



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

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Marketing manager fined \$92,000 for counterfeiting certificates of origin and making false statements

A marketing manager was sentenced by the State Courts on 28 July 2017 to a fine of \$92,000 for counterfeiting certificates of origin (CO)¹ and making false statements when applying for the COs.

Yu Ximei, 51, a Chinese national, pleaded guilty to nine charges. Another 20 charges were taken into consideration in the sentencing.

Based on information provided by United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Singapore Customs initiated an investigation on Parfait International Pte Ltd (Parfait), which deals with the production of uncovered innerspring units used in the manufacture of mattresses and the export of uncovered innerspring units to the United States (U.S.).

Investigations revealed that between January and February 2015, Yu counterfeited five COs by making changes to genuine COs obtained on earlier occasions, and provided these five counterfeited COs to one of Parfait's customers in the U.S.

Between June 2013 and May 2015, Yu also furnished false statements, when applying for COs, that the innersprings Parfait exported to the U.S. originated from Singapore, instead of China, to avoid the anti-dumping duties.

¹ Certificate of origin is a trade document that identifies the origin of the goods.

Yu also falsely declared the country of origin of Parfait's shipments in permits declaration made to Singapore Customs.

The value of the goods involved in this case amounted to over \$615,000.

"Counterfeiting COs and making false statements to obtain COs are serious offences under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations," said Mr Yeo Sew Meng, Assistant Director-General (Intelligence and Investigation), Singapore Customs [新加坡关税局助理局长(情报与调查)杨秀明].

"Singapore Customs will take stern enforcement action against errant traders," said Mr Yeo, "to protect Singapore's status as a secure and trusted global trade hub."

"CBP takes free trade agreement enforcement very seriously and appreciates Singapore Customs' partnership in this effort. It is important for the trade community to know that there are consequences for making false claims," said Ms Brenda Smith, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade, CBP.

Under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations, anyone found guilty of counterfeiting COs or furnishing false statements to the issuing authority to obtain the COs, will be liable on the first conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or three times the value of the goods in respect of which the offence was committed, whichever is the greater, or imprisonment for up to two years, or both.

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