



INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR NATIONAL TRADE PLATFORM

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Singapore's position as a trusted trade hub rests on the efforts put in by the authorities in keeping trade easy, fair and secure.

Singapore Customs plays its part in supporting Singapore's continued success by ensuring that trade processes remain seamless and efficient as we get ready to transit to the next-generation trade platform (Page 4), and our supply chain remains safe by mounting regular checks in our free trade zones (Page 2), and staying ahead with strategic goods control (Page 1).

In the spirit of continuous improvement, we present to you a fresh look of inSYNC with two new columns – in-Conversation and Spotlight – and a bolder and more vibrant magazine design. As part of our corporate social responsibility in promoting eco-friendliness, we have also gone fully digital. With effect from this issue, inSYNC will be published quarterly.

In in-Conversation, inSYNC invites the top leaders of our counterpart customs agencies and partners to offer insights into issues related to customs administration and the regional and international trade environment. In the inaugural article, General Director of the Customs Administration of the Netherlands (CAN), Ms Aly van Berckel-van de Langemheen, shares about how the CAN pushes boundaries with innovation (Page 8). Singapore Customs Director-General Mr Ho Chee Pong met with Ms Aly van Berckel in Rotterdam in June to discuss trade facilitation and innovation in sea trade connectivity (Page 11).

Spotlight brings you behind the scenes of the work of Singapore Customs officers, and allows you to understand Singapore Customs' functions through the lens of our officers. In the first article, take a walk with us to the various checkpoints in Singapore and see how our officers uphold trade integrity and strengthen trade security at the borders daily (Page 6).

We hope that you will enjoy reading the revamped inSYNC!

Subscribe at www.customs.gov.sg/subscribe to receive the latest updates.

Toh Shi Ting
Editor

FEATURES

STAYING AHEAD IN STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL

With rapid developments in technology and heightened uncertainty in the global security climate, Singapore Customs regularly reviews its strategic goods control list to ensure that its control regime remains robust.

Singapore is a key node in the global trade network. As the governing agency on all strategic trade control-related matters, Singapore Customs recognises the crucial role it plays in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) so as to uphold trade security. Its latest effort involves the updating of the strategic control list to align with international standards.

Strategic goods refer to items and related technology that can be used to produce 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.

The Strategic Goods (Control) Order (SGCO) 2017, which took effect on 1 September 2017, incorporates revisions to the 2016 Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) Munitions List, and the 2016 European Union's List of Dual-Use Items (EUDL). The EUDL is an amalgamation of dual-use items controlled by the four multilateral export control regimes, namely the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and the WA.



1




2

The key changes to the strategic goods control list include the addition and expansion of controls on certain signal analysers, pyrotechnics and material-processing equipment, and the relaxation and removal of controls on certain information security equipment and underwater survey systems.

With the updates to the strategic control list, the corresponding amendments were also made to the Strategic Goods (Control) Brokering Order and the Strategic Goods (Control) Regulations.

To communicate the recent changes to companies trading in strategic goods, Singapore Customs held a series of outreach sessions in July 2017. The SGCO Awareness Briefing and WA Outreach Seminar, and the Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management, held on 12 July and 20 July respectively, were attended by over 400 participants from the government and private sectors.

The sessions provided the participants with a platform to gain insights on the new control list, and exchange best practices in trading strategic goods, and various internal control measures that companies can institute to avoid being inadvertently involved in illicit transactions that could contribute to the proliferation of WMD. 

1. Singapore Customs and WA representatives briefed seminar participants on the recent changes to the strategic goods control list and the WA respectively at the SGCO Awareness Briefing and WA Outreach Seminar on 12 July 2017.

2. The Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management jointly organised by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Singapore Customs, the United States (U.S.) Bureau of Industry and Security, and the U.S. Export Control and Related Border Security on 20 July 2017 was attended by 270 participants.

To learn more about the updated strategic goods list:

- 1. Visit the Singapore Customs website (www.customs.gov.sg) for:**
 - Circular 08/2017 on Changes to the Strategic Goods Control List
 - Highlights of key changes to the Strategic Goods Control List
 - Frequently Asked Questions on the updates to the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2017
- 2. Attend Singapore Customs Academy courses:**
 - SC 201 – Basics of Strategic Goods Control Seminar
 - SC 202 – Essentials of Internal (Export Control) Compliance Seminar

Cover: ITU Pictures

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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



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DESIGN BY
Green House Design + Communications

MAINTAINING TRADE SECURITY IN FREE TRADE ZONES



1

1 & 2. Four Singapore Customs teams comprising 50 officers combed through the warehouses, looking out for cargo that may have contravened the Free Trade Zone Act, Customs Act, strategic goods controls or intellectual property rights regulations. This was no easy task given the sheer size of these warehouses and the amount of cargo stored in them.



2

While Singapore's Free Trade Zones (FTZs) were set up to facilitate entrepôt trade, it is also important to ensure that no illicit trade takes place in the FTZs and that companies operating in the FTZs remain compliant with customs regulations.

Companies operating in the FTZs enjoy facilitative customs procedures such as the suspension of duties and Goods and Services Tax (GST). However, certain prescribed goods such as liquor and tobacco products can only be stored in FTZ for up to 30 days.

Singapore Customs ensures that companies operating in the FTZs do not engage in illicit trade activities by mounting regular checks in these FTZs. On 20 June 2017, a surprise operation was conducted in Keppel Distripark (KD), a FTZ housing more than 40 warehouses with over 110,000 sqm of storage space.



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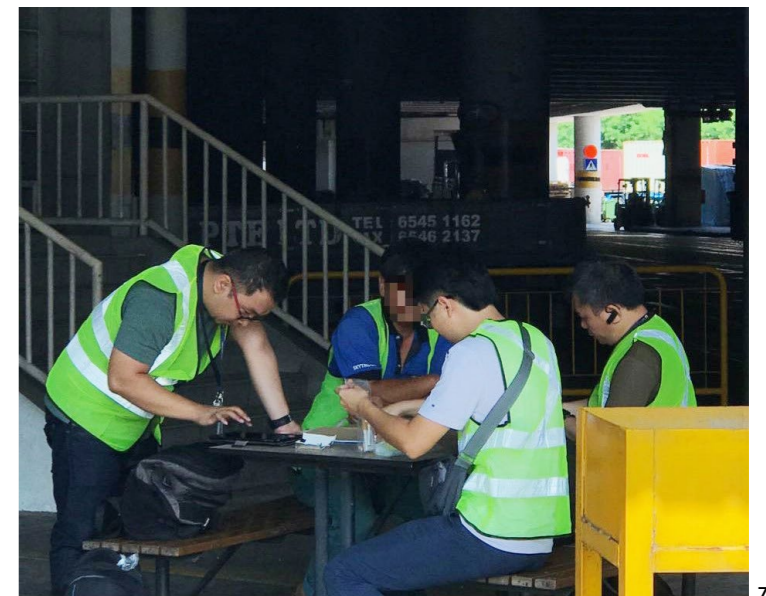
5

During the six-hour operation, about 50 Singapore Customs officers combed through the warehouses in KD, inspecting the goods stored there. They were on the lookout for possible infringements of the Free Trade Zone Act, Customs Act, intellectual property rights and strategic goods control regulations, and the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Textile Chapter.

Among the tenants inspected, one was found to have stored duty-suspended cigarettes in the



6



7

warehouse for more than 30 days. Investigations are in progress.

Besides enforcing against illicit trade, Singapore Customs officers also conducted checks on contraband cigarette activities, while spreading the anti-contraband cigarette message. Nine offenders were caught for possessing contraband cigarettes, and were issued with composition sums of up to \$800.

3, 4 & 5. To ensure the legitimacy of the cargo, the officers requested the companies for supporting trade documents for verification.

6. One of the tenants was found to have stored duty-suspended cigarettes in its warehouse for more than 30 days. The cigarettes were seized by Singapore Customs for further investigation.

7. Singapore Customs officers also conducted checks on smokers in the FTZs and caught nine offenders for possessing contraband cigarettes.

TRANSITIONING TO THE NATIONAL TRADE PLATFORM WITH THE INDUSTRY

As the National Trade Platform (NTP) progresses towards its initial release, the project team is intensifying its engagements with value-added service (VAS) providers and existing TradeXchange users to facilitate a smooth transition.

Creating a user-friendly website experience

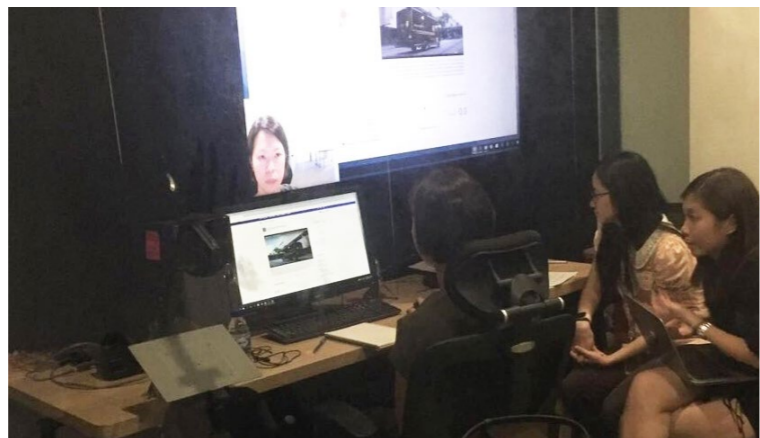
To ensure that the NTP website interface is user-friendly, the project team commenced testing of the website early. From June to August 2017, VAS providers and existing TradeXchange users from 25 companies were invited to give feedback on the website design over 40 feedback sessions.

As part of the feedback sessions, the NTP team conducted eye-tracking tests with the participants to understand how users navigate the website and the types of information users are interested to read more about. The tests also allowed the team to identify design elements which are more likely to attract users' attention. The insights gathered were used to refine the NTP website design to enhance the user experience.

Ensuring business continuity for TradeXchange users

In preparation for the progressive roll out of the NTP, the project team held a series of group briefings with TradeXchange users beginning June 2017. These sessions were aimed at helping existing TradeXchange users transit to the new platform with minimal disruptions to their business activities.

During the sessions, the users were introduced to some of the platform's key functionalities and value-added services, and were given a walkthrough of the follow-up actions to take in the coming months to ensure business continuity.



1



2

1 & 2. Users' eye movements were tracked and heatmaps were produced. The heatmaps highlight areas of focus according to the amount of time users spend looking at a particular area on the page. The exercise allowed the team to test the attractiveness of the website design elements and ensure that the layout and flow of information are logical and intuitive.

3. The project team met with existing TradeXchange VAS providers and new VAS providers over a series of briefing sessions to facilitate a smooth on-boarding process.

SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL TRADE PLATFORM WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST E-BUSINESS DIGITAL INITIATIVE

The National Trade Platform (NTP) project led by Singapore Customs and the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech) emerged the winner in the e-business category of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2017.

Mr Ho Chee Pong, Director-General, Singapore Customs (left in photo), and Mr Tan Eng Pheng, Senior Director (Clusters Group), GovTech, received the award for the NTP at the annual WSIS Forum held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 13 June 2017.

The WSIS Prizes recognise outstanding digital projects worldwide which foster socio-economic development across categories such as e-government, e-environment, e-science and media. This is the first time that a digital initiative from Singapore has won in any of the 18 categories of the WSIS Prizes since the inception of these prizes in 2012.



3

Building a Vibrant Service Marketplace on the NTP

At the same time, the project team has been working closely with existing TradeXchange VAS providers and new VAS providers to start the on-boarding process. Core services such as current TradeXchange services and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) on Cloud are set for on-boarding in the initial phase of the platform's release. Other value-added services will be on-boarded progressively.

Join us – be a part of the collaboration!

The NTP project team has embarked on building the platform. As we begin the transition process for existing TradeXchange companies, we remain open to exploring opportunities with interested VAS providers.

If you are keen to join us in building a vibrant trade ecosystem, or have any feedback or suggestions, such as datasets or application programming interfaces (APIs) that you would like to be available on the NTP, contact the project team at customs_ntp@customs.gov.sg

Register for CorpPass

In line with the Government's initiative to unify online government connections and transactions, companies will be required to use their CorpPass to access and use the Business-to-Government (B2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) services on the NTP.

Find out more information and register today at <https://www.corppass.gov.sg/>

The National Trade Platform (NTP)

The NTP is being designed to be a one-stop trade information management platform that will facilitate and enable electronic data sharing among businesses and the Government. It will replace the current TradeNet and TradeXchange.

For more information on the NTP, including news and events, visit the NTP microsite at <https://customs.gov.sg/about-us/national-single-window/national-trade-platform>



UPHOLDING TRADE INTEGRITY, STRENGTHENING TRADE SECURITY AT THE BORDERS



1

As the guardians of Singapore's trade, Singapore Customs checkpoints officers uphold the security and integrity of our trading system at the borders.

As the first line of defence in our supply chain, Singapore Customs checkpoints officers safeguard the integrity and security of Singapore's trading system by ensuring that illicit items are not exported and revenue is protected. They do so by enforcing customs and trade regulations and carrying out essential customs functions at Singapore's land, sea and air borders.

Strengthening Singapore's supply chain security through export cargo inspections

Singapore is a leading trade hub. Annually, about 1.9 million tonnes of air cargos and over 30 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers are handled at the various air and sea terminals.

Singapore Customs checkpoints officers inspect export cargos at four locations – the Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station (PPEIS), Brani Export Inspection



2

Station (BEIS) and at the various air cargo terminals within the Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC), and the Airport Logistics Park of Singapore (ALPS) – to detect and prevent illicit cargo from leaving the country.

At each inspection station, teams of officers analyse images of scanned cargos as trailers with containers drive through high-tech vehicular X-ray and radiation portal monitors, and compare the images with the declared trade documents.

Such assessment is no easy task as it requires the officers to have a keen sense of observation and sufficient familiarity with the scanned images of various objects. They also have to be decisive, as containers which show an anomaly have to be immediately diverted for secondary manual inspections – the container will only be released for export once it is confirmed to be legitimate.

"Our continuous effort in targeting high-risk export containers for scanning helps to safeguard the sea routes against illicit trade, strengthens supply chain security and upholds Singapore's position as a trusted trade hub," said Senior Customs Officer (SCO) Bryan Poon Juen Kit, a sea checkpoints officer stationed at PPEIS.

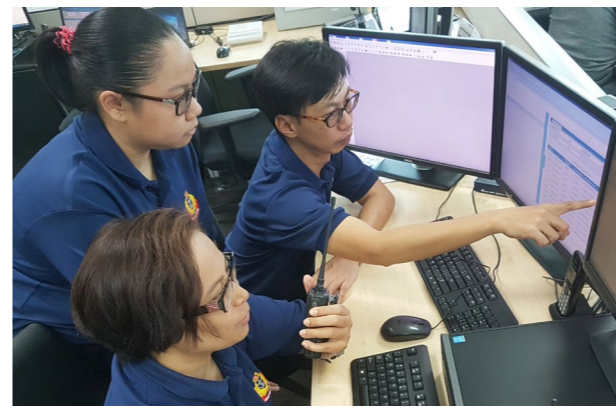


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1. Containers are scanned at the export inspection stations when trailers drive through the radiation portal monitors and X-ray scanner.

2. At CAC and ALPS, Singapore Customs air checkpoints officers use the handheld radiation detector to locate and identify the presence of any radioactive materials in airfreight export cargo.

3. SCO Poon inspecting a consignment to ensure its legitimacy.



4

Upholding integrity of the trading system through revenue protection

Besides the inspection stations, Singapore Customs checkpoints officers are also stationed at the various points of entry across the country.

Serving on the frontline, these officers work round the clock to collect duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on overseas purchases from arriving travellers to safeguard revenue, investigate customs offences, process GST refunds for departing travellers and endorse permits for hand-carried exports.

With a high volume of travellers crossing the border each day, Singapore Customs checkpoints officers have to stay alert and vigilant at all times, and be able to think on their feet and stand firm.

"You have to take the initiative in dealing with situations and anticipate problems on the ground," said Chief Customs Officer (Special Grade II) (CCO II) Jasni Bin Hirman, a land checkpoints officer stationed at Tuas Checkpoint.

"Sometimes, when travellers are caught red-handed and realise there is no way out, they throw their credit card at you to provoke you, but you need to stay calm and patiently explain the procedure to them," he said.

Aside from their role as the enforcer of trade and customs regulations, the other part of Singapore Customs checkpoints officers' job is to assist travellers with customs services such as the refund of GST for tourists departing by air and the collection of duty and GST from returning travellers at the land, sea and air checkpoints. When it comes to assisting travellers, the officers put on their service hats and serve with excellence.

"Serving at one of the world's best airports motivates me to provide a good service experience for travellers, not only on behalf of Singapore Customs



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but Singapore as a whole. As a team, we strive for service excellence," said SCO Ang Shihui Patricia.

Towards future-ready Singapore Customs checkpoints officers

The evolving trading environment and security climate has presented Singapore Customs checkpoints officers with new challenges every day. However, this has also given them an opportunity to improve and innovate to keep up with the times.

One such example is the Customs@SG mobile app designed by a team of checkpoints officers to facilitate travellers with their duty and GST payment, in response to the tightening labour market and wave of self-help services. Since its launch, the app had successfully made the payment experience convenient and fuss-free for travellers and reduced the time taken for officers to manually process the payment.

It is this innovative mindset of Singapore Customs checkpoints officers which allows them to adapt quickly to the changing dynamics of international trade.

"Our officers work tirelessly at the various checkpoints and inspection stations to ensure that we deliver operational and service outcomes at the highest standards," said Singapore Customs Assistant Director-General (Checkpoints) Sung Pik Wan.

"As our operating landscape becomes increasingly complex – unpredictable security climate, shrinking workforce and rising public expectations – we need to re-think our operating assumptions and harness technology to stay nimble and relevant."

4. Singapore Customs sea checkpoints officers analyse images of scanned cargos and compare the images with the declared trade documents.

5. Assistant Director-General (Checkpoints) Sung Pik Wan believes that it is important to re-think operating assumptions and harness technology to stay nimble and relevant.

6. A crucial part of CCO II Jasni's work is to investigate cases involving travellers suspected of tax and duty evasion.

7. SCO Ang works together with her colleagues at Changi Airport to assist travellers with customs services such as the refund of GST for tourists departing by air and the collection of duty and GST for returning travellers.



7

PUSHING BOUNDARIES WITH INNOVATION



A forerunner in the adoption of innovative practices, the Customs Administration of the Netherlands (CAN) has taken a collaborative approach with the trading community to cultivate a secure yet facilitative trade environment. By constantly challenging itself to do things differently, CAN has achieved results in areas such as automation and data analytics. Ms Aly van Berckel-van de Langemheen, General Director of CAN, shares with inSYNC her vision and plans in leading the department towards greater excellence.

CAN actively drives innovation and collaboration with the industry to implement new solutions that benefit both parties. Can you share with us your approach to innovation?

Our approach on innovation is based on our enforcement vision "Pushing Boundaries". In this vision we have drawn our way forward for the next decade. We have identified five areas of innovation: auto detection of data; auto detection of imaging; trusted traders; smart and secure trade lanes; and technology-driven approach in controls of unknown trade flows. We closely cooperate with the supplier industry to develop and build what we need, and with the business sector to achieve effective and efficient controls with minimum interventions in logistics.

We also have an overall long-term innovation movement to keep the Dutch logistics sector at the top of the rankings. This is part of the "Top Sector Logistics", in which CAN is part of a tripartite cooperation between the Government, Trade and Science.

Why is innovation important to CAN? What are some examples of successful innovations that have contributed towards CAN's objectives?

Innovation is important as CAN is the leading authority in the country monitoring the cross-border traffic of goods. This does not only imply that CAN itself has to be an effective enforcement organisation, we also have to coordinate the interventions and formalities of all authorities at the border. This responsibility is our mandate by law. So we had to create a single window for the single entry of all business data at the entry and exit of goods, and a one-stop shop so there is only a single intervention in logistics in case of controls.

Some examples of successful innovations include the data pipeline concept, in which we support the development of the Internet for logistics by the business sector. And recently, we were able to introduce the first auto detection imaging reading technology.

CAN has been focusing on big data and data analytics. How has working with data benefited CAN and its stakeholders?

Big data and data analytics have driven us towards an innovative approach with regard to customs supervision. We have transformed from a more traditional customs administration into an information and data-driven organisation. With the use of data analytics, we have succeeded in enhancing and modernising our risk management process, as well as our most important business processes. The biggest challenge in the near future is how to guarantee high quality data to further develop data analytics and increase its effectiveness.

What plans does CAN have in terms of further utilising data?

One of the most important developments is the ongoing study on how to use big data for auto detection of goods and scanned images. At the same time, we are looking at the possibilities to use big data with machine learning and artificial intelligence to realise some substantial innovations in risk management.

Given the close relationship between CAN and Singapore Customs, what are the areas you think both administrations can collaborate on?

The exchange of data as well as benchmark activities are the most obvious areas. Sharing best practices can also contribute to the better functioning of our administrations. I am looking


forward to the first initiatives in this area, especially with the outstanding reputation of Singapore Customs as a very modern and advanced operating customs administration. CAN is also very interested to learn from the experience Singapore Customs has gathered in digitalised customs procedures when the new National Trade Platform is fully operational.

What are some key challenges and risks you think customs administrations will have to manage in the next three to five years? In this regard, as one of the top-ranking customs administrations in the world, what are the top three priorities that CAN is focusing on to manage these challenges and risks?

For any customs organisation, thus for CAN too, issues like data-protection, or cybersecurity, and the reliability of these data are very important. Cooperation with the business sector and academia will prove to be the answer to many questions.

Besides that, there are also global topics such as Free Trade Agreements and protectionism which we see developing today. We will have to be prepared for the effects on our work.

The rise of e-commerce and the increase of small shipments arriving in our sea and airports will also drive the need for innovative ways of working.

Innovation is never finished. It is an ongoing intellectual and creative process, in which both hard and soft technology play a role. 



"Big data and data analytics have driven us towards an innovative approach with regard to customs supervision. We have transformed from a more traditional customs administration into an information and data-driven organisation. With the use of data analytics, we have succeeded in enhancing and modernising our risk management process, as well as our most important business processes."


Photos: Customs Administration of the Netherlands

WARNING SIGNS THAT YOUR CUSTOMER MAY BE DEALING IN ILLEGAL STRATEGIC GOODS

Every member of the trading community plays an important role in ensuring that their goods are not used for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

It is important to know your customer and the strategic goods you are dealing with to ensure that your business activities comply with Singapore's laws and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs). Before accepting any new orders, proceeding with your transactions or carrying out the transfer of items, you should ensure that:

- your customer or other parties involved in the transaction are not a designated entity under the UNSCRs; and
- the transfer of items to your customer/destination country is not prohibited under Singapore's laws and the UNSCRs.

Here are some warning signs you should look out for to avoid engaging in illegal strategic goods or UNSC prohibited transactions. When in doubt of the legitimacy of the shipment, you should enquire further on the customer or transaction, and do not proceed with the transaction. 

You may email us at customs_stgc@customs.gov.sg if you have any enquiries on the permit or registration requirements to broker, transfer, export, tranship or bring in transit strategic goods and related software and technologies.

If you have specific information on any suspicious or illicit transactions, you may report it to Singapore Customs by calling our hotline 1800-2330000, emailing us at customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg, or using the [Customs@SG](#) mobile app (downloadable from Apple Store or Google Play).

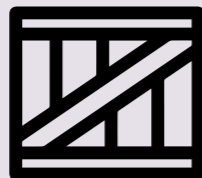
THINGS TO LOOK INTO WARNING SIGNS

THE CUSTOMER



- Vague identity or has no business background.
- Unfamiliar with the product's performance characteristics.
- Usually involved in military-related business.
- Customer or his address is similar to one of the parties listed in the UNSC-sanctioned entity list.
- Reluctant to offer information about the end-use of the goods.
- Provides vague or changing delivery dates.
- Makes requests for the shipment of goods that are inconsistent with usual shipping and labelling practices.
- Declines installation, training or routine maintenance services.

THE PRODUCT



- Product capabilities do not fit the buyer's line of business (for example, an order for sophisticated computers for a small bakery).
- Product is incompatible with the technical level of the country it is being shipped to (for example, semi-conductor manufacturing equipment shipped to a country that has no electronics industry).
- Shipping route is abnormal for the product and destination.
- Packaging is inconsistent with the stated method of shipment or destination.

THE PRODUCT'S END-USE

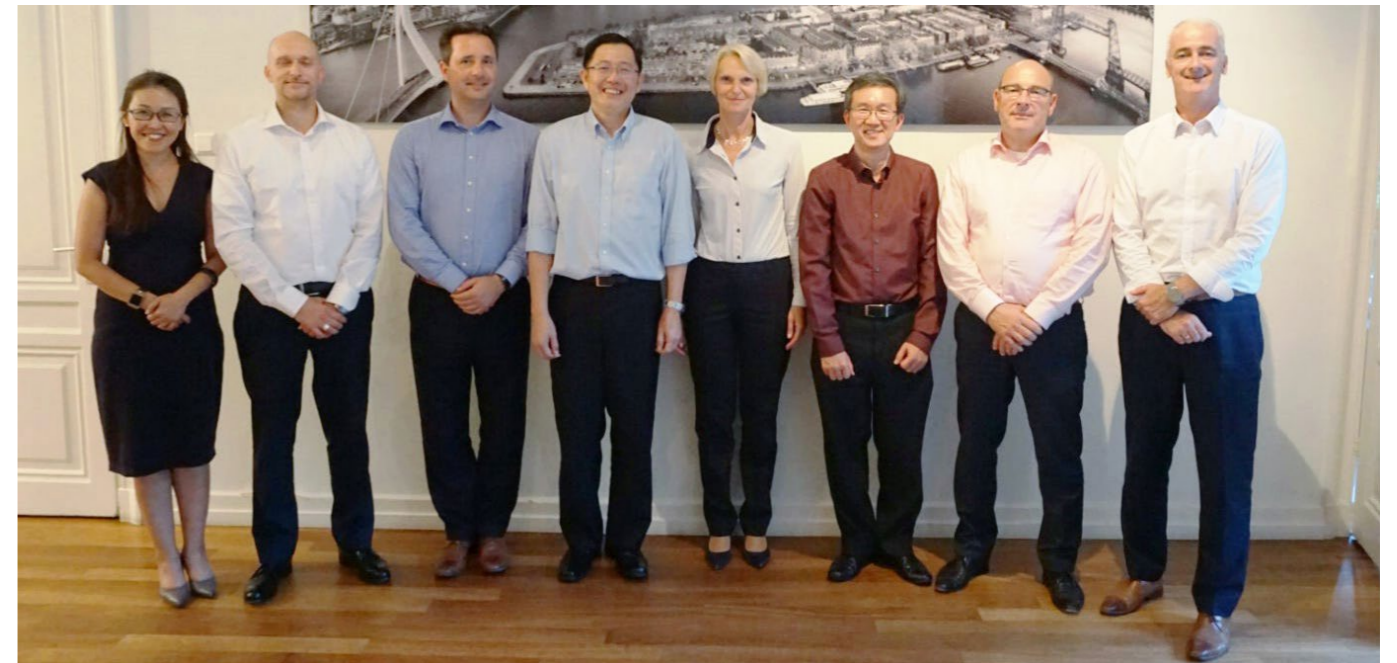


- End-use description is too general or inconsistent with product capabilities.
- Freight forwarding firm is listed as the product's final end-user.
- Equipment is to be installed in an area under strict security control (for example, an area in, or close to, military facilities, or an area where access is severely restricted), or in a suspicious or unusual location.

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS STRENGTHENS TIES WITH CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION OF THE NETHERLANDS


Director-General Mr Ho Chee Pong met General Director of the Customs Administration of the Netherlands Ms Aly van Berckel-van de Langemheen in Rotterdam on 15 June 2017.

Both customs administrations had an active exchange of views on trade facilitation and innovation in sea trade connectivity. Mr Ho and the Singapore Customs delegation also visited the Rotterdam Port on 16 June 2017 to see at firsthand the port operations and the conduct of customs supervision in the container terminals. 



THAI CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT VISITS SINGAPORE CUSTOMS FOR JOINT VALIDATION OF AEO PROGRAMMES

Representatives from the Thai Customs Department visited Singapore Customs from 4 to 7 July 2017 for a joint validation of the compatibility of the two countries' Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes. This is part of the negotiation for a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of the two countries' AEOs.

While in Singapore, the Thai delegation members joined Singapore Customs officers for site assessments at three companies, and observed how Singapore Customs carries out its TradeFIRST assessment for companies applying for, or renewing, their Secure Trade Partnership (STP) certification. 



GAINING INSIGHTS TO SHAPE THE TUAS NEXT GENERATION PORT




Representatives from 15 government agencies, port operators and universities visited the Port of Shanghai, Yangshan Terminal Phase 4, to learn more about the automation of port operations.



Head of Sea Checkpoints Angie Teo (right in photo) sharing insights on customs supervision during the visit to the Port of Tokyo, Oi Terminal.

A delegation of 39 representatives from 15 government agencies, port operators and universities embarked on a five-day study visit in Japan and China in July 2017. They visited several ports to gain insights into port master planning, technologies and operations to help shape the development plans of the Tuas Port.

Organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), participants in this study visit had an opportunity to share best practices with port authorities and terminal operators in Japan and China in areas such as managing challenges in container terminal operations and boosting port productivity. The participants also learnt more about automated terminal operations in transshipment and gateway ports.

"I was glad to meet my counterparts from Shanghai Customs and Osaka Customs, and we exchanged views on customs supervision in container terminals," said Head of Sea Checkpoints Angie Teo, a Singapore Customs officer who participated in the study trip. 

NEW STP COMPANIES ON BOARD

The Secure Trade Partnership (STP) is a voluntary certification programme that encourages companies to adopt robust security measures and contribute towards improving the security of the global supply chain. The following companies joined the STP in the second quarter of 2017.

COMPANIES WITH STP-PLUS STATUS

UTAC Headquarters Pte Ltd

UTAC Headquarters Pte Ltd (UTAC) is a leading independent provider of assembly and test services for a broad range of semiconductor chips.

"The STP-Plus certification further reaffirms our commitment to our global customers that UTAC places priority in the security and confidentiality of our products," said Mr Murugan Darmiah, Logistics Section Manager & Strategic Goods Control Officer.

COMPANIES WITH STP STATUS

ASM Front-End Manufacturing Singapore Pte Ltd

ASM Front-End Manufacturing Pte Ltd is a research-and-development and manufacturing company that manufactures in-house designed semiconductor capital equipment.

Mentor Media Ltd

Mentor Media, a Singapore-based subsidiary of Elanders Group, designs and implements supply chain services that are tailored to meet customers' requirements.

"We understand the importance of supply chain security and apply our best practices to meet the standards," said Ms Mei Li, Director of Global Trade Compliance. "With Singapore Customs' guidance and assistance, our STP application was accepted and we were certified within a short time. We believe that our participation in the STP programme will make a difference in global supply chain security."

"Mentor Media is proud to be recognised as a trusted partner of Singapore Customs by being STP-certified. We experienced improvement in our supply chain operation and operational efficiencies with smoother and faster customs clearance, which delighted our clients," said Mr Yap Rueh Herrng, Senior Vice President.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Please note that dates are subject to change. For full programme and registration details, please refer to www.customsacademy.gov.sg

SC100 BASICS OF EVERY DECLARANT

This three-day course provides trade declarants with 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.

The course comprises three modules:

- 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.

9-11 OCTOBER
1-3 NOVEMBER

SC200 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.

13 OCTOBER

SC401 CUSTOMS COMPETENCY TEST FOR DECLARANTS

This module is designed to test an individual's knowledge of the customs procedures and documentation requirements. Upon passing this test, the individual can then apply for registration with Singapore Customs as a declarant to submit TradeNet permit declarations.

This is an open-book test comprising 50 multiple-choice questions. The topics tested include: customs procedures, TradeNet declarations, valuation, classification, rules of origin and specialised procedures. The one-hour test can be taken during the AM or PM session.

Individuals who wish to sit for the test are advised to familiarise themselves with the above-listed subject areas. They can do so through courses or eLearning at Singapore Customs Academy, the Customs Virtual Academy and by visiting the Customs website.

5 OCTOBER

(AM AND PM
SESSIONS
AVAILABLE)

OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS

This bimonthly 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 procedures for certificates of origin and the compliance requirements.

For enquiries, please email customs_roo@customs.gov.sg



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