

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Enhanced Transshipment and Transit Controls

General

1. Why is Singapore enhancing the transshipment and transit controls?

Singapore commits to international non-proliferation efforts through the implementation of a robust strategic goods control system.

The enhancement of the transshipment and transit controls is part of Singapore Customs' periodic review to maintain Singapore's position as a trusted and secure trade hub.

2. When will the changes be implemented?

1 Jan 2015.

3. What are the new items added to the Fourth Schedule of the Strategic Goods (Control) Regulations (SGCR)?

Some new items include lithium isotope separation facilities, chlorine trifluoride (ClF₃), certain machine tools and their specially designed software, and certain pressure sensors and their related technology.

4. What are the types of items listed in the Fifth Schedule of the SGCR?

The items include military items and more sensitive dual-use items such as arms, ammunitions, military vehicles, special fissile materials, certain pumps and valves, as well as their related software and technology.

Permit Requirements/Declarations

5. Who is the party responsible for obtaining a strategic goods transshipment or transit permit?

Generally, the person who issues the "through bill of lading or through air waybill", or the person acting on his behalf should apply for the transshipment or transit permit.

6. If the permit is rejected, would an additional permit be required for the goods to be shipped back to the source or to an alternative destination?

A new permit would have to be obtained.

7. What is the message/Declaration Type code to be declared for a transshipment permit?

Message/Declaration Type code = TNP/TTI or TNP/TTF.

8. What is the Message/Declaration Type code to be declared for a transit permit?

Message/Declaration Type code = TNP/TTF.

More information on permit declaration procedures can be found here:

<http://www.customs.gov.sg/NR/rdonlyres/PDF/TN4-1ProceduresforSTSPermits.pdf>

9. How many days in advance do I need to apply for a strategic goods transshipment permit?

The permit application should be submitted at least 5 working days before the loading of goods onto the conveyance on which the goods are to be brought out of Singapore

However, traders are advised to submit their permit applications well in advance, with a complete set of supporting documents and information, so as to allow ample time for the permit applications to be processed and to avoid unnecessary shipment delays.

10. How many days in advance do I need to apply for a strategic goods transit permit?

The permit application should be submitted at least 5 working days before the arrival of the conveyance on which the goods are to be brought in transit into Singapore

However, traders are advised to submit their permit applications well in advance, with a complete set of supporting documents and information, so as to allow ample time for the permit applications to be processed and to avoid unnecessary shipment delays.

11. My item is not found on the Fourth or Fifth Schedule of the SGCR. Can I safely conclude that a strategic goods transshipment or transit permit is not required?

No. Please also ensure that the item is taken into the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) immediately after it has been brought into Singapore and that it remains in the FTZ for not more than 45 days if brought into Singapore by water, and 21 days if brought into Singapore by air.

However, if you have been notified, know, or have reasonable grounds to suspect that an item is intended or likely to be intended for nuclear, chemical or biological weapons purposes, or missiles capable of delivering these weapons, the item will be subject to the “catch-all” provision under the Strategic Goods (Control) Act and the requirements of the Act will apply.

Penalties/Responsibilities

12. I have transhipped or brought in transit strategic goods without prior knowledge that a strategic goods transshipment or transit permit is required (item listed in the Fourth or Fifth Schedule to the SGCR). Can I apply for this permit now without being penalized?

No. A strategic goods transshipment or transit permit may only be obtained 5 working days before the transfer. Please do not attempt to apply for a strategic goods or normal TradeNet® permit after the transfer has been completed.

You may, however, come forward in good faith to voluntarily disclose the oversight through Singapore Customs’ Voluntary Disclosure Programme.

More information on the Voluntary Disclosure Programme can be found here:
<http://www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/trad/Voluntary+Disclosure+Programme.html>

13. Will I be penalized if I fail to take up a strategic goods transshipment or transit permit due to ignorance?

As with current practice on other controlled goods, it is an offence if you fail to take up a strategic goods permit. Singapore Customs will conduct an investigation and take actions accordingly.

14. Who will be liable if the transshipment or transit permit is not submitted on time? (5 working days before the shipment is loaded onto the outgoing vessel for transshipment, and 5 working days before the conveyance carrying the shipment arrives at Singapore for transit.)

Generally, the person who issues the through bill of lading or through air waybill, or the person acting on his behalf will be liable.

15. What are the penalties for late permit applications (if the permit is being declared less than 5 days before the transshipment or transit of strategic goods)?

The penalty imposed is subject to the facts of each case. Singapore Customs will conduct an investigation and take actions accordingly.

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