



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

MEDIA RELEASE

DAWN SHIPPING & TRANSPORT CO PTE LTD FINED \$58,000 FOR FALSE DECLARATIONS OF CLOTHING EXPORTS

On 27 July 2007, Dawn Shipping & Transport Co Pte Ltd pleaded guilty to nine counts of violation of the Regulation of Imports & Exports Act (RIEA). The company was fined a total of \$58,000.

2 The offences were detected when Singapore Customs officers inspected a shipment of ladies garments worth over \$70,000 imported by Dawn Shipping & Transport Co Pte Ltd on 17 April 2007. The labels of the garments indicated that they were made in Malaysia. However, investigation revealed that the country of origin of the goods was actually China. Singapore Customs officers also established that Dawn Shipping had intended to obtain an export permit by falsely declaring the country of origin as “Malaysia”, and subsequently re-exporting these garments to the United States of America. The shipment was seized. Follow-up investigations revealed that the company had falsely declared another eight shipments of garments it imported from China between January and March this year as Malaysian products when it re-exported the garments to the United States. The eight shipments involved garments worth more than \$330,000

3 In February 2007, a local logistics operator was also charged and fined \$22,000 for making false declarations of the country of origin. In 2006, two other companies were convicted and fined \$42,000 in total for similar offences.

4 Companies engaging in the export of goods are required to apply for export permit from Singapore Customs to authorise the export of goods out from Singapore. Singapore Customs reiterates that companies engaging in exports, imports and transshipments must exercise due diligence to ensure that the information provided to the authorities for the purpose of making a permit declaration is accurate. Under the RIEA, false declaration is punishable by up to a maximum fine of \$10,000 or jail of up to three years, or both. For more information on trading compliance, please visit www.customs.gov.sg and www.tradenet.gov.sg.

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