A COMPARATIVE LOOK
DATA CENTRE DEVELOPMENT IN SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA

We've compared the regulations driving data centre growth in both nations, focusing on sustainability, cybersecurity, environmental assessments, and regulatory processes. As frameworks evolve, these insights are crucial for industry stakeholders.

|	SINGAPORE	MALAYSIA
GREEN DATA CENTRE STANDARD	The Green Data Centre Standard (SS 564) promotes energy efficiency and sustainability in operations, modeled after ISO 50001.	Finalizing Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) and Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE) guidelines under the Data Centre Planning Guidelines (GPP).
CYBERSECURITY NETWORK	The Cybersecurity Act (2018) establishes a framework to safeguard national cybersecurity, focusing on Critical Information Infrastructures (CII), mandatory incident reporting, and compliance with codes of practice.	The Cyber Security Act 2024 outlines a framework to protect National Critical Information Infrastructure (NCII), mandating compliance and incident reporting to the National Cyber Security Agency (NACSA).
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for large-scale data centres to evaluate environmental impacts.	EIAs are required under the Environmental Quality Act 1974 for significant developments, including data centres, ensuring environmental considerations are met.
CALL-FOR-APPLICATION SCHEME	The Call-for-Application (CFA) scheme regulates new data centre applications, ensuring sustainable growth and adherence to environmental standards.	Malaysia has recently approved the Data Centre Planning Guidelines (GPP), which standardize planning and application processes but does not have a formal CFA system yet.
REGULATORY AUTHORITY	The Cyber Security Agency (CSA) oversees the implementation of the Cybersecurity Act and related regulations.	The National Cyber Security Committee oversees the Cyber Security Act 2024, delegating enforcement and compliance monitoring to NACSA.

A SUMMARY: WHERE DO WE STAND AS A NATION?

Malaysia is progressing with balanced growth and sustainability-focused frameworks, but Singapore remains ahead with advanced standards and established regulatory clarity.

GREEN DATA CENTRE STANDARD

Singapore has established comprehensive standards, while Malaysia is in the process of developing similar guidelines. The lack of finalized standards may lead to inconsistent practices among operators.

CYBERSECURITY NETWORK

Both countries have robust cybersecurity frameworks; however, Malaysia's act is newly implemented and lacks established legal precedents, which may lead to challenges in enforcement and interpretation.
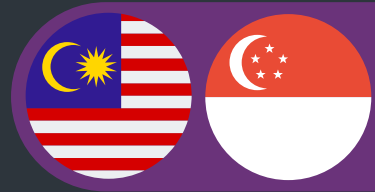
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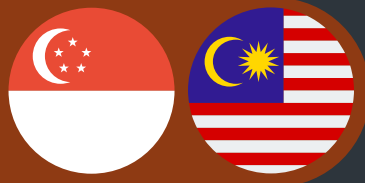
Both countries require EIAs, ensuring environmental impacts are considered in data centre planning. Malaysia's reliance on existing laws may not address specific data centre impacts effectively.

CALL-FOR-APPLICATION SCHEME

Singapore's CFA scheme ensures alignment with sustainability goals; Malaysia's GPP streamlines planning but lacks an equivalent CFA mechanism, which may hinder effective oversight of new developments.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Singapore's CSA has established authority with experience; Malaysia's National Cyber Security Committee is newly formed, which may face initial challenges in establishing its effectiveness and authority.

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