

APEX LOGISTICS PTE LTD FINED FOR MAKING FALSE DECLARATION TO SINGAPORE CUSTOMS ON ITS CLOTHING EXPORTS

On 4 August 2006, Apex Logistics Pte Ltd pleaded guilty to 4 counts of the offence of making a false declaration on the country of origin of goods it exported in violation of the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act (RIEA). The company was fined a total of \$28,000

2 Apex Logistics Pte Ltd, a freight forwarding company, had imported clothing that were made in China into Singapore and subsequently re-exported them to the USA. The company knew that the country of origin of the clothing was actually 'China' but it had falsely declared the country of origin of the goods in its export permits.

3 This is the second case this year involving a Singapore based company making a false declaration on the country of origin of clothing imported and re-exported to USA. On 9 June 2006, another company, YP International pleaded guilty to 2 counts of the offence of making a false declaration to Singapore Customs on the country of origin of clothing in their export permits and it was fined a total of \$14,000 for both counts.

4 Singapore Customs reiterates that companies engaging in imports, exports and transhipments must exercise due diligence to ensure that the information furnished to the relevant authorities for the purpose of making a permit declaration is accurate. Under the Regulation of Import and Export Act, false declaration is punishable by up to a maximum fine of \$10,000 or jail of up to three years, or both. For more information on trading compliance, please visit www.customs.gov.sg and www.tradenet.gov.sg.

Released by Singapore Customs 11 Aug 2006