

Circular No : 19/2008

Date : 30 Sep 2008



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To: All Traders

INTRODUCING THE NEW TIER UNDER THE SECURE TRADE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

From 1 Oct 2008, companies can apply to Singapore Customs to be certified as “STP-Plus”, the new tier under the Secure Trade Partnership (STP) programme.

About the STP programme

2 The STP programme is a voluntary certification programme administered by Singapore Customs that encourages companies to adopt robust security practices in their trading operations, thereby contributing to enhanced security of the global supply chain. Singapore Customs seeks to protect the integrity of the global supply chain and prevent disruptions to the smooth flow of goods.

3 The STP Guidelines spells out the requirements which companies in the supply chain should adopt to enhance the security of their operations and supply chains. Companies meeting such requirements will be certified as “STP companies” by Singapore Customs.

About the new tier “STP-Plus”

4 The STP programme will now comprise two tiers, namely the “STP” and “STP-Plus”. To attain the “STP-Plus” status, companies have to meet the requirements under the new STP Criteria.

5 The STP Criteria is an enhanced version of the STP Guidelines. The STP Criteria contains a set of minimum criteria which is mandatory for the “STP-Plus” certification.

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6 The STP Criteria is intended for companies who wish to obtain a higher level of certification. At the same time, this higher tier will be used for mutual recognition discussions with other customs administrations that entail minimum criteria.

Reasons for the new tier

7 When the STP programme was introduced in 2007, Singapore Customs adopted a flexible approach through the STP Guidelines. This is due to different levels of awareness and degree of readiness among the industry. Having worked with the industry for more than one year, Singapore Customs finds that many companies have put in place robust security measures and best practices that exceeded the STP Guidelines and thus are ready to progress to a higher level. The industry is also generally more aware of the importance of supply chain security.

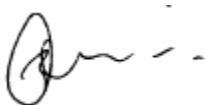
8 Singapore Customs is in the process of discussing mutual recognition of programmes with other customs administrations, and some of these programmes entail meeting minimum criteria. To achieve compatibility of programmes, the STP needs to be aligned with international standards.

9 To keep the STP programme flexible, Singapore Customs introduces a new tier, the “STP-Plus”, for companies that are able to meet all the minimum criteria stated in the corresponding new STP Criteria.

Information on the STP-Plus and its Criteria

10 For more information about the STP-Plus and its STP Criteria and how companies can apply for this new tier, you may refer to our website <http://www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/trad/Supply+Chain+Security.htm>.

11 If you have any enquiries regarding the STP programme, you may contact us at 6251 3027 and 6251 8021 or send us an email at customs_scs@customs.gov.sg.



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