

# Trade in Electronics under the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

## Cutting red-tape – how the EUSFTA helps

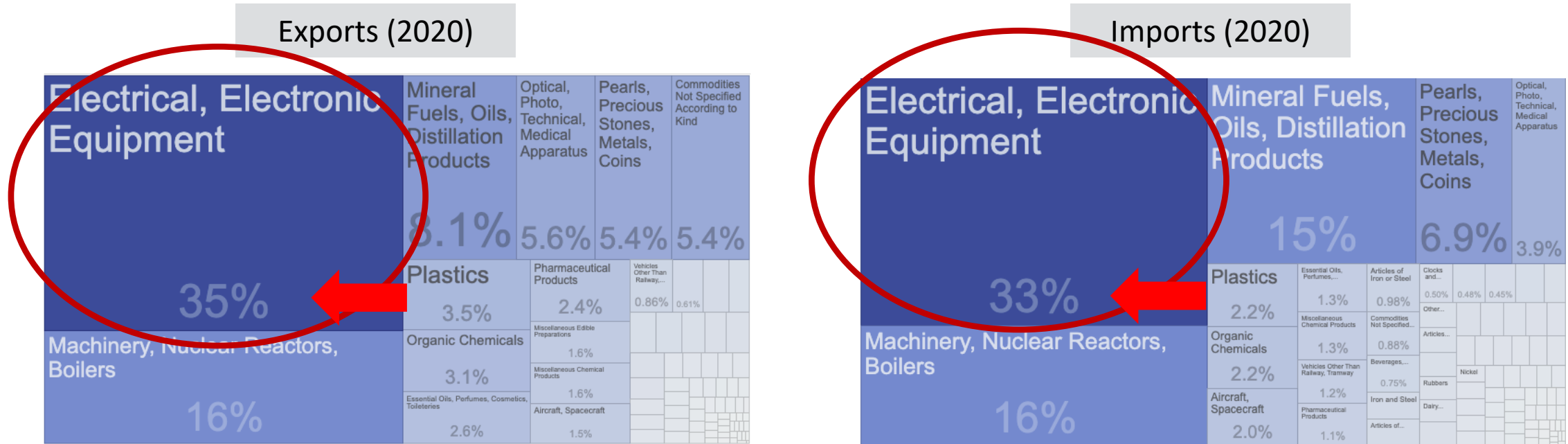


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# Trade in Electronics and Singapore

» Trade in electronic products constitutes a significant portion (more than 30%) of Singapore’s trade in goods.



Source: Trading Economics based on UN Comtrade database on International Trade

# Trade in Electronics and Singapore

- » However, there are certain concerns about the safety of the electronic products.
- » Hence there is a need for standards and harmonization.

5 taken to hospital after fire linked to charging e-bike battery breaks out in Jurong West flat



The fire involved a battery pack of a power-assisted bicycle at Block 723 Jurong West Avenue 5. PHOTO: SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE/FACEBOOK

Source: The Straits Times (19 January 2022)

Fire involving ceiling fan breaks out in Bishan flat, no injuries reported



The fire involved a ceiling fan in the living room of a unit in Block 113 Bishan Street 12. PHOTO: ST READER

Source: The Straits Times (9 January 2022)

# TBT Rules in the WTO and the EUSFTA

## » WTO TBT Agreement

- › Ensure technical regulations or standards, and conformity assessment procedures are **non-discriminatory** and **do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade**.
- › Technical regulations should as much as possible use or refer to existing international standards (if any).
- › Recognise members' right to implement measures to achieve legitimate policy objectives, e.g. protect human health and safety, or protection of the environment.

## » EUSFTA – Chapter 4 – TBT (WTO+ provisions)

- › ***Good Regulatory Practice*** for adoptions of technical regulations and standards
- › ***Conformity Assessment Procedures*** – in principle should be avoided, use SDoC and/or post-market surveillance mechanism to ensure conformity.
- › ***Marking & Labelling*** – certain conditions regarding mandatory marking or labelling, e.g. allowing information in other languages in addition to the language required in the importing Party, or place of labelling in the authorised premise in the importing party.

## Relevant rules under the EUSFTA

### Annex 4-A – Electronics

- » **Scope** – safety and electromagnetic compatibility (**EMC**) of electrical and electronic equipment, electrical household appliances and consumer electronics, but Singapore may require more for telecom products.
- » **Int'l standards** – obligation to use int'l standards or relevant parts of them established by ISO, IEC, and ITU (if any) unless ineffective or inappropriate to fulfill the legitimate objectives pursued.
- » **Conformity Assessment Procedures** – obligation to use SDoC to ensure products' conformity with standards or technical requirements, except for certain exceptions (Articles 5 and 6, and Appendix 4-A-2). Acceptance of test reports by certain recognized testing laboratories in the EU.
- » Reduction of the products subject to mandatory third party certification of conformity.

# Singapore's compliance with the EUSFTA



## » Preparation of technical regulations

- › Use of Good Regulatory Practice (**GRP**) in the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, including public consultation in the development of standards.

## » Conformity Assessment Procedures

- › Reliance on a supplier's declaration of conformity (**SDoC**) for electronic products, except those falling under exception in Annex 4-A.
- › Designation of EU-based conformity assessment bodies.
- › Recognition of the results of conformity assessment procedures in the EU by recognised testing labs.

## » Annex 4-A – Controlled Goods

- › Singapore has reduced the categories of products requiring mandatory third party certification of conformity under its Consumer Protection (Safety Requirements) Registration Scheme (from 45 categories to 33 categories).
- › Low risk CGs can be registered with SDoCS.
- › However, it seems like there are products not covered under Appendix 4-A-2 which are included in the 33 categories, namely:
  - Category 9 includes hair care appliances other than hairdryers, while Appendix 4-A-2 only covers hairdryers.
  - Category 12 is lamp control gears, while Appendix 4-A2 only covers ballast for tubular fluorescent lamps.

# Singapore's compliance with the EUSFTA

## » Marking and Labelling

- › No requirement for labels to be approved by the authorities before the products can be placed in the market.
- › Example of labelling requirement: Controlled Goods need to be affixed with SAFETY mark.
- › Singapore conducts market surveillance to inspect compliance.

Gadget supplier fined \$50,000 for using safety marks on unregistered PMD chargers



During the investigation that started in 2016, Enterprise Singapore seized more than 900 unregistered charging adaptors from iPassion.  
PHOTO: PASSIONGADGETS/FACEBOOK

Source: The Straits Times (8 October 2019)

## Way forward under the EUSFTA



- » **Periodical review to Singapore's CPS Scheme** – five years after the entry into force of the agreement (2024).
- » **More cooperation between the EU and Singapore** – hopefully a more harmonised standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures – integration of EU and Singapore products into production chains.

## Useful websites

- » **Further information about the Controlled Goods and the applicable Conformity Assessment Procedures -** <https://www.consumerproductsafety.gov.sg/>
- » **IMDA's website regarding technical requirements applicable to telecommunication equipment for sale and use in Singapore -** <https://www.imda.gov.sg/-/media/Imda/Files/Regulations-and-Licensing/Regulations/Frameworks-and-Policies/Dealer-and-Equipment-Registration/Equipment-Registration-Framework/EQRGuide.pdf>