

# Tax Enforcement in Singapore

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# Introduction

Tax authority's approach

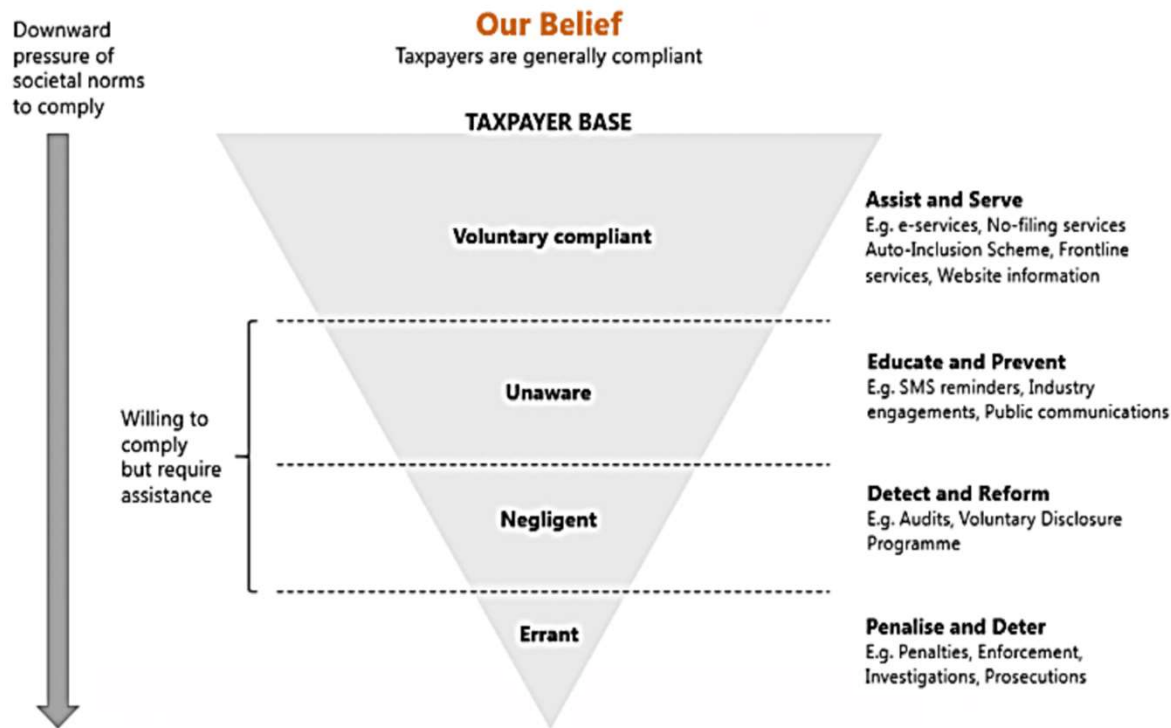
Types of powers

Assessment and appeal process

Looking ahead

# Tax authority's approach

Approach to tax compliance by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) - risk based compliance:



## Risk-based assessment

- Areas of focus, – issues and industries
- Common mistakes

## Types of audit

- Desktop review
- Field audit
- Special audit, e.g. transfer pricing, record keeping and benefits-in-kind
- Investigation

# Types of powers

## Information gathering powers

- Obtain information (notwithstanding banking secrecy provisions)
- Record statements
- Take possession of documents or items

## Arrest, search and other coercive powers

- Power of forced entry
- Power to arrest without warrant
- Power to carry out body searches (subject to conditions)

## Information sharing powers

- Tax treaties
- International tax compliance agreements, e.g. FATCA, CRS
- Sharing with other law enforcement agencies (e.g. for investigation or prosecution of AML offences)

# Assessment and appeal process

## Assessment

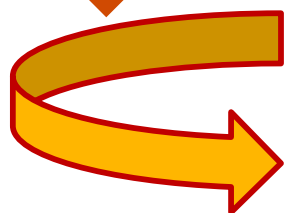
- Letter from tax authority which either requests for information or sets out tax adjustment
- Notice of assessment will be issued once IRAS have come to a position

## Objection

- Objection to assessment – 2 months from service of notice of assessment (for companies)
- Review of objection by the IRAS; further information may be requested
- Payment must be made despite objection

## Litigation

- Board of Review - Notice of refusal to amend – 30 days to file notice of appeal and 30 days to file petition of appeal containing grounds of appeal
- High Court and such further rights of appeal as governed by the Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1969 and the Rules of Court 2021



		2020	2021	2022	2023
GST	BOR	0	1	1	2
	HC	0	0	1	1
Income Tax	BOR	3	0	1	2
	HC	3	0	0	1

# Looking ahead

## Risks

- Key audit issues in domestic and international tax
- Developments in enforcement

## Opportunities

- Rulings and treaty-based solutions
- Tax controls and governance
- Voluntary disclosure programmes

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