

FAQs

(A) General

1. What is the Safe Distancing Advisory?

In view of the COVID-19 situation, safe distancing advisories have been drawn up by ESG, NEA, SFA and STB for establishments in the F&B, Retail and Tourism sectors. Businesses are required to comply with safe distancing measures with immediate effect. These are to limit large numbers of people gathering in close proximity over a prolonged period of time, and help reduce the risk of local community spread.

For more information, you may refer to the advisories via these links:

F&B and Retail: <https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/covid-19/safe-distance>

Tourism: <https://www.stb.gov.sg/content/stb/en/home-pages/operationalisation-of-safe-distancing-measures-for-tourism-stakeholders.html#Tourism>

(B) ESG Grant Schemes (EDG, MRA, PSG, GRT and LDI) and Loan Schemes

2. What are the implications of the safe distancing measures for companies applying for Enterprise Singapore (ESG)'s enterprise grant schemes or loan schemes? i.e. grants including EDG, MRA, PSG, GRT and LDI, as well as loans including EFS

Businesses which do not implement or comply with the government's safe distancing advisories may be ineligible for government grants and loan assistance.

Companies applying for ESG's enterprise grant schemes and loan schemes will have to submit a declaration as part of their application process, stating if they have implemented and complied with the SDAG.

3. Why is ESG tying the adoption of safe distancing measures to the application of ESG's grant and loan schemes?

This is a Whole-of Government effort to prevent the community spread of COVID-19 and to safeguard public health. Businesses play an important role in achieving the desired outcomes. Responsible businesses that adopt the measures should not be impacted in their application for ESG's grant and loan schemes.

4. Is this condition applicable only to specific sectors? And if so, why is there uneven treatment?

The F&B, retail and tourism establishments are premises where the general public/ consumers visit to dine and shop. These places typically have a higher concentration of crowds gathered over a prolonged period of time. Hence, specific advisories had been issued for these sectors. On top of these, the government is also working to implement relevant safe distancing measures in other sectors such as education and beauty services. These will be subjected to the similar condition outlined for grant/loan applications.

5. What is the expected duration for companies to fulfil the requirement to comply with the safe distancing measures?

This requirement to comply with the safe distancing measures will be valid until the COVID-19 situation eases and when these measures are deemed irrelevant, or until the requirement is deemed not necessary.

6. Where do we state the declaration of the safe distancing measures in the grant or loan application?

Upon receipt of the grant application, the relevant government agency will inform the applicant to make the necessary declaration.

For loans, the participating financial institutions (PFIs) will get the companies to declare it as part of the loan application.

7. What happens if the company declared that it has implemented and complied with the safe distancing measures?

The applicant company's grant or loan application will proceed for further evaluation, as per the normal application process.

8. What happens if the company declared that it has not implemented and complied with the safe distancing measures?

To reduce the risk of local community spread, we strongly encourage the applicant company to implement the safe distancing measures. This is a Whole-of Government effort to prevent the community spread of COVID-19 and to safeguard public health. Businesses play an important role toward achieving the desired outcomes.

Should the applicant company be able to implement and comply with the measures, it will be able to resubmit a declaration for the grant or loan application to be further evaluated.

However, if the applicant company is unable to implement and comply with the measures, the application will not be further evaluated until a positive declaration is received.

9. How does ESG conduct checks? Is there a Non-Compliance (NC) list?

Safe Distancing Ambassadors will conduct periodic checks on outlets to ensure compliance. If an outlet is discovered to be non-compliant with the government advisory, the outlet will be informed of the observations and guided on implementation of suitable solutions. Subsequently, the same outlets will be re-visited by the Safe Distancing Ambassadors to follow up on the identified areas of improvement.

Should the previous findings remain unaddressed, the outlet will be re-engaged and supported to facilitate adoption of facilities. If the same outlet is unable to meet the requirements after a third round of assessment, or refused to comply, ESG will put the organisation (could also be the parent organisation of the outlet) on the Non-compliance (NC) list. Outlets on the NC list will be informed by ESG on their status.

10. How will the company's grant or loan application be affected if it is on the NC list? And how can the company be removed from the NC list?

To reduce the risk of local community spread, we strongly encourage the applicant company to comply and implement the safe distancing measures. This is a Whole-of Government effort to prevent the community spread of COVID-19 and to safeguard public health. Businesses play an important role in achieving the desired outcomes.

Should the applicant company show that it has implemented and complied with the measures, it will be removed from the NC list. Grant or loan applications that were on hold will then be sent for further evaluation.

However, if the applicant company is unable to implement and comply with the measures after several rounds of communication, the application will be rejected.

11. What if the company is found to have made a false declaration and did not comply to the advisory?

ESG has the right to reject non-compliant cases. Businesses that are subsequently found to be non-compliant to the safe distancing measures, despite submitting a positive declaration, will be not be eligible for future ESG-supported Grants, Loans or other forms of financial assistance.

12. Are PFIs required to verify businesses' declaration of the safe distancing measures?

Safe Distancing Ambassadors will conduct periodic checks on outlets to ensure compliance.