons in public institutions, hotels, etc.**

**11.**—(1) The Superintendent may deliver or cause to be delivered to —

- (a) every person in charge of a hospital, workhouse, prison, police station, reformatory or lock-up, or of any public, charitable, religious or educational institution; and
- (b) every keeper, secretary or manager of a hotel, boarding-house, lodging-house or club,

a schedule to be filled in in respect of the persons who at the time of the taking of a census are in or upon such premises.

(2) The person to whom the schedule is delivered shall fill in the schedule or cause it to be filled in, to the best of his knowledge and belief, so far as regards the inmates of the hospital, workhouse, prison, police station, reformatory, lock-up, or public, charitable, religious or educational institution or the hotel, boarding-house, lodging-house or club within the time mentioned therein, and shall sign his name thereto, and when so required