



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Faster clearance for certified local companies exporting goods to New Zealand

Companies certified by Singapore Customs as having robust security practices will benefit from faster clearance for their goods exported to New Zealand.

The Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes signed between Singapore Customs and the New Zealand Customs Service on 27 June 2019, recognises these companies as having lower risks. As such, they will enjoy reduced documentary and cargo inspections.

Companies certified by New Zealand will similarly receive the same level of facilitation for their goods exported to Singapore.

The Singapore-New Zealand MRA recognises the compatibility of the supply chain security measures implemented by companies certified under Singapore Customs' Secure Trade Partnership (STP) programme and the companies accredited under New Zealand's Secure Exports Scheme.

Singapore's Director-General of Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong, and the Acting Comptroller of New Zealand Customs Service, Mr Bill Perry, signed the MRA on 27 June 2019, during the 133rd/134th World Customs Organisation (WCO) Council Sessions.

"New Zealand and Singapore share a close and collaborative relationship, grounded by our shared history and interests. The New Zealand-Singapore AEO-MRA reinforces the close cooperation between both customs administrations," said Mr Ho. "This partnership underpins our strong commitment in maintaining the regional and global supply chain security, and facilitating legitimate trade undertaken by AEOs in both countries."

Mr Perry said that the signing of the MRA with Singapore is great news for both countries.

"This arrangement further strengthens trade relations by allowing streamlined clearance for accredited exporters who will be treated as 'low-risk' at both borders, while giving customs administrations greater assurance over goods. Singapore is one of our top 10 trading partners, with many New Zealand businesses operating in South-East and East Asia using Singapore as a base."

Companies in Singapore with significant trade with New Zealand also welcomed the signing of the MRA.

“ExxonMobil welcomes the signing of this AEO-MRA and the continued role played by customs authorities to facilitate international trade and reinforce the robustness of supply chains worldwide. With ExxonMobil being a long-time Secure Trade Partnership-Plus-certified company, our global and regional customers have enjoyed a higher level of trade facilitation and expedited customs clearance that such agreements bring,” said Ms Lee Chui Leng, Asia Pacific Supply Coordination Manager, ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.

“Hewlett Packard Enterprise welcomes the MRA between Singapore and New Zealand. We expect higher level of facilitation for our trades between the two countries. We believe this MRA will assure swift trade, maintain high security standards, enhance collaboration, partnerships and benefit international business. Different nations need to work together to ensure a positive economic future and the MRA is a good example for that – especially when the trade war is on. Very optimistic and we appreciate it,” said Mr Vijay Chaudhary, Asia-Pacific and Japan Customs Operations & Compliance Manager, Hewlett-Packard Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd.

“The AEO-MRA between New Zealand and Singapore will allow us to enjoy faster customs clearance with reduced cargo inspections. This is a great partnership and as a member of Singapore Customs’ Secure Trade Partnership programme, we will be able to leverage on the benefit to facilitate our shipments to New Zealand,” said Ms Lynn Lee, Site Manager, Sandvik South East Asia Pte Ltd.

Singapore’s total trade with New Zealand amounted to more than S\$4 billion in 2018.

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About Singapore Customs’ Secure Trade Partnership (STP) Programme and Mutual Recognition Arrangements

Singapore Customs’ STP programme is based on the World Customs Organisation’s Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (WCO SAFE Framework of Standards). The WCO SAFE Framework of Standards highlights the need for all stakeholders to take measures to ensure the security of the supply chain, and for customs administrations to establish Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes to certify companies which adopt robust security practices. To date, 91 companies are certified as AEOs by Singapore Customs.

Mutual recognition arrangements multiply the benefits of national AEO programmes by elevating trade facilitation and trade security to the international level. Such arrangements also help to facilitate continuous secure trade flows in situations of high alert or when international trade is disrupted.

Singapore Customs is the first customs administration in Southeast Asia to enter into mutual recognition of AEO programmes with other customs administrations. To date, it has signed MRAs with 10 customs administrations: Canada, Republic of Korea, Japan, People’s Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States, Australia, Thailand and New Zealand.

ANNEX



From left: Acting Comptroller of New Zealand Customs Service, Mr Bill Perry, and Singapore's Director-General of Customs, Mr Ho Chee Pong, signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Authorised Economic Operator programmes on 27 June 2019, during the 133rd/134th World Customs Organisation Council Sessions.

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