

insync

ISSUE
63

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MAGAZINE

— P.01 —

Scaling up Customs digital transformation through use of data



FEATURES

Facilitating cross-border trade with Customs' connectivity initiatives



FEATURES

Annual Enforcement Results 2021



NEWS

News round-up for traders

CONTENTS

SPOTLIGHT

- 01 | Scaling up Customs digital transformation through use of data

FEATURES

- 03 | Facilitating cross-border trade with Customs' connectivity initiatives
- 05 | Annual Enforcement Results 2021
- 11 | Scam alert! Fake Singapore Customs website

NEWS

- 12 | News round-up for traders
- 12 | New STP partners on board

DO YOU KNOW?

- 13 | How to benefit from RCEP

TRAINING CALENDAR

- 14 | Training Calendar



EDITORS' NOTE

The theme of this year's International Customs Day is "Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem". In line with the theme, our cover story features Singapore Customs officers who won recognition from the World Customs Organisation for promoting data sharing and using data in their work. Find out more on pages 1 and 2.

Singapore Customs collaborates with its overseas counterparts, both internationally and regionally, to facilitate Singapore's external trade. In this issue of inSYNC, we recap the key agreements signed and initiatives launched in recent years, on pages 3 and 4.

One such agreement is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement. With its entry into force on 1 January 2022, businesses can benefit from preferential tariff treatment for exports of Singapore-originating goods to parties under the RCEP, as well as for imports of RCEP-originating goods into Singapore (page 13).

Finally, our Annual Enforcement Results for 2021 are available from pages 5 to 11. 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 and trade offences.

TAN XIAN LIN AND ISABEL CHIA
Editors

Scaling up Customs digital transformation THROUGH USE OF DATA

Each year, for the celebration of the International Customs Day, the World Customs Organisation (WCO) chooses a theme that is relevant to the international Customs community. The theme selected for 2022 is "Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem".

Ten Singapore Customs officers were awarded the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Certificate of Merit at Singapore Customs' celebration of the International Customs Day on 26 January 2022 (see side story). The officers were recognised for demonstrating commitment in their work towards WCO's theme for 2022.

Under the theme, the Customs community will focus on how to operate in a fully digital environment and create an operating model that captures and exploits data from across the trade ecosystem.

In his message, WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya pointed out that a robust data culture empowers people to ask questions, challenge ideas and rely on detailed insights, not just intuition or instinct, to make decisions.

"In order to nurture a data-driven culture, administrations need to enhance the data literacy of their staff – in other words, their ability to interpret and analyse data accurately," added Dr Mikuriya.

WCO Merit Award winners with Singapore Customs Director-General Ho Chee Pong.



In Singapore Customs, officers are encouraged to explore the use of data in their everyday work. Besides championing proficient and efficient use of data amongst officers, Singapore Customs also sets standards and policies to maintain secure use of data, and promote agile ways of data use.

We look at how some of the WCO Merit Award winners promote data sharing and use data in their work:

Examples of Projects by WCO Merit Award Winners

- Assistant Head of Permits Compliance, Ms Soh Lee Beng, led her team to successfully implement a new integrated trade statistics system to enhance the analysis and processing of data declared to Singapore Customs, so as to generate trade statistics required by Enterprise Singapore for the publication of Singapore's merchandise data.
- Assistant Head of Free Trade Zone, Mr Tan Chin Hwa, facilitated the sharing of data with many other government agencies, allowing data to be reused for government services or enhancing the data pool used by agencies for data analysis to support operations, planning or policy making. He had also worked on enhancing Customs' capability in targeting suspicious shipments which would be imported into, exported from, or transshipping via Singapore.

To read, download or subscribe to inSYNC, please visit www.customs.gov.sg.

Please let us know what you think of inSYNC. We welcome your ideas on what you would like to see and how we can do better. Write in to the [Editor at customs_media@customs.gov.sg](mailto:Editor@customs_media@customs.gov.sg).



inSYNC is a publication of Singapore Customs. Copyright of the materials contained in this publication belongs to Singapore Customs. Nothing in here shall be reproduced in whole or in part without prior written consent of Singapore Customs. All rights reserved. All information is correct at time of publication.

- During COVID-19, Assistant Head of Procedures & Systems, Mr Yip Dianlin, utilised available data tools for various purposes, such as analysis of the impact to trade flow in and out of Singapore due to the temporary measures put in place by various countries during COVID-19. He also provided relevant statistics to other agencies in addressing various supply chain challenges posed by COVID-19.
- Working closely with the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) to implement the automated cargo clearance initiative, Assistant Head of Land Checkpoints & Operations, Ms Cindy Leong, analysed traders' feedback and worked with multiple stakeholders to identify solutions to address the issues raised. She also collaborated with ICA to digitalise the case handling workflow, allowing for electronic transfers of case related forms instead of despatching forms manually.

Celebrating International Day 2022

Singapore Customs joined the global Customs community in observing International Customs Day on 26 January 2022, as part of its annual tradition. The celebration this year was held at the Customs Operations Command, with safe management measures in place.

The measures included on-site antigen rapid testing for all event attendees, and ensuring that the attendees remained masked and seated at least 1-m apart.

Besides the WCO Certificate of Merit, Singapore Customs' Director-General Ho Chee Pong also presented several other awards to recognise officers' achievements and contributions.



Emcees sharing the theme and message from WCO for International Customs Day 2022.



Long Service Award, Special Appreciation Award, Customs Staff Awards and WCO Certificate of Merit were presented to officers.



Attendees remained masked and seated at least 1-m apart.

Facilitating cross-border trade with Customs' connectivity initiatives

- Singapore Customs works closely with its overseas counterparts, both internationally and regionally, to facilitate Singapore's external trade. This has resulted in a number of connectivity initiatives which translate to greater convenience, time and cost savings for businesses. We recap the key agreements signed and initiatives launched in recent years.

RECENT PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

On the international front, Singapore has signed a number of agreements with overseas counterparts to strengthen Singapore's position as a global trade hub and enhance trade security and/or trade facilitation with the respective signatories.

PARTNERSHIP/ AGREEMENT	WHAT IT IS ABOUT	KEY BENEFITS
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP)	The RCEP, which entered into force on 1 January 2022, is a regional free trade agreement between the 10 ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand. It is also the world's largest free trade agreement.	Businesses can benefit from preferential tariff treatment for exports of Singapore-originating goods to parties under the RCEP, as well as for imports of RCEP-originating goods into Singapore. Please refer to page 13 for more details.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China Customs for Cooperation in Single Window Interconnection Consortium Blockchain	The MOU, announced at the 17 th China-Singapore Joint Council for Bilateral Cooperation Meeting on 29 December 2021, enables the transmission and exchange of trade and customs-related information between Singapore and China using blockchain technology.	The exchange of the trade and customs information will provide timely updates on containerised cargo movements between China and Singapore to Singapore-based traders and logistics companies. The enhanced visibility will enable businesses to better manage their physical supply chains and financial flows, thereby improving decision-making to help businesses stay competitive.
United Kingdom-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (UKSFTA)	With its entry into force on 11 February 2021, the UKSFTA allows companies based in Singapore and the UK to continue to enjoy the same benefits under the EU-Singapore FTA, when trading between the two countries.	Benefits include preferential tariff treatment for exports of Singapore-originating goods to the UK, as well as for imports of UK-originating goods into Singapore.

**Collaboration with US Customs to explore Single Window connectivity**

Singapore Customs and the United States Customs and Border Protection signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) in November 2020 to explore Single Window Connectivity to facilitate cargo clearance and enhance supply chain security.

With the signing of the LOI, both parties would explore the exchange and re-use of trade data via a system link-up between both countries' trade platforms to improve the time and documentary cost involved to move cargo between the two countries.

FACILITATING INTRA-ASEAN TRADE WITH AWSC SCHEME AND ACTS

On the regional front, Singapore Customs continues to work with the regional partners to facilitate trade within ASEAN, through the ASEAN-Wide Self-Certification (AWSC) Scheme and the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS), both launched in 2020.

AWSC SCHEME

The AWSC, which came into effect on 20 September 2020, is a single unified self-certification scheme across all ASEAN Member States. Companies in Singapore can take part in the AWSC Scheme and benefit from the simplified procedures and gain preferential tariff under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), upon being authorised as Certified Exporters (CE).

Under the AWSC, CE are allowed to self-certify the origin status for their goods to be eligible for ATIGA preferential tariff claims, in lieu of obtaining a Certificate of Origin (CO) from Singapore Customs. An authorised CE is able to prepare origin declarations on certain commercial documents such as the invoice, bill of lading, delivery order or packing list at their convenience.

The AWSC facilitates intra-ASEAN trade as shipments will not be held back by the administrative procedures of obtaining a CO and eliminates the need for manufacturers to submit Manufacturing Cost Statements for locally manufactured good.

BENEFITS OF AWSC

- Facilitates intra-ASEAN trade among all ASEAN Member States
- No waiting time, self-certify at any time
- Simplifies export procedures
- Greater convenience to businesses
- Lower business cost



Truck with cargoes to be moved under the ACTS at Tuas Checkpoint.

ACTS

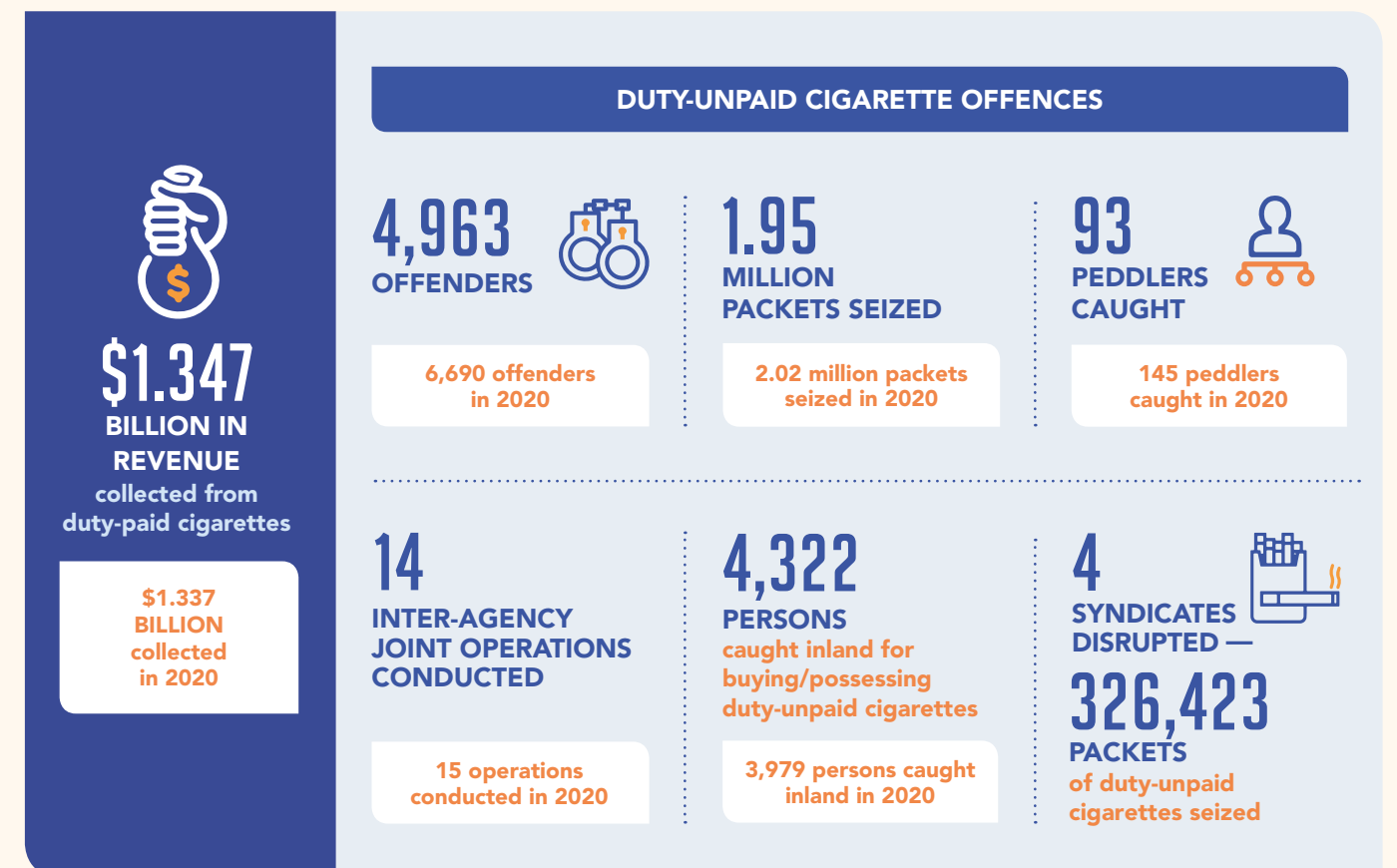
Implemented on 2 November 2020, the ACTS facilitates the cross-border transit movement of goods via land within ASEAN. Businesses can look forward to time savings, cost reduction and better connectivity in moving goods via land across Southeast Asia.

Under the ACTS, traders can carry out a single transit journey across participating ASEAN Member States via a single truck, single customs declaration and single banker's guarantee. The use of a regional computerised Customs transit management system allows the Customs administrations in each ASEAN Member State to efficiently capture and track the status and movement of goods under the ACTS.

The implementation of the ACTS is provided under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit, which has been signed and ratified by all 10 ASEAN Member States.

Annual Enforcement Results 2021

- 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 and trade offences. Here are the key numbers in 2021.



Annual Enforcement Results 2021 Off-Street Peddling

••• With the reduction in certain social and business activities arising from COVID-19, street peddling of duty-unpaid cigarettes had decreased in 2021. Some smokers had turned to e-commerce and social messaging platforms to purchase duty-unpaid cigarettes. They might have assumed that the likelihood of being caught was low as the cigarettes were shipped in small parcels and delivered directly to their homes. They were wrong.

In 2021, Singapore Customs caught 307 persons for purchasing duty-unpaid cigarettes via online channels. Another 34 peddlers and deliverymen who sold and delivered duty-unpaid cigarettes purchased from social messaging platforms were caught.

CASE 1: BUYING DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES FROM E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS

A 43-year-old Singaporean man was sentenced on 10 September 2021 to two months and two weeks' imprisonment and a fine of \$3,386 for dealing with and storing duty-unpaid cigarettes. He did not pay the fine and served 11 days' imprisonment in default.

On 6 August 2021, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation near Woodlands Crescent to apprehend the recipient of a parcel suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes. Upon confirming that the man who opened the door was the intended recipient, the officers identified themselves and opened the parcel which revealed 10 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

Another five packets and 14 sticks of duty-unpaid cigarettes were uncovered in a follow-up house search. Investigations revealed that the man had been purchasing duty-unpaid cigarettes from an e-commerce platform for personal consumption and also for resale to others for profit.



Parcel was found to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes.

CASE 2: PEDDLING DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES ON SOCIAL MESSAGING PLATFORM



The black bag found to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes.

A 33-year-old Singaporean man was sentenced on 10 March 2021 to two months and one week's imprisonment for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes.

On 12 January 2021, during an operation, Singapore Customs officers saw a man carrying a black sling bag at a void deck near Jurong West Central 1. Suspecting the bag to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes, officers moved in to conduct a check and found 10 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

Investigations revealed that the man had advertised the sale of duty-unpaid cigarettes on a social messaging platform and was waiting at the void deck for the buyer to collect the cigarettes.

CASE 3: DELIVERY OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES PURCHASED FROM SOCIAL MESSAGING PLATFORM

A 37-year-old Chinese national was sentenced on 13 January 2022 to three months' imprisonment for delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes transacted via a social messaging platform.



A Chinese man was arrested for delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes.

During an operation on 23 December 2021 near Geylang East Avenue 1, a man was sighted standing near a Singapore-registered vehicle that was suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes. Officers moved in to conduct a check and found 96 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes inside the vehicle.

Investigations revealed that the man was engaged by an unknown person via a social messaging platform to deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes. He was in the midst of delivering the cigarettes when he was arrested. Besides the duty-unpaid cigarettes, the vehicle and cash proceeds from the deliveries amounting to \$1,830 were also seized. The cash seized was forfeited to the State, while investigations are still ongoing in relation to the vehicle.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found inside the vehicle.

Annual Enforcement Results 2021 Diversion of Duty-Unpaid Cigarettes Inland

••• Singapore Customs arrested eight men for diversion of duty-unpaid cigarettes inland to evade duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

CASE 1

A 34-year-old Singaporean man was arrested on 5 November 2021 for his alleged involvement in diverting duty-unpaid cigarettes that were meant to be exported as sea stores¹. A 40-year-old male Chinese national, who was alleged to have colluded with the Singaporean man, was also arrested on 8 November 2021.

Singapore Customs mounted an operation near Ghim Moh Link and arrested the Singaporean man, who had allegedly stored the duty-unpaid cigarettes in his van for

¹Sea stores refer to goods supplied for consumption or use on board a vessel by the crew and passengers outside Singapore waters.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the van.

distribution inland. Officers found 484 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van and another seven cartons in the man's residence during a follow-up search. All the duty-unpaid cigarettes and the van were seized.

The Chinese national was the director of a company supplying sea stores to vessels and the Singaporean man was an employee in the same company. Investigations established that the two men had allegedly colluded to divert duty-unpaid cigarettes by ordering additional cigarettes on top of the genuine orders made by vessel captains. The genuine orders were delivered to the vessels while all the additional cigarettes were diverted inland for sale. A total of 3,520 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were diverted inland between August and October 2021. The duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$200,520 and \$17,450 respectively. Court proceedings are ongoing against both men.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the van.

CASE 2

Five Bangladeshi men were arrested for their involvement in diverting duty-unpaid cigarettes inland.

During an operation near Kian Teck Road on 11 December 2021, Customs officers spotted three Bangladeshi men shifting four pallets of brown boxes from the unloading bay area of a building to a unit at level three of the same building. The three men were seen unwrapping the shrink wrap around the boxes inside the unit, and repacking the contents of the boxes



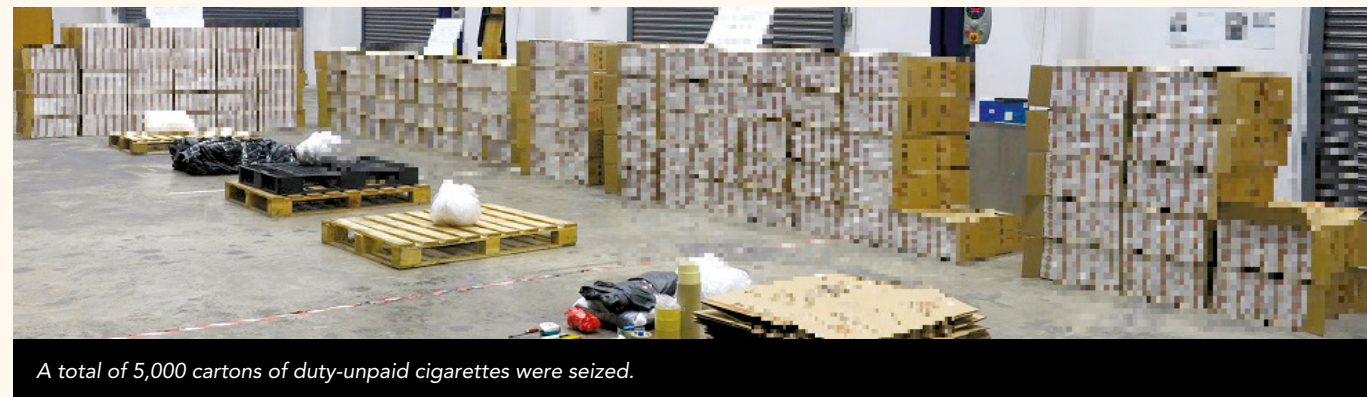
Duty-unpaid cigarettes were retrieved and repacked into black plastics bags in an industrial building.

into black plastic bags. Officers moved in to conduct a check and found that the boxes contained duty-unpaid cigarettes. The trio were arrested on the spot.

Later, Customs officers sighted another three Bangladeshi men at level three of the building. Upon questioning, one of them admitted that he was there to retrieve the duty-unpaid cigarettes, while another man was found with incriminating messages in his mobile phone. The two men were also arrested. Investigations are ongoing for the third man.

A total of 5,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized. Investigations revealed that the syndicate had applied for export permit to remove the cigarettes from a licensed warehouse purportedly for export by air, but the cigarettes were diverted inland instead. The duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$427,000 and \$34,250 respectively.

Of the five men arrested, one was sentenced to 29 months' imprisonment and two others were jailed 30 months. Court proceedings are ongoing against two other men.



A total of 5,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

Annual Enforcement Results 2021

Diversion of Duty-Unpaid Liquor from Licensed Warehouses

●●● Licensed warehouses are premises licensed by Singapore Customs for storage of dutiable goods such as liquor, 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. Some syndicates had abused the trade facilitation scheme, by diverting duty-unpaid liquor declared for export for domestic sale within Singapore.

CASE 1

On 10 August 2021, Singapore Customs mounted an operation at a company's premises which was suspected to be involved in the sale of duty-unpaid liquor on e-commerce platforms in Singapore. The director of the company also operated a licensed warehouse at the same address.

Investigations revealed that the licensed warehouse had allegedly exported a lower quantity of liquor than the quantity declared in the export permits. The excess quantity were then diverted into the Singapore market without payment of duty and GST and sold on e-commerce platforms.

More than 120,000 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized, and investigations are ongoing.



Duty-unpaid liquor found at the warehouse.

CASE 2

On 1 February 2021, Singapore Customs arrested a man for his alleged involvement in dealing with duty-unpaid liquor in an operation near Woodlands Drive 50.

Investigations revealed that the man had purportedly purchased duty-unpaid liquor and sold them on e-commerce platforms. He allegedly bought the duty-unpaid liquor from the director of a waste management company, who was engaged by a licensed warehouse to dispose duty-suspended liquor. Instead of destroying all the liquor sent to his company for disposal, the director kept part of the liquor for sale to the man. The director was subsequently arrested.

A total of 1,430 bottles of suspected duty-suspended liquor and cash amounting to \$331,850 were seized. The duty and GST involved amounted to about \$40,930 and \$5,990 respectively. Investigations are ongoing.



Duty-unpaid liquor were found at the man's residence.

Annual Enforcement Results 2021

Suppression of Value of Goods to Evade GST

●●● Singapore Customs successfully unveiled attempts by three persons to evade GST on goods imported.

CASE 1: GST EVASION ON THE IMPORTS OF GOODS BY A FASHION RETAILER

A husband-and-wife team behind a fashion business was fined \$129,400 by the State Courts for evading GST on goods imported into Singapore and failure to keep trade documents for at least five years.

Singapore Customs initiated investigations into the wife, a sole proprietor of a fashion business, after checks on an imported consignment revealed discrepancies between the actual quantity of the consignment and the quantity declared in the import permit.

Investigations revealed that the sole proprietor imported fashion goods from China and Thailand for retail sale in Singapore. Her husband was responsible for the purchase and importation of the goods. He would place the orders with overseas suppliers, liaise with the cargo handlers on the import permit declarations, pay the GST as well as remit the payment over to the overseas suppliers. He had deliberately

provided suppressed values of the goods to the cargo handlers for making import permit declarations in order to pay a lower GST amount. Between 2015 and 2020, a total of 98 import permits with suppressed GST values were declared. The total amount of GST evaded was about \$20,950.

Investigations also revealed that the sole proprietor had failed to keep the relevant trade documents for at least five years as required under the Customs Act for 41 import permits. She pleaded guilty to one charge of failing to retain trade documents for 34 import permits, and was sentenced to a fine of \$7,000 on 7 February 2022, with another two similar charges taken into consideration during sentencing. She was also given a stern warning for fraudulent evasion of GST.

Her husband pleaded guilty to two charges of fraudulent evasion of GST where the GST evaded amounted to about \$17,460 and was sentenced to a fine of \$122,400 on 30 November 2021. Another four similar charges were taken into consideration during sentencing.

CASE 2: GST EVASION ON THE IMPORTS OF BICYCLE FRAMES AND COMPONENTS

The director of a bicycle company was fined \$64,000 on 15 September 2021 for evading GST on bicycle frames and components imported into Singapore.

On 9 February 2021, Singapore Customs officers inspected a consignment of bicycle wheels declared



Bicycle frames found in the shop.

with a value of about \$1,610. However, based on supporting documents provided by the freight forwarder of the said consignment, the actual value was much higher at about \$23,350. This resulted in a short payment of about \$1,520 in GST.

Investigations revealed that the director had been importing bicycle framesets and components from China into Singapore for sale locally. Between June 2020 and April 2021, the import values for a total of 46 imported shipments were under-declared, either by suppressing the actual values to pay lesser GST, or declaring the values to be less than \$400 to avoid paying GST¹.

The total GST evaded amounted to about \$13,480. The director pleaded guilty to one charge of fraudulent evasion of GST, with another charge taken into consideration during sentencing.

¹GST relief is granted on goods (excluding intoxicating liquors and tobacco) imported by post or air with a value not exceeding \$400.

Annual Enforcement Results 2021

Exporting Strategic Goods Without Requisite Permits

A company, a Singaporean man and a male Chinese national were convicted for offences under the Strategic Goods (Control) Act (SGCA) and the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act (RIEA). The Singaporean man was the director of the company between December 2014 and July 2018, while the male Chinese national has been the director since July 2018.

Investigations revealed that the company had exported 25 shipments of strategic goods, such as electro-optical image acquisition modules, hyperspectral analysis bench, middle wave spectral analysis module, etc., without the requisite strategic goods permit between 2015 and 2018, which is an offence under the SGCA. It was also established that the company and the Singaporean man had caused false information to be furnished to Singapore Customs for the purpose of obtaining a permit in 2016, which is an offence under the RIEA. They did so

by submitting to their declaring agent the Certificate of Original Manufacturer which indicated the country of origin as Singapore, when it was in fact from another country.

The company was sentenced to a fine of \$140,000 on 3 September 2021 for 13 charges under the SGCA and two charges under the RIEA. Another 12 charges under the SGCA and seven charges under the RIEA were taken into consideration during sentencing.

The Singaporean man was sentenced to a fine of \$120,000 on 18 August 2021 for 11 charges under the SGCA and two charges under the RIEA. Another 12 charges under the SGCA and seven charges under the RIEA were taken into consideration during sentencing.

The male Chinese national was sentenced to a fine of \$20,000 on 14 May 2021 for two charges under the SGCA. Another two charges under the SGCA were taken into consideration during sentencing.

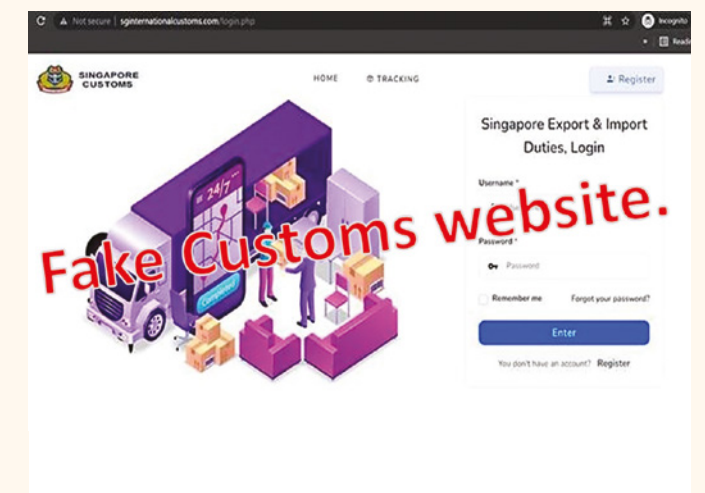
Scam alert! Fake Singapore Customs website

Singapore Customs was alerted of a fake Singapore Customs website phishing for personal information and data in mid-March this year.

To safeguard yourself against such phishing websites, we advise members of the public to use only the official Singapore Customs website at <https://www.customs.gov.sg/> and the Networked Trade Platform at <https://www.ntp.gov.sg/home/> for all informational and transactional needs concerning customs matters, respectively. Here are two ways to identify a Singapore Government Agency website:

- Official website links end with **.gov.sg**
- Look for a lock (🔒) or https:// as an added precaution

Do remain stay vigilant and exercise caution to avoid falling victim to such scams. When in doubt, please contact Singapore Customs at 6355 2000 or customs_feedback@customs.gov.sg to verify the



authenticity of any correspondence with Singapore Customs. To learn the tell-tale signs of customs-related scams and prevention measures, continue reading at: <https://go.gov.sg/customs-advisories>.



News round-up for traders

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

••• **Duty exemption on medical transport vehicle**

Duty exemption may be granted to licensed private ambulance operators (PAO) on the importation of any (i) emergency ambulance vehicle or medical transport vehicle for their licensed services, or (ii) motor vehicle to be modified into an emergency ambulance vehicle or medical transport vehicle, subject to the following conditions:

- the vehicle must be registered in the name of the applicable licensed PAO;
- the vehicle must not be used while pending modification to be an emergency ambulance vehicle or a medical transport vehicle; and
- the vehicle must be specified as a licensed conveyance in the Emergency Ambulance Service or Medical Transport Service licence(s) held by the licensed PAO within six months from the date of import or the date on which the vehicle is removed from customs control, whichever is later.

Duty will be re-imposed on the vehicle if the licensed PAO contravenes any of the conditions or transfers the vehicle to another person or entity that is not a licensed PAO.

For more information, please refer to **Circular 02/2022** on the Customs website.

••• **Changes to declaration requirements of STS Bulk Permit**

With effect from 1 April 2022, it is mandatory for all Strategic Trade Scheme (STS) Bulk Permit holders to declare the "End User Name" and "End User Address" fields when declaring TradeNet Permits.

Here are the things to take note of:

- STS "Approval by Specific Entities" Bulk Permit holders are required to declare both consignee and end-user information in the TradeNet permits within the scope of approval as authorised by Singapore Customs.
- For STS "Approval by Countries/Regions of Destination" Bulk Permit holders, the consignee and end-user information declared in the TradeNet permits should match the information indicated in the sales and shipping documents.
- If the consignee is a distributor and the end user's details are not known at the time of export, STS Bulk Permit holders are required to declare "Distributor" in the "End User Name" and "End User Address" fields when declaring TradeNet Permits.

For more information, please refer to **Circular 01/2022** on the Customs website.

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 2021.

CAC Logistics Services Pte Ltd — Integrated logistics solutions provider

"Obtaining the STP certification reflects our commitment to a robust supply chain security for our customers and partners. We will continue to strive for efficiency in our supply chain management," said Mr Anthony Ng, Managing Director.

C.H. Robinson Freight Services (Singapore) Pte Ltd — Provider of multimodal transportation services and third-party logistics

"At C.H. Robinson Singapore, we feel privileged to be awarded with the STP certification by Singapore Customs. The STP certification assures our customers and relevant authorities that C.H. Robinson Singapore is a trusted multinational that has invested significantly to raise its security standards whilst being able to facilitate efficiency in global supply chains," said Mr Shawn Leow, General Manager.

WYN2000 Transport & Container Services Pte Ltd — Transport logistics and warehousing solutions provider

"WYN2000 is proud to join the community of STP companies who are active and committed to making our supply chain robust and secure," said Ms Karen Yeap, Chief Executive Officer.

DO YOU KNOW?

HOW TO BENEFIT FROM RCEP

The world's largest free trade agreement, the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP)**, has come into force on 1 January 2022. **Businesses can benefit from preferential tariff treatment for exports of Singapore-originating goods to parties under the RCEP, as well as for imports of RCEP-originating goods into Singapore.**



Ⓞ **PARTIES UNDER RCEP**

The RCEP is a regional free trade agreement between the 10 ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand.

With effect from the following dates, preferential tariff benefits for Singapore-originating goods can be claimed in the respective RCEP party:

Effective Date	RCEP Country
1 January 2022	Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
1 February 2022	Republic of Korea
4 March 2022	Myanmar
18 March 2022	Malaysia

Preferential tariff treatment for goods originating from the other RCEP parties, namely, Indonesia and Philippines, will not be granted preferential tariff treatment as the agreement has yet to enter into force for these countries. Singapore Customs website will provide updates, once the remaining countries are ready to implement the trade pact.

Ⓞ **EXPORTS OF SINGAPORE-ORIGINATING GOODS TO PARTIES UNDER RCEP**

Singapore exporters may claim preferential tariff treatment under the RCEP agreement by using one of the following Proof of Origin:

- Form RCEP or Back-to-Back Form RCEP by Singapore Customs;
- Declaration of Origin or Back-to-Back Declaration of Origin made out by Approved Exporters authorised by Singapore Customs; or
- Declaration of Origin or Back-to-Back Declaration of Origin by an exporter or producer (to be implemented by Singapore at a later stage).

Ⓞ **IMPORTS OF RCEP-ORIGINATING GOODS INTO SINGAPORE**

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

An importer may claim preferential tariff treatment using a Proof of Origin made out by any one of the following categories:

- Form RCEP or Back-to-Back Form RCEP by an issuing body of the exporting party;
- Declaration of Origin or Back-to-Back Declaration of Origin made out by an Approved Exporter authorised by the customs authorities of an RCEP party; or
- Declaration of Origin or Back-to-Back Declaration of Origin by an exporter or producer (to be implemented by Singapore at a later stage).

For more information, please refer to **Circulars 14/2021** and **15/2021** 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:

**9 TO 10 MAY 2022,
6 TO 7 JUN 2022,
4 TO 5 JUL 2022**

SC101

**11 MAY 2022, 8 JUN 2022,
6 JUL 2022**

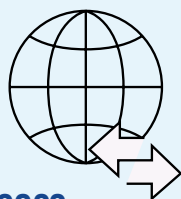
Same dates for SC102 & SC103

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.



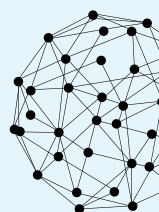
RP:

**23 TO 24 MAY 2022,
13 TO 14 JUN 2022,
18 TO 19 JUL 2022**

SC101

**18 MAY 2022, 15 JUN 2022,
13 JUL 2022**

Same dates for SC102 & SC103



SC111

NYP:

**13 MAY 2022, 10 JUN 2022,
8 JUL 2022**

RP:

**19 MAY 2022, 16 JUN 2022,
14 JUL 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.

SC200

NYP:

**12 MAY 2022, 9 JUN 2022,
7 JUL 2022**

Same dates for SC201 & SC202

RP:

**20 MAY 2022, 17 JUN 2022,
15 JUL 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.



OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS [24 MAY 2022]

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.