



Circular No: 01/2023
3 Jan 2023

Traders and Declaring Agents

Dear Sir/Madam

CESSATION OF PHYSICAL ENDORSEMENT OF HAND-CARRIED EXPORTS SCHEME (HCES) PERMITS

Currently, businesses can retrieve an electronic copy of the clearance status of the goods under the Hand-Carried Exports Scheme (HCES) via the Networked Trade Platform's (NTP) HCES digital service. Hence with effect from **3 Jan 2023**, Singapore Customs officers at the Changi International Airport will cease to manually endorse the export permits that are presented together with the goods for inspection.

2 The electronic copy of the clearance status of the goods that can be retrieved via NTP will serve as the endorsement of the HCES permit. The (electronic copy of) endorsement is one of the requisite documents to support the zero-rating of supplies of goods which are hand-carried out of Singapore via Changi International Airport. For more information on HCES, please visit [https://www.iras.gov.sg/taxes/goods-services-tax-\(gst\)/general-gst-schemes/hand-carried-exports-scheme-\(hces\)](https://www.iras.gov.sg/taxes/goods-services-tax-(gst)/general-gst-schemes/hand-carried-exports-scheme-(hces)).

3 To help businesses prepare for this change, a 3-month adjustment period till **2 Apr 2023** will be given to the industry. During the period, businesses are urged to set up an NTP account and subscribe to the free HCES digital service. Information on how to set up your NTP account can be found at www.ntp.gov.sg (Get Started > Accessing NTP > [Sign in with Singpass](#)).

Yours faithfully

Glenda Chua
Head Air Checkpoints Branch
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_checkpoints@customs.gov.sg.