



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

## MEDIA RELEASE

17 September 2021

### Importer fined \$64,000 for fraudulent evasion of GST

A Singapore permanent resident, Marco Dittrich, 53, was fined \$64,000 by the State Courts on 15 September 2021 for fraudulent evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 46 imported shipments of bicycle frames and components. The offences occurred between June 2020 and April 2021, with the total GST evaded amounted to \$13,483.89.

Dittrich, the sole director of Singapore Tri-Global Pte Ltd (STG), pleaded guilty to one charge under the Customs Act, with another charge taken into consideration during sentencing.

#### Facts of the Case

On 9 February 2021, Singapore Customs officers inspected a consignment of bicycle wheels imported by STG. The value of the consignment was declared as \$1,615.84. However, from supporting documents provided by the freight forwarder of the consignment, it was established that the actual value of the bicycle wheels was \$23,357.66. This resulted in a short payment of \$1,521.93 in GST.

Investigations revealed that between June and December 2020, Dittrich had declared the values for 31 shipments to be less than \$400 for each shipment. GST relief is granted on goods (excluding intoxicating liquors and tobacco) imported by post or air with a value not exceeding \$400. Understating the import values resulted in the non-

payment of GST amounting to \$8,933.15 for these 31 shipments. In two other shipments, Dittrich had suppressed the actual values which resulted in the short payment of \$72.75 in GST.

Between January and April 2021, Dittrich had also underdeclared the values in 12 other shipments. Two shipments were declared as less than \$400 which resulted in the non-payment of GST amounting to \$366.46. The values for the other 10 shipments were suppressed which resulted in the short payment of GST amounting to \$2,589.60.

### Stiff Penalties for GST Evasion

Under the Customs Act, any person who is in any way concerned in any fraudulent evasion of, or attempt to fraudulently evade, any customs duty or excise duty shall be guilty of an offence and will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000 or email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) to report these illegal activities.

**Singapore Customs**  
**17 September 2021**

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