



Circular No: 10/2019
03 Jul 2019

Traders, Freight Forwarders and Cargo Agents

Dear Sir/Madam

ADVISORY: PROPER DECLARATION OF CONSOLIDATED CARGOES IMPORTED BY LAND FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-EXPORT BY SEA/AIR FREIGHT OR RELEASE INTO CUSTOMS TERRITORY

Singapore Customs have observed instances where freight forwarders/cargo agents wrongly take up Movement(IGM) "**TW**" **permit** to truck a container with consolidated cargo meant for multiple consignees imported by land via Woodlands or Tuas checkpoint to a Free Trade Zone (FTZ) e.g. Keppel Distripark (KD) or Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC) for bulk-breaking. Please note that such movement should instead be accounted for by In-Non-Payment (Storage) "**IT**" **permit**.

2 **GST was also not paid for some shipments that were subsequently imported into Customs Territory from CAC after bulk-breaking.** We would like to remind that there is **no GST relief for all goods imported by land** even if the individual shipments are less than S\$400.00 in value as these shipments are not imported by air. Such importation must therefore be accompanied by the relevant In-Payment permits. Similarly, any subsequent exports of goods from FTZ must also be accompanied by the relevant Out (Direct) permits.

3 Please note the following when applying permits for the import and export of goods from FTZ:

- a) Items of different HS codes should be declared as separate line items in the permit application, even though the goods may come from the same supplier or shipment.
- b) The "Previous Permit No." field in the In-Payment and Out (Direct) permits should indicate the previous IT permit that was used to move the goods from a land checkpoint to a FTZ.
- c) Subsequent In-Payment permits should be taken under the same importer as declared in the IT permit unless there is a change in the imported goods' ownership while the goods are temporarily stored in FTZ.

- d) Goods subjected to control must be declared with the relevant HS code, CA product code and licence number which can be obtained from the relevant Competent Authority (CA).
- e) Goods that were imported by land under an IT permit must not be consolidated with other shipments by air when presented for import clearance.
- f) The Transit UEN (99991000000G) should not be declared under the importer's detail when the actual importer is a local entity.

4 We urge all traders, freight forwarders and cargo agents to self-disclose any past errors and omissions to Singapore Customs by submitting a voluntary disclosure via the Networked Trade Platform (www.ntp.gov.sg > Government Services > Voluntary Disclosure Programme (VDP)). Voluntary disclosures of non-compliance by traders, freight forwarders and cargo agents will be taken into consideration when Singapore Customs decides on the follow-up actions and/or penalties.

5 Failure to make a declaration and the submission of an incorrect declaration (of value, quantity, etc.) are offences and a person guilty of failing to make a declaration or making an incorrect declaration under the Customs Act is liable on conviction to a fine of up to S\$10,000 or the equivalent amount of duty and GST payable, whichever is higher, and/or imprisonment for up to 12 months.

6 A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) is attached at **Annex A** for your reference.

Yours faithfully

Wan Boon Oon
Head Company Compliance
for Director-General of Customs
Singapore Customs

(This is a computer-generated circular. No signature is required.)

We hope that this circular has been written in a way that is clear to you. If not, please let us have suggestions on how to improve this circular at customs_company_compliance@customs.gov.sg.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: Is there any GST relief for all importation of goods from Changi FTZ that do not exceed \$400?

A1: GST relief is only granted on goods brought into Singapore by air, excluding intoxicating liquors and tobacco, to a total value [on a cost, insurance and freight (CIF) basis] not exceeding S\$400 and subjected to the following requirements:

- a) All goods consigned to the same importer and arriving in Singapore on the same flight are treated as a whole, even if the goods are covered by different freight documents.
- b) The importer is indicated as the “consignee” in the freight documents e.g. House Airway Bill (HAWB), consignment note. In situations where end buyers are named as the “consignees” in different consignment notes and the courier company or freight forwarder is named as the “consignee” in the HAWB, each of the end buyers will be considered as an importer.

For any goods imported to Singapore by land or sea and delivered to Changi FTZ, no GST relief is granted when the goods are subsequently released into Singapore for local consumption even if the individual shipments are less than S\$400.00 in CIF value as these shipments are not imported by air.

Q2: For clearance of cargo, can goods imported under a IT permit be included with other shipments by air in the “Consolidated Import Declaration” form?

A2: Goods that were imported by land under an IT permit are not eligible for GST relief even if the individual shipments are less than S\$400.00 in value as these shipments are not imported by air. These goods must be accompanied by the relevant In-Payment permits, and not be consolidated with other shipments by air in the “Consolidated Import Declaration” form.

Q3: Is there any restriction on the types of goods to be declared in IT permits?

A3: All goods are allowed except liquor & tobacco products. For controlled goods, the importer must obtain the necessary approval/authorisation from the Competent Authority prior to importation.

Q4: Where can I search for the HS code of a particular product?

A4: You may access the HS/CA product code search engine available at the [TradeNet website](#) where you may search by HS Code, CA Product Code and/or Description, and check whether an item is controlled or not.

Alternatively, you may refer to the [Singapore Trade Classification, Customs and Excise Duties](#) for the list of products with their goods descriptions listed in alphabetical order.

To determine if an item is controlled under the Strategic Goods (Control) Order, please visit the [Strategic Goods Control \(STGC\) website](#) for more information.

Q5: Can I declare multiple items of the same HS code as a single line item in the TradeNet® permit application?

A5: Yes, if the items are from the same supplier and are of the same:

- a) Description;
- b) Brand name; and
- c) Country of origin.

**Q6: What should I do if I had not paid the GST for past imports?
What should I do if I had declared the permits incorrectly?**

A6: You should conduct a self-check of your past import transactions and voluntarily disclose any declaration error to Singapore Customs. You should lodge your Voluntary Disclosure Program (VDP) submission via the Networked Trade Platform (www.ntp.gov.sg > Government Services > Voluntary Disclosure Programme (VDP)). The following supporting documents should be attached with your submission: permits, invoices, packing lists, manifests, Bill of Lading or Air WayBill, and any other documents as applicable. You can send your VDP queries via email to customs_vdp@customs.gov.sg.

Q7: The supplier of all goods in the LCL container is a Malaysian company. Why can't I use Transit UEN as the importer (i.e. consignee) of the IT permit?

A7: The Transit UEN is to be used for the importation or exportation of goods in transit through Singapore by Peninsular Malaysian companies. Transit UEN should **not** be used when the importer or exporter is not a Peninsular Malaysian company. In addition, when Transit UEN is used, there should not be any purchase or sale of the goods in Singapore as the goods are either:

- a) Imported in transit through Singapore from Peninsular Malaysia (consignor) and destined to countries other than Peninsular Malaysia; or
- b) Exported in transit through Singapore for Peninsular Malaysia (consignee).