



Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Chapter

EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement
Webinar

**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

We Protect Revenue, and Make Trade Easy, Fair and Secure.

*Teo Angie
Head International Relations*

19 May 2021

Outline

- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation
- Key Elements & Benefits of CPTF Chapter
- Enhancing Partnership with Trade



WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

BACKGROUND

- The **World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA)** concluded in December 2013
- It is a binding multilateral trade agreement between members of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The TFA entered into force on **22 Feb 2017** upon ratification by 2/3 of WTO Members
- Singapore and the EU have both ratified the WTO TFA
- As of 3 May 2021, **154 (93.9%)** out of 164 countries have ratified the TFA.

COMMITMENT

- **Aim:** To tackle the barriers to trade posed by burdensome border requirements.
- **Commitment:** Ratified countries to:
 - Reduce red tape at borders -> from measures to ensure quicker release and clearance of goods to better cooperation between border agencies
 - Increase transparency and efficiency, reduce bureaucracy and corruption and ultimately make trade simpler, faster and more cost-effective.



Customs Procedures & Trade Facilitation

CUSTOMS' ROLE IN FTA

- Customs negotiates the **Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (CPTF) Chapter** (*also known by other similar titles – e.g. Customs Administration, Customs Procedures*)
- Typically a sub-set of Trade in Goods
- Secures preferential advantages for goods exported from Singapore
- Customs implements the commitments/provisions in the CPTF Chapter & enforce applicable violations under our domestic laws (*e.g. incorrect declarations, falsified documents*)

OVERVIEW AND SCOPE OF CPTF CHAPTER

- CPTF chapter addresses key principles for the simplification, harmonisation, standardisation, and modernisation of trade procedures (import and export processes)
- Objective is to reduce cross-border trade transaction costs at the interface between business and customs administrations, and expedite movement, release and clearance of goods



Key Elements of CPTF Chapter in the EUSFTA

- Transparency and Effective Communication with the Business Community
- Advance Rulings
- Release of Goods
- Single Window and Paperless Trade
- Risk Management
- Simplified Customs Procedures
- Promote Intellectual Property Rights



Key Elements & Benefits

Transparency and Effective Communication with the Business Community

- Reasonable time period between the publication of new/amended legislation and customs procedures and their entry into force
- Publication of information on fees and charges
- Consult with the business community to allow and take into consideration public comments when formulating legislative proposals and customs procedures

Advance Rulings (ARs)

- Provides greater certainty for companies
- Coverage of ARs (e.g. include AR on (i) origin (ii) tariff classification)



Key Elements & Benefits

Release of Goods

- Expedites release of goods
- Simplify requirements (e.g. advance electronic submission) to enable release of goods on arrival

Single Window/Paperless Trade & Automation

- Facilitate electronic submission of information
- Allow single submission of information (inc. Competent Authorities)
- Networked Trade Platform (NTP) was launched in Sep 2018 – one stop trade and logistics ecosystem to facilitate cross border paperless trade (helps improve companies' productivity and competitiveness)
[www.ntp.gov.sg]



Key Elements & Benefits

Risk Management

- Use of risk management for assessment and targeting
- Focuses on high-risk goods
- Expedites the release of low-risk goods

Simplified Customs Procedures

- Reduce costs and increase predictability for economic operators, including for SMEs
- Single customs declaration document

Promote Intellectual Property Rights

- Border enforcement of intellectual property rights regarding import, export and transit goods



Enhancing Our Partnership with Trade

Identify emerging areas that require customised facilitation

Partner the trading community to enhance supply chain security

Promote utilisation of free trade agreements to enhance market access & competitiveness



Engagement Channels

