



## Singapore Customs Media Release

# SINGAPORE TIGHTENS CONTROLS ON STRATEGIC TRADE WITH NORTH KOREA AND IRAN

Singapore has re-affirmed its counter-proliferation commitment by tightening its strategic trade controls with new prohibitions on transactions with North Korea and Iran. Effective 1 November 2010, the revisions by Singapore Customs are timely in light of the recent increasing global attention on curbing illicit diversions of strategic controlled goods and technology to sanctioned countries and rogue entities.

### Customs' Regulatory Controls on Strategic Trade

2 Since 2003, Singapore Customs has put in place regulatory controls on movement of strategic goods and related technologies which can be used for commercial and military purposes while according greater facilitation to legitimate traders. The latest amendments to the list of prohibited imports, exports and goods to/from North Korea and Iran are in line with the recent United Nations Security Council Resolutions' sanctions imposed on North Korea and Iran as well as Singapore's continuous commitment to its international obligations.

### Tightening Reins on North Korea and Iran

3 At present, the prohibitions to the two countries include arms or related materials, certain vacuum systems and pumps, compressors and gas blowers, as well as luxury goods such as cigars, wines and spirits and plasma televisions. In the revised list, there will be new prohibitions on any arms as defined by the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and related materials.

4 Singapore's trade with North Korea and Iran accounted for less than 0.4% of the total trade value of \$747 billion in 2009. The goods transacted with the two countries include commodities as well as agricultural, tobacco and consumer products.

[ Please refer to the revised list of prohibited imports, exports and goods at Customs' website: <http://www.customs.gov.sg/NR/rdonlyres/33C38748-2CED-45CD-A8D8-87DA640F56A2/27101/RegulationofImportsandExportsAmendmentNo2Regulatio.pdf> ]

## **Advisory from Singapore Customs**

5 Traders are urged to exercise due diligence in the transfers of all goods or technologies. They are advised to comply with the Strategic Goods (Control) Act (SGCA) and the re-export regulations of other countries. Under the SGCA, a strategic goods permit is required prior to the transfers of items listed under the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2010. Singapore Customs strongly encourages traders to implement effective internal export control compliance measures to screen the consignees and end-users of their exports.

6 Traders who know or suspect that the transferred goods and technologies are intended or likely to be used for WMD purpose, even though they are not in the Order, are also required to obtain prior approval from Singapore Customs before carrying out the transaction under the 'relevant activity' provision of SGCA. Offenders can be fined up to \$200,000 or 4 times the value of the goods, whichever is the greater, and/or jailed for up to three years.

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