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To: All Manufacturers registered with
Classification & Statistics Audit Branch of
Singapore Customs

INCLUSION OF 10 NEW COUNTRIES INTO EUROPEAN UNION

We wish to inform you that Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovenia & Slovakia will join the European Union (EU) with effect from **1 May 2004**. The new EU will then have 25 Member States.

GSP Status of Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia

2. With the ascension of Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia into the EU on 1 May 2004, Singapore origin products will no longer enjoy GSP benefits when entering these countries as their current unilateral GSP Schemes with Singapore will cease.

ASEAN Cumulation

3. However, we wish to inform that Singapore's status within the regional cumulation mechanism for ASEAN will be applicable to these 10 new countries joining EU. In this regard, products manufactured in Singapore can be used as inputs in the products of another ASEAN beneficiary country. This will enable the manufacturer in the ASEAN beneficiary country to qualify his products for the EU GSP Scheme under **ASEAN Cumulation**. In such cases, Singapore Customs will continue to issue GSP Form A for products that are **exported to the ASEAN beneficiary country** provided the products have qualified for GSP status in their own right in Singapore.

Back-to-back GSP Form A

4. You can continue to submit your application to Singapore Customs for the back-to-back GSP Form A for the re-export of ASEAN-origin products from Singapore to the EU, including the 10 new countries. For those products, your application must be supported with an **original GSP Form A** from the issuing ASEAN originating country. Exporters are advised to confirm with their EU buyers that the ASEAN products are eligible for GSP treatment in the EU under this arrangement before applying to the Singapore Customs for a GSP Form A.

5. Please highlight the contents of this circular to other colleagues in your organisation and business partners if relevant.

Enquiries

6. For further enquiries, you may call our Customs Call Centre at telephone number 63552000 followed by (*) (0).



MRS LAM MENG CHOO
HEAD
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