



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

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DIRECTOR FINED \$41,000 FOR FALSELY DECLARING ORIGIN OF GOODS

Singapore, 2 August 2023 – A male Singaporean, Ng Cheng Kang (黄青岗) (“Ng”), 47, was fined \$41,000 by the State Courts on 31 July 2023 for making false declarations in his applications for Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs) for goods exported by his company.

2 PCOs are documents that identify the origin of the goods and confer a tariff benefit in the importing country usually under a free trade agreement. PCOs may only be issued by Singapore Customs and is applicable only for goods that are manufactured or wholly obtained from Singapore.

3 Ng, the sole director of Centennial Metals Investment Pte Ltd (“Centennial”), pleaded guilty to five charges under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations. Another 19 similar charges were taken into consideration during sentencing.

4 Centennial deals in the wholesale of scrap metals, junk and waste, with businesses in local and overseas markets, including India. Ng’s role involved overseeing the sales, operations and management of Centennial.

5 Singapore Customs launched investigations after receiving a request to verify if the scrap metals covered by the PCOs obtained by Centennial for its customers in India met the requirements of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA).

6 Investigations revealed that between March 2021 and December 2021, Ng purchased scrap metals from Indonesia and local companies, and packed them together to meet the total weight ordered by the customers in India, before exporting them to India. The Indian customers requested Ng to obtain PCOs for the scrap metals so that they could enjoy preferential tariff treatment under the AIFTA. Despite knowing that only goods manufactured in Singapore or wholly obtained from Singapore were eligible for PCOs under the AIFTA, Ng falsely declared in the applications for the PCOs that the country of origin for the scrap metals was Singapore, when they were in fact from both Indonesia and Singapore.

7 Ng pleaded guilty to five charges of making false statements in five applications of PCOs for goods valued at about \$0.79 million. 19 similar charges involving 19 applications of PCOs for goods valued at about \$1.72 million were taken into consideration during sentencing.

8 Under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations, anyone found guilty of furnishing false statements to the issuing authority to obtain the PCOs, will be liable on the first conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or three times the value of the goods in respect of which the offence was committed, whichever is the greater, or imprisonment for up to two years, or both.

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About Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We promote trade competitiveness and ensure the security of the supply chain.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations as we safeguard Singapore's borders against potential risks and threats. With the use of data analytics and various advanced technologies, we continuously leverage digital initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing these intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

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