



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

LOGISTICS OPERATOR CONSPIRED WITH A MAN TO FALSELY DECLARE ORIGIN OF CLOTHING EXPORTS

On 20 October 2009, Singapore Customs (SC) charged a local logistics company and a man, who is a Singapore Permanent Resident, for abetting the false declaration of the country of origin of goods that were exported out of Singapore. In doing so, they have violated the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act (RIEA).

2 Goodwind Transport Co Pte Ltd and Shih Cheng Te (aged 64) had conspired to falsely declare the country of origin for 54,568 pieces of ladies' garments as "Indonesia" when obtaining the necessary permit from SC to re-export the goods to the United States of America. The garments were worth US\$99,592.86 and both accused knew that they were actually from China. The offence took place in March 2007.

3 In 2007, two local logistics companies were charged and fined \$58,000 and \$22,000 respectively for making false declarations of the country of origin. In 2006, two other such companies were also 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 SC to authorise the export of goods out from Singapore. SC 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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