

**Please see below the list of questions and answers discussed during the dialogue sessions on 26 and 27 Aug 2013.**

**Topic: Transitional Improvement Period (TIP)**

**Question:** How many non-compliance cases can there be before a company is placed in TIP?

**Answer:** As the Compliance criteria are a combination of many factors, there is no absolute figure that is applicable to all companies. For the TIP companies, SC will conduct one-to-one consultations and work closely with them to identify their weak areas. Thereafter, sufficient time will be given for the TIP companies to improve on their weak areas and adjust to the revised criteria.

**Topic: Maintenance of trade documents**

**Question:** Can trade/supporting document can be maintained in electronic form?

**Answer:** Yes, with effect from 1st January 2012, traders may use an image system to store images without retaining the physical paper document provided they can comply with the requirements in the Guide on "Keeping and Maintaining Records in Image System". Please click [here](#) for more information and access the Guide.

**Topic: Revised TradeFIRST Checklist**

**Question:** When will the revised TradeFIRST checklist be implemented?

**Answer:** The revised TF checklist will be implemented with effect from 1 Jan 2014. The revised checklist will be uploaded on the website.

**Topic: Consultation on Possible Changes to Strategic Trade Scheme (STS) regime**

**Question:** How would the Review on the STS Bulk Permit Regime affect the record keeping requirements for ITT?

**Answer:** The ITT record keeping requirements remain the same (i.e company will still need to maintain its record for at least 5 years). This would be verified by SC during our on-site validation. The Review on the STS Bulk Permit Regime is currently in the consultation phase; i.e. SC is seeking companies' feedback on the proposed restructuring of Bulk Permits regime for further fine-tuning if necessary. To feedback or enquire, please email to [customs\\_schemes@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_schemes@customs.gov.sg). Alternatively, you may also contact your Account Manager directly.

**Topic: TradeNet**

**Question:** How long will the permit data be stored in TradeNet?

**Answer:** For permit data that is sent to and from TradeNet, it can be stored up to 7 years.

**Topic: TradeXchange**

**Question:** In the Permit Return flow, why is the transfer of the shipping documents from shipper to forwarders still in hardcopy form? Shouldn't it be electronic via TradeXchange as seen in Trade Permit Preparation flow?

**Answer:** Trade Permit Preparation and Permit Return can be implemented independently. Companies can opt for Permit Return service only without doing Trade Permit Preparation which is the case in the flow. If a company implements both Trade Permit Preparation and Permit Return, then the exchange of both the shipment information and approved permit will be via TradeXchange.