

Pacific E-commerce Initiative

E-Commerce Training – One pager

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

- Parties to the CPTPP: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam.
- Outcomes: The CPTPP is a landmark agreement on digital trade, setting rules promoting business participation in our region's digital economy. It includes rules supporting the flow of data, protecting privacy and consumer rights, and combating 'spam'. The agreement also included countries commitments not to impose customs duties on electronic content or transmissions.
- CPTPP accession: The UK been invited to begin the accession process to the CPTPP following agreement of CPTPP members.

AANZFTA

- Parties to AANZFTA: ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), Australia and New Zealand
- AANZFTA upgrade: Parties to AANZFTA are currently negotiating upgrades to the e-commerce chapter to include more ambitious rules on digital trade. This is the second AANZFTA upgrade process following the 2015 process.
- Key outcomes (example): Parties in AANZFTA did not include rules on data flows. However, the agreement includes key provisions on online consumer protection, cooperation (including through dialogues on electronic commerce), paperless trading, electronic authentication and electronic signatures. It also allows parties to adopt legal frameworks

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- Parties to RCEP: RCEP entered into force on 1 January 2022, for ten countries, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, with Australia as an original party. RCEP entered into force for the Republic of Korea on 1 February 2022 and for Malaysia on 18 March 2022.
- Outcomes: Parties agreed to rules on cross-border data flows, with a transition period for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam for at least 5 years. The data flows and localisation articles in the agreement are the first commitments of this kind for a number of large and emerging RCEP countries, improving on commitments in AANZFTA, MAFTA, ChAFTA, KAFTA and the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce. This agreement will require RCEP countries to implement measures to protect personal information, deal with unsolicited or 'spam' messages and protect online consumers from fraud and misleading conduct.

Australia-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement (AU-SG DEA)

- Overview: The DEA between Australia and Singapore is a world leading agreement on digital rules which upgraded the AU-Singapore FTA. The DEA breaks new ground. It sets new global benchmarks for trade rules, and a range of practical cooperation initiatives, to reduce barriers to digital trade and build an environment in which Australian businesses and consumers are able to participate and benefit from digital trade and the digitalisation of the economy.
- UK and Singapore: Recently agreed to commitments similar to the AU-SING DEA, with some new rules including on collaboration. UK-SG also agreed commitments on electronic contracts (which Australia included with the UK in their FTA) and an article on digital conclusion (this speaks about labour rights and workers).
- Outcomes: the AU-SG DEA includes world leading rules on cross-border data flows, and several commitments to facilitate practical collaboration on data innovation, AI and trade facilitation. Further, parties included a commitment on open government data to improve the accessibility of publicly available, anonymised government information, for the purpose of economic, social and research benefit.