CONSIDERATIONS FOR COLLECTING NRIC NUMBERS*
FOR ORGANISATIONS

TO COLLECT OR NOT TO COLLECT?

01  Do you need to collect NRIC number under any law?
Collect a person’s NRIC number if it is required by law. You may consider displaying the PDPC’s QR code for customers to easily access the relevant law(s).

02  Do you need the NRIC number of the person to prove his or her identity?
Collect the NRIC number if you need to accurately identify the person. Ensure that you have policies and practices in place to protect the information collected.

►► If you have answered ‘no’ to the above, your organisation should not collect NRIC numbers. Consider alternatives instead.

* Also applies to Foreign Identification Number (FIN), Work Permit number, Birth Certificate number and Passport number, as well as a copy of the identification documents containing them.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE THERE?

01  Can you issue a unique identifier (a.k.a. user ID) to identify the person?

02  Can you identify the person using his or her own chosen user ID, e.g. nickname or email address?

03  If the above options are not adequate, can you identify the person using just partial NRIC number (last three numbers and letter, e.g. XXXXX567A) in combination with other data?
If you choose to collect partial NRIC number, you must comply with the Data Protection Provisions of the PDPA e.g. making security arrangements to protect the data from unauthorised disclosure.

For more information on alternatives to NRIC numbers, refer to the PDPC’s Technical Guide to Advisory Guidelines on the Personal Data Protection Act for NRIC and Other National Identification Numbers @ www.pdpc.gov.sg/og.