



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

30 October 2018

Director of wholesale trade company fined \$48,000 for making false statements in applications for certificates of origin

A wholesale trade company director was sentenced by the State Courts on 30 October 2018 to a fine of \$48,000, or in default 16 weeks' imprisonment, for making false statements when applying for certificates of origin (CO)¹ for his company's exports.

Chetan Rasiklal Sheth, 63, a Singaporean, pleaded guilty to eight charges. Another 14 charges were taken into consideration in the sentencing.

Singapore Customs launched investigations after receiving information that Tradewinds Impex Private Limited was facilitating the evasion of anti-dumping duties in India by falsely declaring the country of origin for stainless steel importers in India. Investigations revealed that between September 2014 and July 2015, Chetan, who is the director of Tradewinds, made false statements to the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) and the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SMCCI)² when applying for COs for the export of 22 shipments of stainless steel coils and sheets. He had declared that the stainless steel coils and sheets originated from countries such as Japan, Malaysia and Turkey when the goods had in fact, originated from Thailand, Italy, India and the United States.

¹ A certificate of origin is a trade document that identifies the origin of the goods.

² The SICCI and SMCCI are two of the five authorised organisations allowed to issue COs in Singapore. The other three authorised organisations are the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Singapore International Chamber of Commerce and Singapore Manufacturing Federation.

Chetan had applied for the COs under the instruction of a man whom he met during his business trip to India in 2014. The man had agreed to pay Chetan a commission to apply for COs which would be used to facilitate the import of the stainless steel products into India. In total, Chetan would have been paid a total commission of US\$39,834.73 by the man. Chetan relied solely on the documents provided by the man when applying for the COs from the SICCI and the SMCCI.

The value of the goods involved amounted to about S\$1,255,390.

“Submitting false statements to obtain COs are serious offences under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations,” said Mr Yeo Sew Meng, Assistant Director-General (Intelligence and Investigation), Singapore Customs [新加坡关税局助理局长 (情报与调查)杨秀明]. “Errant traders will be brought to task to ensure a level playing field for all traders and to uphold Singapore’s position as a trusted trade hub.”

Under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations, anyone found guilty of furnishing false statements to the issuing authority to obtain the COs, will be liable on the first conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or three times the value of the goods in respect of which the offence was committed, whichever is the greater, or imprisonment for up to two years, or both.

###