

# insync

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SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MAGAZINE

— P.01 —

Singapore Customs  
turns 111!



## FEATURES

Celebrating International  
Customs Day 2021



## SPOTLIGHT

Singapore Customs  
turns 111!



## NEWS

Strengthening customs  
collaboration in cross-border trade

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## EDITORS' NOTE

2021 is a special year for Singapore Customs as we turn one hundred and eleven this year.

Since our establishment in 1910, we have gone through a series of transformation to be in step with Singapore's progress. Today, Singapore Customs is the lead agency for trade facilitation and revenue enforcement. Find out more about our 111<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on pages 1 and 2.

In January 2021, we also celebrated International Customs Day, with the theme "Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal, and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain". In view of COVID-19, the celebration was held virtually via video conferencing for the very first time. Read more on page 3.

Our Annual Enforcement Results for 2020 are available from pages 5 to 9, where we share key statistics and interesting cases handled last year. Among the cases were the arrests of seven drivers for delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes to buyers using private hire cars and taxis (pages 7 and 8).

With the United Kingdom-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (UKSFTA) entering into force on 11 February 2021, companies based in Singapore and the UK can continue to enjoy the same benefits under the EU-Singapore FTA, when trading between the two countries. Find out how you can benefit on page 13.

**TAN XIAN LIN AND ISABEL CHIA**  
Editors



SPOTLIGHT

# SINGAPORE CUSTOMS TURNS 111!

Since the establishment of Singapore Customs in 1910, formerly known as the Monopolies Department during the Straits Settlement period, we have gone through a series of transformation to be in step with Singapore's progress. Singapore Customs as we know today was reconstituted in 2003 when the revenue enforcement and trade documentation functions of Customs and Excise Department were brought together with the trade facilitation functions of International Enterprise Singapore. At the same time, checkpoint functions including border controls were transferred to the re-formed Immigration & Checkpoints Authority. Since then, Customs has been a single contact point for all customs, revenue and trade matters.

► **Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong, delivering his welcome remarks.**



2021 is a special year for Singapore Customs as we turn one hundred and eleven this year. To commemorate this significant milestone, we held our first hybrid celebratory event where we had a small and limited audience at Revenue House and the Customs Operations Command (COC), while most of our guests and staff attended the celebrations virtually, with the activities being streamed live from both offices.

We were honoured to have our Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary for Finance, to officially kick-start the celebrations. During her opening speech, Mrs Tan said for the past 111 years, Singapore Customs had worked off the achievements of generations of passionate and committed officers who came before us. It is now the turn and duty of the current cohort of Customs officers to forge ahead to take Singapore Customs to a higher level.

She also urged Singapore Customs to remain focused on our mission, with Singapore and Singaporeans at the centre of what we do, draw strength from our long and proud heritage while always being guided by the Public Service core values of Integrity, Service and Excellence.

In his welcome remarks, Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong, reaffirmed the hard work of our officers: "For our current in-service officers, the past year has been a challenging one due to the turbulence and disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Against such difficult conditions, I take pride in seeing our officers answer the call of duty readily, even for unfamiliar roles which took you out of your comfort zones. In spite of this, you have discharged yourselves admirably with professionalism, grit and commitment."

Mr Ho also took the opportunity to pay tribute to the different generations of Customs officers for the service and contributions they had rendered.

► **Mrs Tan (centre) penning her well-wishes for Singapore Customs, with Mr Ho (right) and Deputy Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Lim Teck Leong (left), looking on.**



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Design by **Oxygen Studio Designs Pte Ltd**

► Mrs Tan (right) officially opened the Customs Meeting Centre located at Revenue House.



This was also our first corporate event of the year where we invited our Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Tan, to officially unveil the new wall mural located at COC, which encapsulated the work of our officers located in the COC. Other highlights included the official opening of the Customs Meeting Centre located at Revenue House and the cake-cutting ceremony. All these were streamed live via a video conferencing software for our virtual audience.

To commemorate the occasion, various activities were organised before the actual 111<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. One of the activities was a logo design contest — the organising committee received numerous designs from our talented staff, and the results were announced during the event.

In line with safe distancing measures, our guests who shared our joy online via video conferencing included 30 distinguished guests comprising senior management from the Ministry of Finance (MOF), heads of agencies from the MOF Family, members of our Customs Advisory Council, one of our former Director-General of Customs, our retired Customs colleagues, and about 250 Customs staff located across Singapore.

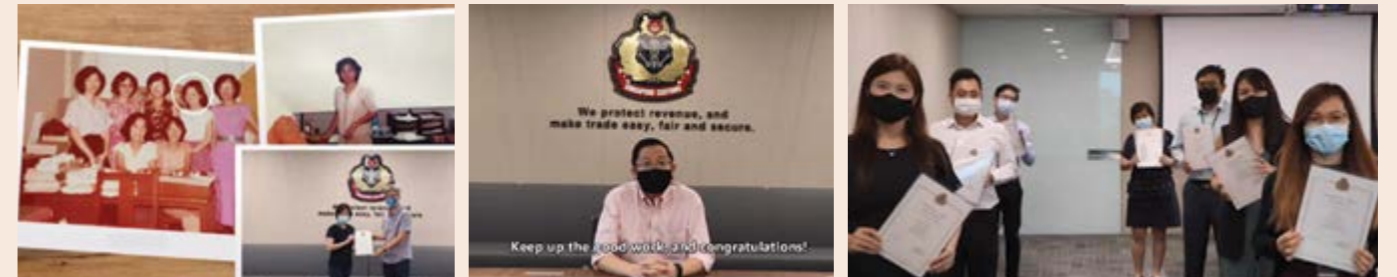
► Mrs Tan was invited to announce the winning design for the logo design contest.



► Snippets of memorable moments with some of our virtual participants.



# Celebrating International Customs Day 2021



Scenes from International Customs Day 2021 in Singapore.

As part of longstanding tradition, Singapore Customs officers celebrated International Customs Day 2021 on 26 January 2021. The theme for this year is “Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal, and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain”, and is particularly apt given the global COVID-19 situation.

In his message for the occasion, World Customs Organisation (WCO) Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya exhorted Customs administrations worldwide to assist with the rehabilitation of the global supply chain in the wake of the pandemic.

Dr Mikuriya alluded to boosting a collaborative recovery through “coordinated border management”, “embracing advanced technologies to enable renewal” in a post-pandemic world, and for Customs officers to put “people” at the centre of change for a resilient and sustainable supply chain.

In view of the telecommuting and split team arrangements due to COVID-19, the celebration was held virtually via video conferencing for the very first time.

During the celebration, Singapore Customs’ Director-General Ho Chee Pong remarked that he was pleased with the dedication, perseverance and resilience of our Singapore Customs officers amidst the challenges posed by the uncertain situation.

In a series of small off-site ceremonies held earlier in January 2021, Mr Ho and various Division Heads presented several awards to recognise the good work by Customs officers. These awards included the WCO Certificates of Merit, which were awarded to nine officers who had demonstrated WCO’s theme of “Recovery, Renewal, and Resilience”, and contributed significantly in their work.

# Joint exercise with PSA Singapore to strengthen CBREN preparedness

- On 18 January 2021, the Sea Export Section under Singapore Customs' Sea Checkpoints Branch conducted its joint annual chemical, biological, radiological, explosive or nuclear (CBREN) simulation exercise with PSA Singapore (PSA) at Brani Export Inspection Station, to simulate the response for the detection of toxic industrial chemicals leaked from an export container. Singapore Customs activated the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and notified PSA accordingly, and the various teams from PSA responded swiftly to contain and mitigate the incident.

It was a nondescript export container, just like many others which had passed through the Brani Export Inspection Station before it. However, as the container was reversing into the inspection bay at the station, an alert officer from Singapore Customs' Sea Export Section caught whiff of something pungent, and spotted an unknown substance leaking from it.

Our trained officers responded swiftly to the situation, while remaining cautious and adhering to SOPs. Respirators and gloves were donned, and the container was scanned with a handheld detector, which confirmed the presence of toxic industrial chemicals. The container was immediately isolated, and PSA was alerted to it.

PSA's Security Control Room Team further assessed the incident, with the Emergency Response Team subsequently arriving on scene to conduct secondary checks. After consulting the port chemist, the Emergency Response Team assessed the container to be suitable for transfer to the isolation yard.

The annual joint exercise with PSA ensures our officers are prepared in managing and handling CBREN substances if they are found in export containers. Through this exercise, Singapore Customs and PSA have increased our understanding of each other's capabilities, with a deeper appreciation of the professionalism and competency displayed by the participants from both sides.



A Singapore Customs' Sea Export Team officer scanning the container with a handheld detector, to check for the presence of any toxic industrial chemicals.



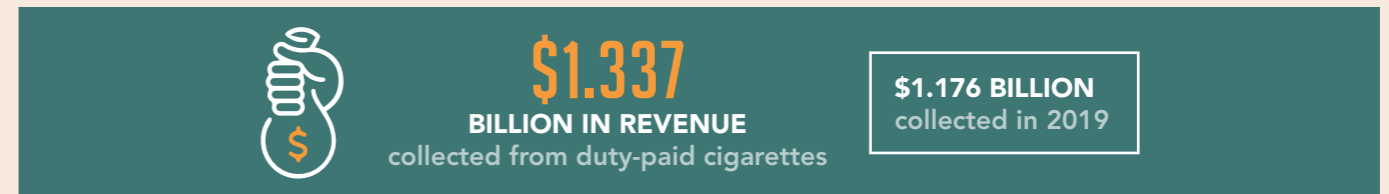
PSA's Emergency Response Team conducting secondary checks on the container, to assess if it was suitable for transfer to the isolation yard.



Participants from Singapore Customs and PSA who were involved in the exercise.

# Annual Enforcement Results 2020

- Adopting a whole-of-government approach, Singapore Customs continues to work closely with other enforcement agencies to disrupt the supply and distribution of duty-unpaid cigarettes and enforce against other revenue-related offences. Here are the key numbers in 2020.



## DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTE OFFENCES



## LIQUOR OFFENCES



## FUEL GAUGE OFFENCES



## Annual Enforcement Results 2020

# Fraudulent evasion of GST

••• Singapore Customs acted against three men evading Goods and Services Tax (GST) on imported goods.

### CASE 1: FALSIFYING DOCUMENTS TO EVADE GST

Singapore Customs initiated investigations into the director of a freight forwarding company after discrepancies were detected in the GST amounts stated in the cargo clearance permits (CCPs) and in the GST returns made by one of the company's customers. CCPs are required to import, export or tranship goods via Singapore.

Investigations revealed that the director had altered the values in commercial invoices provided by his customer who was the importer. The director specified false and under-declared values in the commercial invoices, and provided them to a declaring agent for the purpose of making a declaration to obtain a CCP.

There were also occasions where the director received commercial invoices from customers in editable format, which allowed him to enter false and under-declared values directly, and he would subsequently provide the amended invoices to the declaring agent.

The declaring agent unknowingly declared goods at lower values based on the documents it had received from the director and paid the under-declared amounts

of GST to Customs. The declaring agent would then send the approved CCPs to the director to seek reimbursement of the GST.

To conceal his scheme, the director allegedly altered the values and GST paid amount in the approved CCPs to give his customers the impression that the correct GST amounts were paid to Singapore Customs. The director would thereby profit from the difference between the GST amount collected from his customers, and the lower GST amount paid to Customs through the declaring agent.

The director committed these acts on more than 630 occasions by providing false values of goods imported by his customers between 2015 and 2019 to the declaring agent. The total amount of GST evaded is about \$1.25 million.

Court proceedings are ongoing against the director.

#### Trader Notification Service

To avoid being victims of such frauds, traders are encouraged to sign up for the **Trader Notification Service** to receive notifications relating to permit declarations made under their Unique Entity Number which include the total amount of duty and/or GST payable. Traders would be able to verify against the amount of duty and/or GST that they have actually paid to their service providers and safeguard themselves against such fraudulent acts!

### CASE 2: GST EVASION ON THE IMPORTS OF MOBILE PHONES

On 28 February 2020, a Malaysian man was referred by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority to Singapore Customs after 12 units of brand new mobile phones were found in his possession during a routine check at Woodlands Checkpoint. The phones were wrapped in newspapers and bubble wrap, and were intentionally concealed to evade payment of GST on the phones.

Investigations revealed that the phones were intended to be delivered to a Singaporean man who was the sole proprietor of a business selling mobile devices and accessories.

Singapore Customs officers conducted a follow-up raid at the sole proprietor's premises where 12 boxes of mobile phone accessories were found. These boxes were meant for the 12 mobile phones that were seized earlier and were brought into Singapore separately by the Singaporean man with GST paid only on the accessories and boxes. The Singaporean man had

engaged the Malaysian man to import the phones without paying GST since November 2019.

A total of 53 mobile phones were imported into Singapore from Malaysia between November 2019 and February 2020 without payment of GST. The GST evaded amounted to about \$5,550.

Both men were charged in Court. The State Courts sentenced the Malaysian man to a fine of \$25,000, while the Singaporean man was sentenced to a fine of \$32,000.



Part of the 12 brand new phones which were brought in from Malaysia and seized.

## Annual Enforcement Results 2020

# Motor vehicle traders conspired to evade excise duty and GST

Singapore Customs initiated investigation on four motor vehicle traders in 2015 following discrepancies detected in the Declarations of Facts (DOFs) that were submitted by the motor vehicle traders for making excise duty and GST payments on 195 motor vehicles between February and September 2015.

Investigations revealed that in order to evade paying the full amount of excise duty and GST on the motor vehicles, one of the traders had negotiated with an overseas supplier to suppress the values in the invoices for the cars. To avoid legal responsibilities, he engaged three other motor vehicle traders to submit the DOFs and apply for the duty payment permits. The three motor vehicle traders were aware that the values to be declared in the duty payment permits were suppressed.

In addition, the other three motor vehicles traders also applied for duty payment permits with

suppressed values for the imports of another 465 motor vehicles between January 2015 and July 2015 for their own trades. Two of the traders also failed to retain documents and proper records relating to the importation of motor vehicles without reasonable excuse.

The total excise duty and GST amount evaded by the traders amounted to about \$655,370 and \$272,610 respectively.

Three of the motor vehicle traders were sentenced by the State Courts in 2017 and 2020 to fines of between \$418,000 and \$1.97 million for fraudulently evading excise duty and GST relating to motor vehicles imported into Singapore. One of the motor vehicle traders was also sentenced to eight weeks' imprisonment. Court proceedings are ongoing against the remaining motor vehicle trader.

## Annual Enforcement Results 2020

# Private hire cars and taxis being used to deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes

••• Seven drivers were arrested in 2020 for delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes to buyers using private hire cars and taxis. Five other men who had engaged the services of the drivers were also arrested, and over 1,430 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized. Three of the cases are highlighted as follows.

Singapore Customs urges taxi operators and private hire car operators to remind their drivers not to engage in illicit activities such as delivery of duty-unpaid cigarettes. Drivers are also encouraged to alert the authorities should they come across suspicious passengers who could be hiring their services for illicit activities.

### CASE #1

On 5 September 2020, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation in the vicinity of Toh Yi Drive where a man was seen standing beside a private hire car, with the driver in the car. Checks on the vehicle



Duty-unpaid cigarettes wrapped in black plastic bags found in a private hire car.

led to the detection of 230 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes wrapped in black plastic bags. Investigations revealed that the driver was engaged by the man to assist in the delivery of duty-unpaid cigarettes to buyers and would be paid hourly for his driving services. The male Singaporean driver of the private hire car was issued with a conditional warning, while the Chinese national man was sentenced by the State Courts to four months' imprisonment for delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes.



230 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized from the car on 5 September 2020.

CASE #2

On 7 November 2020, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation in a multi-storey carpark at Compassvale Road, where a man was seen transferring red plastic bags between a Singapore-registered van and a taxi. Officers detected 159 cartons and two packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van, and another 356 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the taxi. The man was arrested, and the cigarettes, taxi and van were seized. Investigations revealed that the man, who was a taxi hirer, had rented the van to receive and store duty-unpaid cigarettes and used the taxi to deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes to various places in Singapore.



515 cartons and 2 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized from a taxi and a van on 7 November 2020.

The Singaporean man was sentenced by the State Courts to nine months' imprisonment for dealing with and storing the duty-unpaid cigarettes.

CASE #3

On 13 October 2020, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at an industrial building at Defu Lane 10 where a taxi was seen at the location with the driver. Officers sighted another man loading red plastic bags into the taxi. Officers moved in to conduct checks and found 209 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. Investigations revealed that the taxi driver was engaged to assist the other man in the delivery of duty-unpaid cigarettes to buyers.



209 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the taxi.

The male Singaporean taxi driver was sentenced by the State Courts to four months' imprisonment for

delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes. The other man, a Chinese national, was also sentenced by the State Courts for delivering and dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes.

## Annual Enforcement Results 2020 Duty-unpaid beer declared as soft drinks

••• Singapore Customs arrested four men for smuggling duty-unpaid beer falsely declared as soft drinks.

Singapore Customs mounted an operation between 2 and 4 November 2020 and arrested two men for their involvement in importing duty-unpaid beer into Singapore.

Investigations revealed that the first man had allegedly coordinated the smuggling of the duty-unpaid beer, and engaged the other man to set up a front company in August 2020 to import the beer.

The first man allegedly instructed the other man to make a Customs declaration for the importation of a 40-footer container that was said to contain soft drinks. On 3 November 2020, Singapore Customs officers directed the container that had arrived at Pasir Panjang Terminal for checks, and uncovered 1,800 cartons of duty-unpaid beer instead of soft drinks which were declared in the cargo clearance permit.

Further investigations into the case revealed that the first man had engaged two other Singaporean men to import duty-unpaid beer in December 2019. Between May and September 2020, they imported 9,640 cartons of duty-unpaid beers in five containers using another front company. The beers were similarly declared as non-alcoholic beverages in the cargo clearance permits. The duty-unpaid beers were subsequently sold to customers in Singapore.

The duty and GST evaded for the 11,440 cartons of duty-unpaid beer amounted to about \$521,660 and \$58,200 respectively.

All the four men were arrested. Court proceedings are ongoing against the first man, while investigations are ongoing for the other men.



Singapore Customs officers seized 1,800 cartons of duty-unpaid beer from a container that was declared to contain soft drinks.

## Annual Enforcement Results 2020 Supplying and exporting prohibited goods from Singapore to Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Based on information received, Singapore Customs initiated investigations into a freight forwarding company and its Singaporean director for supplying designated luxury items and exporting prohibited goods from Singapore to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) between December 2013 and July 2018.

Investigations revealed that the director, who was the key person running the company, was approached by a DPRK buyer and had helped five other companies to arrange and ship nine consignments of wines, spirits, canned drinks and dairy products, with a total value of about S\$745,480, from Singapore to Dalian, China, with the knowledge that these goods were ultimately bound for the DPRK.

His associate based in China then arranged for the onward shipment of the nine consignments from Dalian, China, to Nampo, DPRK. The goods were bought by a DPRK national and were meant for consumption in the DPRK.

On 11 December 2020, the State Courts sentenced the Singaporean director and the company to two months' imprisonment and \$30,000 in fines respectively, for three charges each of supplying designated luxury items to a person in the DPRK under the United Nations (Sanctions – DPRK) Regulations. Another three charges under the United

Nations (Sanctions – DPRK) Regulations for supplying designated luxury items to a person in the DPRK and three charges under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations for exporting prohibited goods from Singapore to the DPRK against both were taken into consideration during sentencing.

With effect from 1 January 2007, the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations prohibits the export from and transit through Singapore of luxury goods as listed in the Seventh Schedule to the DPRK.

With effect from 1 November 2010, the United Nations (Sanctions – DPRK) Regulations prohibits any person in Singapore, or any citizen of Singapore outside Singapore, to supply, sell or transfer directly or indirectly, any designated luxury item to any person in the DPRK. The designated luxury items refer to any luxury item listed in the Seventh Schedule of the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations.

With effect from 8 November 2017, the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations prohibits all commercially traded goods (exchanged for money or barter traded) from or to the DPRK, regardless whether they are imported, exported, transhipped or brought in transit through Singapore.

## Strengthening customs collaboration in cross-border trade

### Signing of MOU on China-Singapore (Tianjin) Customs Twinning Cooperation

On 8 December 2020, Singapore Customs and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on China-Singapore (Tianjin) Customs Twinning Cooperation, to strengthen customs collaboration in trade facilitation and supply chain security.

Under the MOU, Singapore Customs and the GACC will share best practices on the application of new technologies and enhance collaboration in risk management, maintaining the security of regional and global supply chains, while facilitating legitimate trade.

The MOU was signed by Singapore's Ambassador to China, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, and GACC's Minister, Mr Ni Yuefeng, and announced at the 16<sup>th</sup> China-Singapore Joint Council for Bilateral Cooperation Meeting.

### Blockchain trial with the Australian Border Force

In November 2020, Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and Singapore Customs began a blockchain trial for cross-border trade with the Australian Border Force, aiming to reduce administration costs and increase trade efficiency using digital solutions to enable paperless trading and secure exchange of electronic trade documents.

The blockchain trial comes under the Singapore-Australia Digital Economy Agreement (SADEA), which entered into force on 8 December 2020 and aims to establish a seamless digital trading environment between the two countries. Seven MOUs were signed earlier in March 2020, as part of efforts to operationalise the modules stipulated in the SADEA.

One of the MOUs signed was on trade facilitation, where Singapore Customs, IMDA and the Australian Border Force will collaborate on initiatives to enhance the digitalisation of trade administration documentation for efficient cargo clearance.

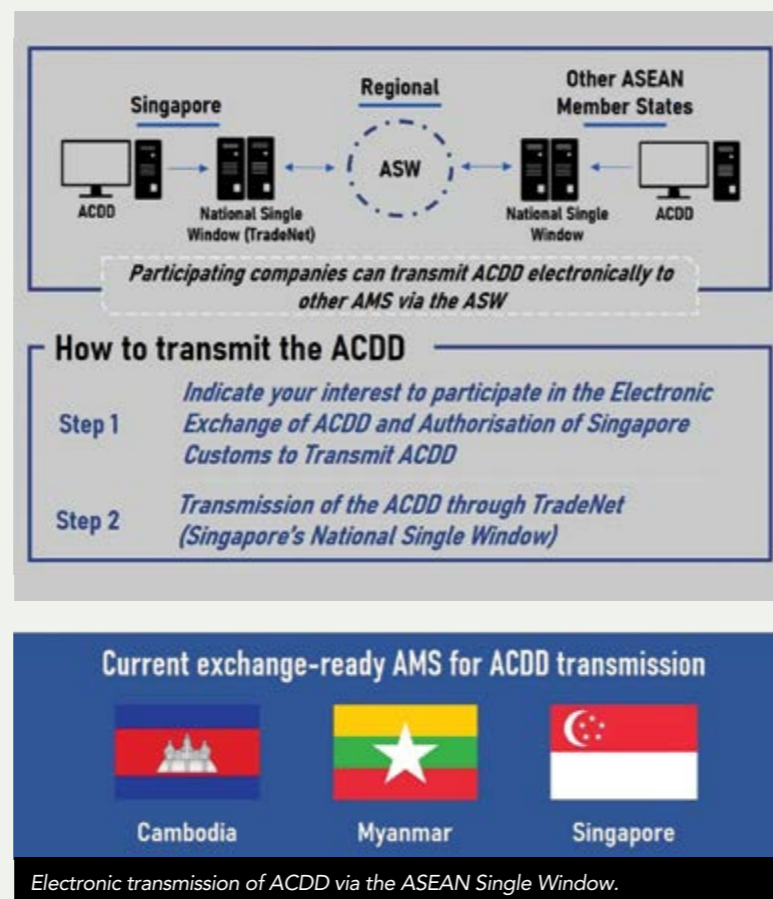
### Live operation of the exchange of ACDD via ASEAN Single Window

On 31 December 2020, Cambodia, Myanmar and Singapore commenced the live operation to exchange the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) through the ASEAN Single Window.

The ACDD is an electronic document to facilitate the exchange of export declaration information among the exchange-ready ASEAN Member States (AMS), for the purpose of supplementing risk management by the Customs authority in the importing exchange-ready AMS.

Participating traders can expect to benefit from potential reduction in customs clearance time for consignments which are supported by the ACDD and imported into exchange-ready AMS.

For more information, refer to **Circular 14/2020** or the ACDD page on the Customs website at <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/international-data-exchange/acdd>.



## Traders, you might wish to read on...

Here is a round-up of recent circulars from Singapore Customs for the trading community:



Checkpoint at Changi Airfreight Centre.

### Advisory on administrative requirements of summary listing for cargo clearance at Changi Airfreight Centre

Traders, freight forwarders and cargo agents are reminded of the proper procedures on using summary listings for cargo clearance at Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC) checkpoint, as there have been instances of importation of goods at CAC checkpoint where summary listings were incorrectly presented for clearance.

A summary listing is only meant for the clearance of non-controlled, non-dutiable air imports where the total Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value does not exceed S\$400, and permits are not required.

For goods that were originally imported by land, sea or truck-flight, Goods and Services Tax (GST) relief is not granted even if the goods are less than S\$400 in CIF value. Such goods are considered imports by land/sea, and are subject to duty and/or GST.

An import permit will instead be required to be presented for clearance at CAC checkpoint to account for the importation of such goods, regardless of the value. Regular checks and audits on past shipments are also conducted to ensure regulatory compliance. Failure to obtain an import permit for such goods when released from CAC is considered an offence.

For more information, refer to **Circular 01/2021** on the Customs website.

### Inclusion of hospitality service as a prescribed service under the Strategic Goods (Control) Act

The provision of hospitality service for any event (such as an exhibition or a fair or show) has been included as a prescribed service under section 6(6) of the Strategic Goods (Control) Act (SGCA), in view of feedback from the industry and to facilitate the provision of hospitality services.

With effect from 15 December 2020, any person whose sole involvement in the acquisition or disposal of any goods, technology or document or the transmission of technology (as mentioned in section 6(1) of the SGCA), in the provision of hospitality service for any event that facilitates the arrangement or negotiation of a contract mentioned in section 6(1) of the SGCA, is not subject to the prohibitions in that section.

There is thus no need to be registered or authorised by a permit to provide those hospitality services.

For more information, refer to **Circular 13/2020** on the Customs website.

### Changes to the prohibition of imports, exports, transshipments and goods in transit

Singapore has updated the Seventh Schedule to the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations (RIER), to align with the trade prohibitions imposed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the RIER, the importation into, exportation from, transshipment in or transit through Singapore of any goods which will contravene the decisions of the UNSC in resolutions made under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, are prohibited.

The updated prohibitions have been published in the Regulation of Imports and Exports (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020, and took effect from 1 December 2020.

For more information, refer to **Circular 12/2020** on the Customs website.



## Making a difference in the life of CPAS beneficiaries

In conjunction with Singapore Customs 111<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, Singapore Customs' Staff Well-Being Committee (SWBC) organised a donation drive between November and December 2020, for Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore Goodwill, Rehabilitation & Occupation Workshop (CPAS GROW), a sheltered workshop offering vocational training and employment for adults with cerebral palsy who are unable to find open employment, as well as alumni members from CPAS.

The amount raised was used to purchase essential items, snacks, beverages and face masks for CPAS GROW beneficiaries and CPAS alumni members, to help them prepare for the new year. These items were packed into care packs by volunteers from Singapore Customs. Each of the care packs also contained a unique greeting card designed by our officers and their families with their well wishes and words of encouragement to the CPAS beneficiaries.

With the donations raised, Singapore Customs managed to pack a total of 120 care packs, which were distributed to the beneficiaries by Singapore Customs' Assistant Director-General (Intelligence & Investigations) Yeo Sew Meng, Head of Sea Checkpoints Lim Guan Cheong, and SWBC members in January 2021.



Care packs packed for CPAS GROW beneficiaries and CPAS alumni members.

## New STP partners on board

The Secure Trade Partnership (STP) is a Singapore Customs certification programme that encourages companies to adopt robust security measures and contribute towards improving the security

of the global supply chain. It is consistent with the World Customs Organisation SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. The following companies were STP-certified in the fourth quarter of 2020.

### Prime Evolve Singapore Pte Ltd

**Manufacturer of Evolve™, a sealant used in flexible packaging for food and daily consumer products**

"We are very honoured to be certified under the reputable STP. Since our product is widely used for "packaging" which is essential to deliver goods used in our daily lives, this certification will enhance our quality of service, affirm our commitment to supply chain security and build up trust among our customers," said Mr Tetsuya Yamamoto, Managing Director.

### RichLand Logistics Services Pte Ltd

**Logistics solutions provider**

"RichLand Logistics is committed to the development and maintenance of the highest standard of supply chain security practices that encompass our business activities. The STP certification by Singapore Customs is a great affirmation of our commitment to our customers," said Mr Colin Moran, Chief Executive Officer.

## DO YOU KNOW?

### HOW TO BENEFIT FROM THE UK-SINGAPORE FTA

With the United Kingdom-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (UKSFTA) entering into force on 11 February 2021, companies based in Singapore and the UK can continue to enjoy the same benefits under the EU-Singapore FTA, when trading between the two countries.

These include preferential tariff treatment for exports of Singapore-originating goods to the UK, as well as for imports of UK-originating goods into Singapore.

#### EXPORTS OF SINGAPORE-ORIGINATING GOODS TO THE UK

Similar to the EU-Singapore FTA, the UKSFTA adopts a self-certification regime where the exporter can make out the origin declaration to certify that the goods originate from Singapore and meet the Rules of Origin requirements of the agreement. With the origin declaration, the importer in the UK will be able to claim preferential tariff treatment for the goods from its customs authority.

#### IMPORTS OF UK-ORIGINATING GOODS ENTERING INTO SINGAPORE

Under the UKSFTA, the customs duties for the import of the UK-originating goods (e.g. stout/porter and beer including ale) into Singapore will be eliminated, while the excise duties on these UK-originating goods will still be applicable at their respective rates.

An importer may claim preferential tariff treatment using an origin declaration made out by any one of the following categories of exporters from the UK:

- a) An Approved Exporter, authorised by the customs authorities of the UK, for consignments of UK-originating products whose total value (inclusive of cost, insurance and freight charges) exceeds 6,000 euros; or
- b) Any other exporter in UK for any consignment consisting of one or more packages containing UK-originating products whose total value (inclusive of cost, insurance and freight charges) does not exceed 6,000 euros.

The origin declaration shall be made on the invoice or any other commercial document that must describe the goods in sufficient detail to enable its identification.



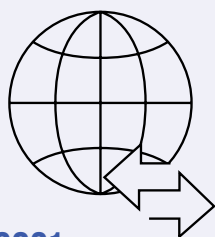
For more information, refer to **Circulars 15/2020** and **16/2020** on the Customs website.



# TRAINING CALENDAR

With the appointment of Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) and Republic Polytechnic (RP) to conduct the existing suite of business courses from January 2020, the business courses conducted by Singapore Customs Academy has ceased from January 2020.

To sign up for the business courses conducted by NYP or RP, please visit the respective polytechnic's website. All courses will be conducted virtually, except for SC111.



## SC100

NYP:

**5 TO 6 APR 2021,  
3 TO 4 MAY 2021,  
14 TO 15 JUN 2021**

SC101

**7 APR 2021, 11 MAY 2021,  
16 JUN 2021**

SC102

**7 APR 2021, 5 MAY 2021,  
16 JUN 2021**

SC103

## BASICS OF EVERY DECLARANT

This course provides an overview of customs procedures pertaining to the import and export of goods, the basic requirements for preparing TradeNet declarations, classification of goods, and the rules of origin:

- SC101 Customs Procedures (2 days)
- SC102 Classification and the Harmonised System (half-day)
- SC103 Rules of Origin/Free Trade Agreements (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.

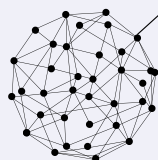
RP:

**15 TO 16 APR 2021,  
18 TO 19 MAY 2021,  
22 TO 23 JUN 2021**

SC101

**23 APR 2021, 20 MAY 2021,  
24 JUN 2021**

Same dates for SC102 & SC103



## SC111

NYP:

**9 APR 2021, 7 MAY 2021,  
18 JUN 2021**

RP:

**22 APR 2021, 21 MAY 2021,  
25 JUN 2021**

## HANDS-ON TRADENET DECLARATION

This one-day workshop provides new declarants with basic information on TradeNet and its various message and declaration types.

The guided practical session uses simulated scenarios to prepare and submit a declaration using the Government Frontend Solution.

## SC200

NYP:

**8 APR 2021, 11 MAY 2021,  
17 JUN 2021**

SC201

**8 APR 2021, 6 MAY 2021,  
17 JUN 2021**

SC202

RP:

**28 MAY 2021**

Same day for SC201 & SC202

## STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL PROGRAMME

This one-day seminar provides an overview of Singapore's strategic goods control system and its regulations, registration procedures and permit requirements for strategic goods transactions, as well as the essentials of an internal (export control) compliance programme.

The seminar comprises two modules:

- SC201 Basics of Strategic Goods Control (half-day)
- SC202 Essentials of Internal (Export Control) Compliance Programme (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.

## [WEBINAR] OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS [MAY 2021]

This programme is designed to equip newly-registered manufacturers with a better understanding of the rules of origin under Singapore's Free Trade Agreements, the application procedure for certificates of origin, and the compliance requirements.

For enquiries, please email [customs\\_roo@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_roo@customs.gov.sg).