



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

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### **CERTIFIED COMPANIES TO ENJOY REDUCED CUSTOMS CHECKS FOR GOODS TRADED BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA**

Singapore, 23 Jan 2024 – Singapore and Malaysia have signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes on 18 January 2024. This MRA enables Singapore’s certified AEO exporters’ shipments to Malaysia to enjoy less customs documentation checks and/or cargo inspections, and vice versa. The signing by Singapore Customs’ Director-General, Mr Tan Hung Hooi, and the Royal Malaysian Customs Department’s (RMCD) Director-General, Dato’ Anis Rizana Binti Mohd Zainudin, took place in Singapore during the latter’s visit.

2 “Malaysia and Singapore have always shared close trade and economic ties. This new Malaysia-Singapore AEO-MRA will further strengthen our bilateral customs cooperation, as we commit to a smooth and secure supply chain,” said Mr Tan. “More companies in Singapore should come on board our Secure Trade Partnership - Plus (STP-Plus) programme to make full use of the benefits offered through our network of MRA partners.”

3 Dato’ Anis Rizana said, “This MRA signifies the close cooperation between the Royal Malaysian Customs Department and Singapore Customs. This bilateral relationship will also enhance trade facilitation and improve security management in the supply chain”. She added that the RMCD is also promoting the AEO programme to Malaysia’s industry players so they can benefit from it.

4 The Malaysia – Singapore AEO MRA recognises the compatibility of the supply chain security measures implemented by companies certified under Singapore Customs’ STP-Plus programme (see Annex A), as well as companies accredited under Malaysia’s AEO programme. STP-Plus certified companies in Singapore are recognised as having lower risks and will benefit from reduced documentary checks and/or physical cargo inspections when exporting goods to Malaysia. Similarly, companies certified by Malaysia will receive the same level of facilitation when exporting to Singapore.

5 Singapore companies with significant trade with Malaysia welcomed the signing of the MRA.

- Ms Emily Lee, Senior Customs and Trade Compliance Manager, Schenker Singapore Pte Ltd, commented, “From our perspective as a logistics service provider, the Malaysia - Singapore AEO MRA offers significant advantages. The streamlined customs procedures integrated into the AEO framework can notably enhance the efficiency of Schenker's logistics operations, resulting in decreased transit times and improved overall supply chain performance. The emphasis on security standards aligns with Schenker's dedication to establish a secure and resilient logistics network. It strategically positions Schenker to play a key role in facilitating smooth cross-border trade between Singapore and Malaysia, and opens up extended opportunities for collaboration with other trade partners and potential industries in Malaysia. For example, collaborative prospects may arise for industries involved in manufacturing and production due to the improved efficiency in the movement of goods facilitated by Schenker.”

6 Between 2021 and 2023, Singapore’s total trade with Malaysia averaged S\$135.1 billion annually.

**Annex A:** Background on Singapore Customs’ Secure Trade Partnership Programme and Mutual Recognition Arrangements

**Annex B:** Photographs

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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 regulate the export of strategic goods and implement Singapore's commitments to some international trade regulations such as United Nations Security Council Sanctions.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations in our mission and operations. With the use of data analytics, digitalisation of processes and various technologies, we continuously 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.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)  
Follow us at [www.facebook.com/SingaporeCustoms](https://www.facebook.com/SingaporeCustoms)

## **ANNEX A**

### **Background on Singapore Customs' Secure Trade Partnership Programme and Mutual Recognition Arrangements**

Singapore Customs' Secure Trade Partnership (STP) programme is based on the World Customs Organization (WCO) Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework of Standards).

The Framework highlights the need for all stakeholders to take measures to ensure the security of the supply chain, and for customs administrations to establish Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes to certify companies which adopt robust security practices.

Companies with higher security measures in place will be eligible for STP-Plus. They will also receive additional facilitation through the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) with our partners.

To date, 76 companies are certified as AEOs by Singapore Customs under the STP-Plus.

MRAs multiply the benefits of national AEO programmes by elevating trade facilitation and trade security to the international level. Such arrangements also help to facilitate continuous secure trade flows in situations of high alert or when international trade is disrupted.

Singapore Customs is the first customs administration in Southeast Asia to enter into mutual recognition of AEO programmes with other customs administrations. To date, it has signed MRAs with 12 customs administrations: Canada, Republic of Korea, Japan, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the United States, Australia, Thailand, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Malaysia; as well as the regional ASEAN AEO MRA.

## ANNEX B - PHOTOS



*Singapore Customs' Director-General, Mr Tan Hung Hooi, and the Royal Malaysian Customs Department's (RMCD) Director-General Dato' Anis Rizana Binti Mohd Zainudin at the signing ceremony.*



### Singapore Customs Delegation:

*Singapore Customs' Director-General, Mr Tan Hung Hooi (sixth from the right)*

*Deputy Director-General (Policy & Facilitation), Mr Lim Teck Leong (fifth from the right)*

*Senior Assistant Director-General (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Lee Tiow Yong, (fourth from the right)*

### RMCD Delegation:

*Director-General Dato' Anis Rizana Binti Mohd Zainudin (sixth from left)*

*Deputy Director-General (Enforcement & Compliance), Dato' Sazali bin Mohamed, (fifth from left)*

*Deputy Director-General (Management), Mohd Daud Mohd Arif (fourth from left)*