

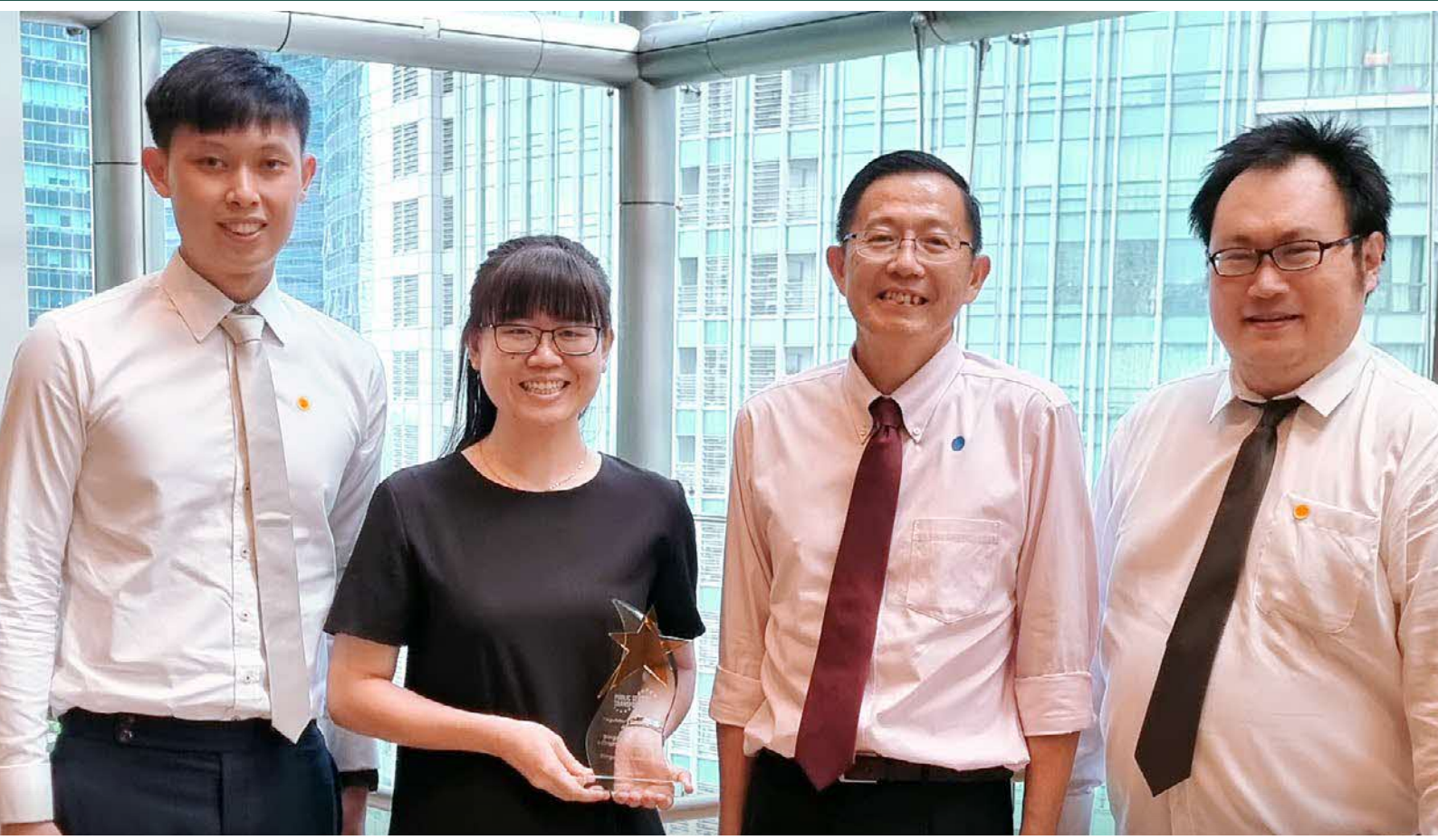
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ISSUE
65

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MAGAZINE

— P.01 —

Singapore-China e-origin data exchange project wins Regulatory Excellence Award



FEATURES

Sharing on strategic goods control at Singapore Export Control Summit



SPOTLIGHT

From strength to strength: Singapore Customs under Director-General Ho Chee Pong



NEWS

ASEAN AEO MRA: On-site joint validations of AEO programmes

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EDITORS' NOTE

After leading Singapore Customs for more than eight years, Director-General Ho Chee Pong has relinquished his appointment, with Mr Tan Hung Hooi, previously Deputy Commissioner (Operations) at the Singapore Police Force, taking over with effect from 1 September 2022 (see pages 2 and 3).

Under Mr Ho's leadership, Singapore Customs has grown from strength to strength, and built new capabilities in the face of disruptions. Notably, Singapore Customs embarked on a transformation journey and digitalised many of its processes to enhance overall effectiveness of customs operations.

Beyond that, Mr Ho also led the department to navigate the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic – rallying Customs officers to step forward to take on new roles to help tackle the pandemic on one hand, and making adjustments without compromising on core work areas on the other.

Mr Ho has helped to build new capabilities in Customs officers for us to excel today while transforming for tomorrow.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mr Ho for his leadership and invaluable contributions to the department, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

TAN XIAN LIN AND ISABEL CHIA
Editors

FEATURES

Singapore-China e-origin data exchange project wins Regulatory Excellence Award

- The establishment of the Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) is in line with the national drive towards digitalisation and has further strengthened Singapore's bilateral relationship with China through trade. EODES allows Singapore to fulfil emerging international regulatory requirements, businesses' needs, and reinforces the Republic's proposition as the regional digital connectivity hub by offering the flexibility to integrate with other strategic trade partners.



On 29 July 2022, Singapore Customs and the Ministry of Trade and Industry received this year's Public Sector Transformation Award for Regulatory Excellence, for their work on the Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES).

The EODES was established by Singapore and China in November 2019, under the auspices of the upgraded China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA). It enables the electronic submission of Preferential Certificate of Origin (PCO) and the Certificate of Non-Manipulation between the two countries' customs administrations on an encrypted platform.

The PCO is conventionally a paper-based document certifying that the goods originate under the definition of a particular FTA, and is submitted to the importing customs to pay lower or zero duty. Sometimes, the importing customs may question the PCOs' authenticity and detect human errors.

With EODES, besides a shorter lead time to send PCO from Singapore to China and vice versa, the

authenticity of the PCO is assured, thus reducing the goods' time-to-market through potentially faster customs clearance. Businesses can also continue to adhere to FTA regulatory requirements while enjoying the hassle-free PCO submission process.

BENEFITS OF EODES

- Shorter lead time to send PCO from Singapore to China and vice versa
- Authenticity of PCO is assured, thus reducing the goods' time-to-market through potentially faster customs clearance
- Greater convenience, cost and time savings for companies

For more information on how to apply for an electronic PCO, please refer to **page 12**.

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FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS UNDER DIRECTOR-GENERAL HO CHEE PONG



► Singapore Customs' senior management together with Mr Ho (centre), who was presented with a framed memento which encapsulated memories of Customs and significant events during his tenure.

Under outgoing Director-General Ho Chee Pong's leadership, Singapore Customs embarked on a transformation journey, stepping up efforts in leveraging technology to enhance overall effectiveness.

Singapore Customs' mission is to protect revenue, and make trade easy, fair and secure. This requires an intricate balance of the requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance to strengthen Singapore's position as a trusted global trade hub.

These intricacies have been compounded by shifts in Customs' operating environment in recent years as well as the years ahead, including technology disruptions, increasing trade and travel volume, and the rapid growth in e-commerce, which presents the department with more demands and constraints.

Under Director-General Ho's leadership, Singapore Customs embarked on a transformation journey to navigate these challenges and beyond. The transformation journey was particularly apt in the face of turbulence and disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic which occurred shortly after.

As part of Customs' transformation journey, efforts were made to digitalise customs processes, and to

enhance digital trade connectivity with our overseas trading partners.

Mr Ho played a pivotal role in developing the Networked Trade Platform as a key trade and logistics ecosystem, enabling cross-border connectivity collaborations with several major overseas partners on the digital exchange of trade and customs documentation.

On the trade facilitation front, he oversaw the implementation of the ASEAN Customs Transit System, ASEAN-Wide Self-Certification Scheme, and the preparatory groundwork for Singapore's recent accession in June 2022 to the World Customs Organisation International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention).

During his stint, Singapore Customs signed Authorised Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangements (AEO MRAs) with Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Thailand and the United States, ensuring that Singapore companies which are certified locally as AEOs are recognised by our MRA partners as of lower risks and can enjoy faster customs clearance in our foreign partners' jurisdictions.

Singapore Customs would like to express our deep appreciation to Mr Ho for his leadership and invaluable contributions to the department.

NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON BOARD

Singapore Customs welcomes Mr Tan Hung Hooi as its Director-General from 1 September 2022, taking over from Mr Ho Chee Pong.

Mr Tan was previously the Deputy Commissioner (Operations) of Singapore Police Force (SPF).

He joined the SPF in 1994, and served in several key appointments in the Home Team over the past 28 years, as the Deputy Commissioner (Policy & Transformation) in the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, Manpower Director in the SPF, as well as Commander of Central Police Division and Police Security Command.

In his tenure as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations), Mr Tan oversaw the SPF's COVID-19 operations during the pandemic. In addition, he led developmental work across a wide spectrum of policy and ops-tech work, which covered crime fighting, counter-terrorism, protective security, training, community engagement and police regulatory functions.

Mr Tan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Master's Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the National University of Singapore. He was also awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and had obtained a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Harvard University.

“ I am excited to come on board and join the Singapore Customs family, and look forward to working with our colleagues and stakeholders. ”

— Mr Tan Hung Hooi



► Outgoing Director-General Ho Chee Pong (left) handing over the Customs flag to his successor, Mr Tan Hung Hooi (right), in a Change of Command Ceremony at Revenue House on 31 August 2022.

Singapore Export Control Summit 2022

- Singapore Customs regularly reviews its strategic goods control list to ensure that the export control regime remains robust, and jointly organise outreach sessions with other agencies to engage industry stakeholders.

The Singapore Export Control Summit, which comprised the annual Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management, now into its 10th year; the inaugural Women in Strategic Trade Forum; and the 2nd Southeast Asian Forum on Export Control, was held from 12 to 16 September 2022.

The week-long event was jointly organised by Singapore Customs, US Department of Commerce (US Bureau of Industry and Security), US Department of State (US Export Control and Related Border Security), US Department of Energy, and Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

10TH JOINT INDUSTRY OUTREACH SEMINAR ON STRATEGIC TRADE MANAGEMENT

The Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management (“JIO”) resumed its physical format for its 10th edition on 12 and 13 September 2022, after two years of virtual seminars. About 500 attendees from various industries, international and local government agencies attended the JIO in-person.

An annual public event, the JIO seeks to update the industry on the latest developments on strategic



Singapore Customs’ Deputy Director-General, Mr Lim Teck Leong, delivering the opening remarks at the Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on 12 September 2022.

trade management and regulatory requirements in various participating countries and also serves as a platform for the sharing of best practices on internal compliance programmes in companies.

This year, besides the sharing of emerging technology trends and challenges, and best practices on critical technology protection, three private sector representatives also shared compliance challenges arising from an increasingly complex regulatory landscape.

Singapore Customs’ Deputy Director-General, Mr Lim Teck Leong, who delivered the opening remarks at the event, noted shared concerns over proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

“Amidst the evolving global security landscape, we must continue to strengthen our supply chain security to effectively curb WMD proliferation, which is one of the key threats to global security and regional stability,” said Mr Lim.

One way this could be achieved is for each country in the global supply chain to play its part to implement effective strategic goods control systems, with the hope that the combined efforts would provide strong resistance against attempts to threaten international peace and security.

“While regulators continue to facilitate trading activities for legitimate industry players, it is vital that both regulators and industry players remain vigilant, and prevent any abuse by proliferators,” Mr Lim added.

WHAT ARE STRATEGIC GOODS?

Strategic goods refer to items and related technology that can be used to produce weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and missiles capable of delivering such weapons. They include arms and military equipment, as well as commercial items that can be used for civilian industrial purposes or to develop WMD.

As the national authority for the administration of all strategic trade control-related matters, Singapore Customs recognises the crucial role it plays in combating the proliferation of WMD so as to uphold trade security.



Mdm Fauziah A. Sani, Assistant Head of International Relations of Singapore Customs, represented Singapore at the Women in Strategic Trade Forum.



Singapore Customs’ Senior Assistant Director-General of Trade, Mr Lee Boon Chong, addressing participants at the 2nd Southeast Asian Forum on Export Control.

INAUGURAL WOMEN IN STRATEGIC TRADE FORUM

For the very first time, a Women in Strategic Trade Forum was introduced to discuss gender equity issues in strategic trade management.

Government officials from various export control agencies in the field of strategic trade management shared their experiences and discussed challenges and opportunities for women in this field, in a half-day panel discussion on 14 September 2022.

Mdm Fauziah A. Sani, Assistant Head of International Relations of Singapore Customs, represented Singapore in the panel discussion, where she shared her experience in various aspects of Singapore’s strategic trade management.

The forum was organised by the US Department of State’s Export Control and Border Security Program, in partnership with the US Department of Energy’s International Nonproliferation Export Control Program.

2ND SOUTHEAST ASIAN FORUM ON EXPORT CONTROL

At the 2nd Southeast Asian Forum on Export Control, officials from Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, the European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United Nations, the

United States and Vietnam shared and discussed issues and challenges relating to strategic trade management.

Key counter-proliferation-related topics covered included presentations on developing industry outreach, emerging technology controls, transit and transshipment hub trends and challenges, and enforcement strategies and best practices.

Singapore Customs’ Senior Assistant Director-General of Trade, Mr Lee Boon Chong, who delivered the opening remarks at the event, pointed out that a transshipment hub like Singapore is particularly vulnerable to being used as a conduit for the transfer of illicit items.

“Thus, promoting effective and rigorous implementation of our strategic trade framework and United Nations Security Council obligations is an important national interest,” said Mr Lee.

He added that Singapore’s counter-proliferation efforts must be balanced against the need for unimpeded flow of legitimate trade.

“We should never lose sight of the fact that the bulk of international trade is legitimate. Measures that disrupt or slow down trade will only weaken the ability and resolve of countries who are our important partners in the fight against proliferation,” said Mr Lee.



Participants of the 2nd Southeast Asian Forum on Export Control.

Senior Minister of State Chee Hong Tat visits Customs Operations Command

••• The visit to Customs Operations Command was part of a series of visits by Mr Chee to statutory boards and departments under the Ministry of Finance since his appointment as Senior Minister of State for Finance on 13 June 2022.

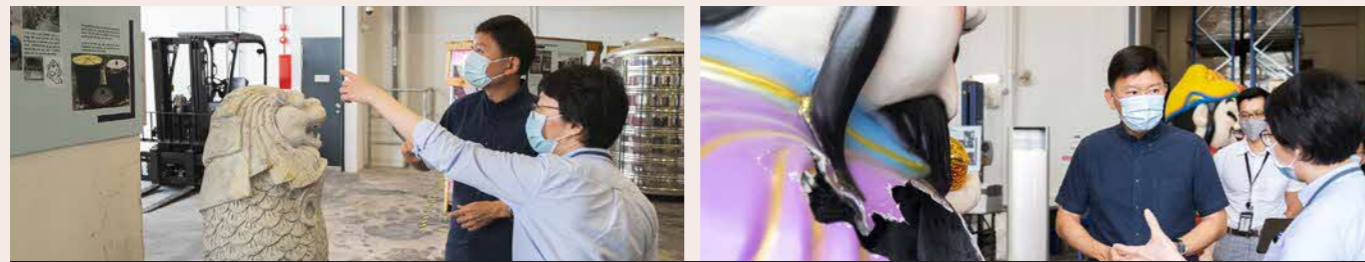
On 6 July 2022, Singapore Customs hosted Senior Minister of State (SMS) for Finance, Mr Chee Hong Tat, at Customs Operations Command (COC).

During his visit, SMS Chee was briefed on the key roles and functions of Singapore Customs, as well as some of the key projects that Singapore Customs was embarking on. SMS Chee commended Singapore Customs on its proactiveness in looking at ways to support businesses, and encouraged Singapore Customs to continue to do so while ensuring sufficient safeguards to protect tax collections and maintain the level of trust in Singapore's status as a transshipment hub.

SMS Chee also visited the warehouse where Customs stores seized exhibits and coverloads from enforcement operations. Below are some highlights of the warehouse tour:



SMS Chee (centre) being briefed on Customs' key roles and functions as well as major initiatives.



Head of Special Investigation Branch, Ms Ooi Chia Miin, sharing with SMS Chee on the enforcement cases where offenders used Merlion and God of Fortune figurines as the coverloads to hide duty-unpaid cigarettes.



Senior Assistant Director-General (Intelligence & Investigation), Mr Lee Tiow Yong, sharing with SMS Chee on enforcement efforts in Singapore Customs.

The COC building at Bulim Drive is a purpose-built facility catering to Singapore Customs' current and future operational needs. It allows for the full spectrum of intelligence, investigation, and compliance-related functions to be integrated under one roof. The facility was officially opened on 15 November 2019 by current Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong.

Case files: Enforcement Highlights

SYNDICATE CHIEFS GET JAIL AND FINE FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF DUTY AND GST

Two Singaporean men, Teo Tian Soon, 56, and Lim Wei Luen, 41, were imposed stiff penalties by the State Courts for masterminding an elaborate scheme to divert duty-unpaid liquors falsely declared as sea stores¹ into the local black market.

Teo was on 9 June 2022 sentenced to a fine of over \$47 million, or in-default 105 months' imprisonment, for fraudulent evasion of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST), and 12 months' imprisonment for engaging in a conspiracy of cheating by forgery. Lim was sentenced on 14 July 2022 to a fine of over \$28 million, or in-default 80 months' imprisonment for fraudulent evasion of duty and GST.

Teo had experience working as a ship chandler. To supply dutiable goods such as alcohol as sea stores, ship chandlers would apply for export permits before collecting the goods from Licensed Warehouses² (LWs) for delivery to vessels. To ensure the dutiable sea stores are physically delivered to the vessels anchored at Singapore's waters, the export permits must be endorsed by the Auxiliary Police Officers (APOs) at the marine terminals³ and the master of the vessel receiving the sea stores.

During an operation conducted on 7 November 2019, Singapore Customs officers observed and trailed a truck leaving a LW loaded with duty-unpaid alcohol declared to be exported as sea stores. Instead of heading to a marine terminal, the vehicle went to another warehouse where the alcohol was unloaded and subsequently transferred into a van. Officers arrested the two masterminds and 10 other men at the scene and from follow-up operations.

Investigations revealed that the two masterminds and one of the men, Vernon Quek Beng Yong, 48, recruited seven individuals and used their identities to set up nine shell entities, which were then declared in the export permit declarations as the exporters of the alcohol.

After arranging for the purchase of the alcohol from suppliers, Teo and Quek falsely endorsed the export permits using fabricated APO stamp and vessel stamp, and fraudulently signed off as APO and master of vessel. Lim then arranged for the collection, and diversion of duty-unpaid alcohol to local buyers.

Between September 2017 and November 2019, about 1.1 million bottles of liquors and 1.5 million cans of beer, declared in 1,538 export permits of sea stores, were diverted inland. The total duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$23 million and \$2.3 million respectively.

Teo pleaded guilty to three charges of fraudulent evasion of duty and GST. The total duty and GST evaded for the three proceeded charges amounted to about \$5.3 million. Teo also pleaded guilty to an offence under the Penal Code of engaging in a conspiracy with Quek to make forged export permits.

Lim pleaded guilty to two charges of fraudulent evasion of duty and GST. The total duty and GST evaded for the two proceeded charges amounted to about \$3.1 million.

The case against Quek and most of the syndicate members have been dealt with. Quek was convicted of two charges of fraudulent evasion of duty and GST and one charge of engaging in a conspiracy with Teo and was sentenced to a fine of over \$36 million and nine months' imprisonment. Eight of the remaining nine syndicate members were sentenced to a fine of between \$13,000 and \$6.6 million. Of them, six did not pay the fine and would serve eight to 48 months' imprisonment in default. Court proceedings are ongoing against the remaining man.

¹ Sea stores refer to goods supplied for consumption or use on board a vessel by the crew and passengers outside Singapore waters. The items range from food, cigarettes, liquor and other basic necessities. As sea stores are consumed outside Singapore, they are considered as exports and are thus exempted from payment of duty and GST.

² Licensed Warehouses are premises licensed by Singapore Customs for storage of dutiable goods with the duty and GST suspended pending re-export or removal for local consumption. Duty and GST are payable if the goods are to be removed from the Licensed Warehouse for local consumption.

³ Marina South Wharves and Penjuru Terminal are the two marine terminals in Singapore used for loading of sea stores onto supply boats which then deliver the sea stores to vessels anchored in Singapore's waters.

Celebrating National Day 2022 at Singapore Customs

- As part of longstanding tradition, Singapore Customs officers used to come together to celebrate the annual National Day. This has changed over the past two years as physical engagements were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, and virtual events were held instead.



This year, Singapore Customs finally held a physical National Day Observance Ceremony and Staff Appreciation on 8 August 2022 to celebrate Singapore's 57th Birthday at Customs Operations Command in-person.

This year's National Day theme, "Stronger Together, Majulah", resonated with participants who have stood united both as customs officers and as citizens to overcome challenges brought about by the pandemic.

The observance ceremony was preceded by a Customs' Awards Ceremony where we recognised and celebrated fellow officers' achievements for being exemplary and for their performance and contributions at work such as in capability building and continuous learning and development.



Scenes from Singapore Customs' National Day Observance Ceremony and Staff Appreciation at Customs Operations Command on 8 August 2022.

ASEAN AEO MRA: On-site joint validations of AEO programmes

Over the past few months, a series of joint validations of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes were conducted in various ASEAN countries including Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. With more joint validations to come, these will pave the way for the implementation of the ASEAN AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AAMRA) by 2025, following the launch of its Joint Action Plan at the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs in June 2022.



Singapore Customs officers briefed the visiting team on Singapore's STP-Plus validation procedures and addressed queries on Singapore's STP-Plus programme and AEO cargo clearance procedures.

Indonesia

Singapore led a team of customs AEO assessors from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Viet Nam to conduct the first on-site joint validation of Indonesia's AEO programme from 5 to 6 July 2022 in Jakarta. During the visit, the assessors carried out site assessments at a company and observed how validation of companies applying for or renewing their AEO statuses was carried out.



On-site joint validation of Indonesia's AEO programme (Photo: Indonesia's Directorate General of Customs and Excise).

Singapore

Following the first on-site joint validation conducted in Indonesia, a team of customs AEO assessors from six ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) visited Singapore from 26 to 27 July 2022, and conducted an on-site joint validation of Singapore's AEO programme, the Secure Trade Partnership (STP) Plus.

Thailand

The third in a series of the joint validation visits, customs AEO assessors from Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam conducted an on-site joint validation of Thailand's AEO programme from 8 to 9 August 2022 in Bangkok. Areas assessed included compliance with customs and/or excise regulations and satisfactory system for management of commercial records, etc.



On-site joint validation of Thailand's AEO programme.

Malaysia

Customs AEO assessors from the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam conducted an on-site joint validation of Malaysia's AEO programme from 17 to 18 August 2022 in Kuala Lumpur. The joint validation covered among others, on-site cargo, conveyance and premises securities, as well as information management and system security, and security risk assessment and incident management.



On-site joint validation of Malaysia's AEO programme.



News round-up for traders

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

Gazette of Strategic Goods (Control) (Amendment) Order 2022 and Strategic Goods (Control) (Amendment) Regulations 2022

The Strategic Goods (Control) (Amendment) Order 2022 and Strategic Goods (Control) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 were gazetted on 1 August 2022 and came into effect from 1 October 2022.

The Strategic Goods (Control) (Amendment) Order 2022 brings Singapore's Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2021 up to date with the 2021 Wassenaar Arrangement's Munitions List, and the 2021 European Union's List of Dual-Use Items, incorporating revisions such as new controls and editorial amendments.

Separately, as part of our continuous efforts to enhance Singapore's strategic goods control system, Singapore Customs has reviewed the Fourth and Fifth Schedules of the Strategic Goods (Control) Regulations (SGCR) and updated them to include new items where permit exemptions under Regulation 13(2) of the SGCR do not apply.

For more information, please refer to **Circular 08/2022** on the Customs website.

Customs duty revision on samsu

The following duty revision has taken effect from 1 July 2022, after a review on Singapore's tariff concessions under the Declaration on Trade in Essential Goods for Combating the COVID-19 Pandemic:

HS CODE	DESCRIPTION	CUSTOMS DUTY
2208.90.10	Medicated samsu of an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 40 % vol.	\$8.00 per litre of alcohol
2208.90.20	Medicated samsu of an alcoholic strength by volume exceeding 40 % vol.	\$8.00 per litre of alcohol
2208.90.30	Other samsu of an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 40 % vol.	\$8.00 per litre of alcohol
2208.90.40	Other samsu of an alcoholic strength by volume exceeding 40 % vol.	\$8.00 per litre of alcohol

The Declaration was jointly announced by Singapore and New Zealand on 15 April 2020, building on an earlier joint ministerial statement to ensure supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 situation then.

For more information, please refer to **Circular 07/2022** on the Customs website.

Update on permit application for wine for approved events

With effect from 25 May 2022, the procedures when applying for a duty exemption and Goods and Services Tax (GST) relief certificate for wine for approved events have been updated.

Since 1 April 2009, duty exemption and GST relief is granted up to three bottles of wine (2.25 litres) per label per day for each exhibitor and the main conference organiser for use at approved wine exhibitions and conference events. This is to promote wine trading activities and help develop the wine industry in Singapore.

To qualify for the duty exemption and GST relief, the wine imported may only be used for the purpose of sampling at wine exhibitions and conference events approved under the Business Events in Singapore scheme (BEiS) administered by the Singapore Tourism Board.

The list of approved wines for such events has also been updated to include other rice wine. Wine falling under HS Headings 2204 and 2205 and selected HS Headings 2206 will qualify for duty exemption and GST relief.

For more information, please refer to **Circular 06/2022** on the Customs website.

THINGS TO NOTE

- Approved wine may be contained in one or more bottles or other containers.
- Duty and GST will be payable if the tax-exempted wine is sold, disposed of or transferred locally.
- For ease of identifying the approved wines, good quality temper-proof, non-removable and non-reusable stickers must be affixed on the body of the exempted bottles.

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 second quarter of 2022.

COMPANIES WITH STP STATUS

ABV Logistics Pte Ltd

Boutique provider of alcohol warehousing and logistical services

"Being STP-certified allows us to be the bridge that helps improve supply chain trust between clients and the authorities," said Mr Matthew Chua, Managing Director.

Cisco Systems (USA) Pte Ltd

Worldwide leader in technology that powers the Internet

"As a trusted, global partner for Asia, our compliance with STP is a testament to our commitment to trade compliance and security. The certification, which helps to regulate the smooth, seamless and secure movement of goods across borders, also translates into smoother and faster transactions for customers," said Ms Tay Bee Kheng, President, Cisco ASEAN.

J Logistics Pte Ltd

Strategic partner in supply chain management

"J Logistics is proud and delighted to add STP certification to our list of acknowledgements which include ISO 9001, ISO 22301, ISO 45001 and BizSafe Star. It is another validation of our commitment towards a high level of standard for ourselves as well as our clients," said Mr John Lee, General Manager.

Reading for charity

Singapore Customs officers participated in the annual National Reading Movement organised by the National Library Board (NLB) in August 2022, to share the gift of reading with the less privileged.

For every 10 people who read for 15 minutes, one book would be donated to NLB's selected beneficiaries. This year, the selected beneficiaries are WondeRead and the Migrant Worker Library.

In two sessions held virtually via video conferencing during lunch time, participants from Singapore Customs clocked a total of 1,730 minutes for charity, surpassing the figure clocked in 2021.



First reading session conducted on 19 August 2022.



Second reading session conducted on 26 August 2022.

DO YOU KNOW?

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF CERTIFICATES WITH CHINA

The Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) allows the electronic exchange of Preferential Certificate of Origin (PCO) and Certificate of Non-Manipulation (CNM) between Singapore and China (more on page 1). From 1 May 2020, China has implemented full electronic transmission of PCO, eliminating the need for hardcopy PCO to be despatched overseas.

HOW DOES THIS BENEFIT ME?

Before the electronic submission of PCO or CNM, the hardcopies of these certificates needed to be despatched overseas. This not only incurs cost and could also take days. The electronic transmission eliminates this need, enabling companies to enjoy cost and time savings while continue adhering to Free Trade Agreement or other regulatory requirements.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BENEFIT FROM THIS?

To benefit from the potentially faster customs clearance, exporters and their appointed declaring agents / freight forwarders should leverage the International Connectivity Preferential Certificate of Origin (ICPCO) service and International Connectivity Certificate of Non-Manipulation (ICCNM) service available on the Networked Trade Platform (NTP).

Apart from exporters, importers who wish to claim preferential treatment for import of goods from China to Singapore or to apply for a back-to-back PCO would be able to retrieve the electronic PCO issued by China via the ICPCO service.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN ELECTRONIC PCO?

To apply for an electronic PCO under the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement or ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, you will require an NTP account.

- Submit a one-time declaration at go.gov.sg/eodesregform via your NTP account.
- Subscribe to the ICPCO service under Value-Added Services.
- Apply for the PCO via TradeNet as per current procedure.
- Retrieve approved PCO via the ICPCO service in NTP, and perform technical adjustments to the approved PCO, to conform to the requirements of the importing authorities in China.
- Submit electronic PCO to China.

You may also wish to follow the step-by-step guide at www.go.gov.sg/eodesguidebook to submit the electronic PCO to China.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN ELECTRONIC CNM WITH CHINA AS THE COUNTRY OF FINAL DESTINATION?

To apply for an electronic CNM via NTP, you will require an NTP account.

- Subscribe to the ICCNM service under Value-Added Services.
- Complete and submit the electronic form on ICCNM Service.
- Applicant will receive an email notification once the application is approved.
- Approved CNM with China as the country of final destination would be transmitted electronically to China.

HOW SOON WILL CHINA RECEIVE THE APPROVED PCO AND CNM?

In general, you can retrieve the approved PCO record in the ICPCO service on NTP within one hour from its approval in TradeNet. You can then submit the electronic PCO immediately via ICPCO and China will receive the PCO in real-time. Similarly, for CNM, once the CNM is approved, China will receive the CNM in real-time.

For more information, please refer to the **ICPCO** and **ICCNM** pages on the NTP website.

TRAINING CALENDAR



SC111

NYP:

11 NOV 2022, 9 DEC 2022

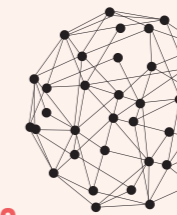
RP:

17 NOV 2022, 15 DEC 2022

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.



SC100

NYP:

7 TO 8 NOV 2022,
5 TO 6 DEC 2022

SC101

RP:

14 TO 15 NOV 2022,
12 TO 13 DEC 2022

SC101

9 NOV 2022, 7 DEC 2022

Same dates for SC102 & SC103

16 NOV 2022, 14 DEC 2022

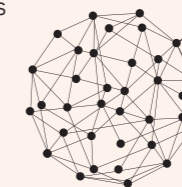
Same dates for SC102 & SC103

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.



OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS

Conducted by Singapore Customs, 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.

SC200

NYP:

10 NOV 2022, 8 DEC 2022

Same dates for SC201 & SC202

RP:

18 NOV 2022, 16 DEC 2022

Same dates 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.