



## SINGAPORE CUSTOMS PRESS RELEASE

### SINGAPORE AND JAPAN REINFORCE EXPORT CONTROLS FOR STRATEGIC GOODS & TECHNOLOGY

Singapore Customs (SC) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan will be co-organising a one-day seminar on Japan-Singapore Export Controls at the DBS Auditorium on 20 October 2009. This will be the third trade seminar organised by both agencies since the signing of the Joint Statement on Strengthening Bilateral Export Cooperation in Singapore on 22 April 2004. Through such seminars, participants gained a better understanding of the export control regimes in the two countries as well as the need to put in place internal measures for effective compliance.

#### **Importance of Export Controls – Enhancing Global Security**

2 Stringent export controls will help enhance global security. Export controls implemented by SC and METI aim to curb illicit diversions of strategic goods and strategic goods technology to sanctioned countries and rogue entities while according greater facilitation to legitimate traders. For more information on Singapore's and Japan's export controls, please refer to the following websites: <http://www.customs.gov.sg/stgc/topNav/hom/> and [http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external\\_economy/trade\\_control/index.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/trade_control/index.html)

3 Earlier in July 2009, SC held a third annual meeting with the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the Department of Commerce of the United States (US) to discuss bilateral licensing issues relating to controls on strategic goods which can be used for both civilian and military purposes (dual-use). As with Japan, US also controls the re-exports of strategic goods and strategic goods technology originating from her country.

#### **Recent Change in Japan's Export Controls for Strategic Goods**

4 Currently, local traders importing strategic goods and technology from Japan and then re-exporting them out of Singapore have been doing so by obtaining the necessary licence from SC. With the recent implementation of enhanced re-export regulations in Japan, these traders will be required to obtain prior approval from METI, in addition to the existing licence from SC. This seminar will help to keep local traders informed of the latest changes in Japan's export control regime.

5 Japan is a key strategic trading partner of Singapore. In 2008, Singapore's exports to Japan totalled S\$23.5 billion which was close to 5% of Singapore's total exports to the world. Of this, exports of strategic goods accounted for about 0.12% or close to 2.2% of Singapore's total strategic goods exports to the world.

## **About SC-METI Seminar**

6 SC conducts regular outreach activities to keep local trading community abreast of new developments both locally and internationally. The latest SC-METI seminar has attracted 340 participants from over 150 companies. Amongst the participants are manufacturers, exporters, logistics providers, freight forwarders, researchers and individuals dealing with strategic goods/technology.

7 Through the seminar, industry players will be able to gain a better understanding of the export control systems in Japan and Singapore. This is especially important in view of the recent changes implemented by METI to reinforce Japan's export control regulations through re-export laws. Participants will also get to know the importance of setting up internal procedures to ensure compliance with export controls as well as pick up some industry best practices from various companies.

8 In particular, METI Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau's Mr Masaaki Takabatake, Director of the bureau's Office of International Affairs for Security Export Control, will kick-off the seminar by providing the participants with an update on Japan's export control regulations.

## **Advisory from Singapore Customs**

9 Local traders are urged to comply with Singapore's Strategic Goods (Control) Act as well as the re-export regulations of other countries such as Japan and the United States. SC encourages traders to implement effective internal export control compliance measures to screen the consignees and end-users of their controlled products. Compared to those without such internal control systems, traders who do so will be less impacted in future when more Asian countries implement or reinforce their export controls to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) such as UNSCR 1540.

[Note: The *United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540)* adopted in April 2004, requires states to implement national measures to curb the manufacturing and transfers of nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons, related materials and their means of delivery. A '1540 Committee' was established to report to the Security Council on progress in implementation of the resolution. UNSCR 1673 (2006) extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for two years and requested the Committee to intensify its efforts to promote full implementation. UNSCR 1810 (2008) extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee for another three years and states that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation through the compilation of information on the status of States' implementation, outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation.]

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