



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS



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Smoother cross-border transit movement of goods within Southeast Asia with the ASEAN Customs Transit System

The ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) was launched today to facilitate the cross-border transit movement of goods via land within the ASEAN region. The ACTS will be implemented in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

2 The ACTS enables goods to be transported by road under a single regime regardless of which ASEAN Member State (AMS) they depart, transit and arrive at. Specifically, traders can carry out a single transit journey across participating AMS via a single truck, single customs declaration and single banker's guarantee. The use of a regional computerised Customs transit management system allows the customs administrations in each AMS to efficiently capture and track the status and movement of goods under ACTS.

3 The implementation of the ACTS is provided under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT)¹ which was signed and ratified by all 10 AMS. Under the ACTS, businesses can look forward to time savings, cost reduction and better connectivity in moving goods via land across Southeast Asia. The ACTS is subject to existing border measures imposed by respective countries during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

4 The ACTS is a key regional initiative to facilitate intra-ASEAN trade and promote the free flow of goods. It supports the objectives of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to increase integration, cohesion, innovation and connectivity across the AMS. Over the past few years, the participating AMS have been intensifying efforts to fully implement the ACTS.

¹ AFAFGIT is a core instrument in the creation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which seeks to transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment and skilled labour, and freer flow of capital.

5 “The successful launch of the ACTS was made possible with the hard work and commitment of fellow AMS, as well as with the strong support and guidance provided by the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the European Union (ARISE) Plus,” said Mr Lee Boon Chong, Senior Assistant Director-General (Trade) of Singapore Customs and Chairman of the ASEAN Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group’s Sub-Working Group on ACTS.

6 “Singapore will continue to work closely with our ASEAN counterparts to strengthen ASEAN’s economic competitiveness, resilience and unity to enable businesses to tap on the opportunities in the region. In the current global trade environment that is increasingly uncertain, it is important that ASEAN presses on in its economic integration to unlock the region’s economic potential so that ASEAN remains resilient and future-ready,” added Mr Lee.

7 “The launch of ACTS reflects ASEAN’s determination to simplify customs procedures and strengthen supply chain connectivity, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. ACTS will be of practical benefit to businesses by facilitating the smoother cross-border transit movement of goods”, said Ms Alpana Roy, Director, ASEAN Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Singapore’s Senior Economic Official to ASEAN.

8 DHL Global Forwarding Singapore (DHL) is one of the first companies that has expressed interest to participate in this regional initiative. As part of the pilot phase, DHL successfully carried out the cross-border transit operations from Singapore to Thailand, through Malaysia on 23 and 28 October 2020. “As a global logistics provider, DHL is especially cognisant of the importance of free trade and open borders in driving economic progress. With a comprehensive road freight network across the globe, including in Southeast Asia, we are familiar with the benefits of an integrated, seamless customs framework for the logistics industry and look forward to helping businesses with their cross-border transportation needs more efficiently with the ACTS,” said Christopher Lim, Managing Director, DHL Global Forwarding Singapore.

9 Businesses that are interested to commence the ACTS trucking movement from Singapore to any of the participating AMS can approach Singapore Customs to find out more about the application process. Additional information on the ACTS can be found at <https://acts.asean.org> and <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/asean-customs-transit-system/overview>.

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