

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

UPDATES TO THE STRATEGIC GOODS (CONTROL) ORDER, STRATEGIC GOODS (CONTROL) (BROKERING) ORDER AND STRATEGIC GOODS (CONTROL) REGULATIONS

1) Why the recurrent updating of the strategic goods control list?

In line with international practices, Singapore takes reference from the Wassenaar Arrangement Munitions List, and the European Union's List of Dual-Use Items ("EUDL") as the basis for our strategic goods control list. The EUDL is an amalgamation of dual-use items controlled by the four multilateral export control regimes (the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement). We continuously review and update our control list to reflect changes to the four regimes' lists.

When there are changes to the strategic goods control list, Singapore Customs will issue Circular(s) to the trading and business community. The Circular is also available at www.customs.gov.sg > News and Media > Circulars.

2) How do I know if my products are controlled?

To determine if your product is controlled under the Strategic Goods (Control) Act, you will need to read and understand the stated descriptions in the Strategic Goods Control Order 2020 and compare with your item's technical descriptions or blue prints, and determine the corresponding SGCO's Category Code for that item. If in doubt, you should seek advice from the relevant parties involved in the transaction having the due knowledge of the good's technical specifications and end-use, such as the exporter or manufacturer where necessary. For more information, you may wish to refer to the Guidebook on the Determination of Strategic Goods via www.customs.gov.sg > Businesses > Strategic Goods Control > Resources.

3) When will the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020 be implemented?

The Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020 will be gazetted on 15 September 2020 and will take effect from 16 November 2020. The two months advanced gazette ahead of implementation will give traders and service providers in the trading and business community time to make necessary adjustments to their business operations.

4) What are the implications on my business with the enactment of the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020?

Possible business implications include, but not limited to:

- (a) If your item is now controlled under the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020, you will then need a strategic goods permit before you ship or transfer the goods, unless they fall under the exemption provision (for transshipment and transit).
- (b) If your item is no longer controlled under the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020, you will not need any strategic goods permit before you ship or transfer the goods.

However, you must note that a strategic goods permit will still be required, if you have been notified, or are aware, or have reasonable grounds to suspect that the goods or technology you are handling are intended or likely to be used wholly or in part, for or in

connection with an activity relating to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, or missiles capable of delivering these weapons.

You are also advised to seek clarifications from the relevant Competent Authorities on their licence or permit requirements, as they may control these goods, though they are not listed in the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020. You can check if your goods are controlled from the Customs website via www.customs.gov.sg > Businesses > Exporting Goods > Controlled and Prohibited Goods for Exports.

[For the purposes of the Strategic Goods (Control) Act, transfer means the following:

- (i) export, tranship or bring in transit any strategic goods;
- (ii) export any document in which any strategic goods technology is recorded, stored or embodied; or
- (iii) transmit (via electronic transmission or a computer) any strategic goods technology.]

- (c) For Strategic Trade Scheme (STS) bulk permit holders, if your goods are listed under the new Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020, you may apply for a 'Product Inclusion' to your existing bulk permit(s). For goods and technology that are no longer controlled under the Strategic Goods (Control) Act (i.e. not listed in Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020), you could request for the removal of such goods and technology from your bulk permit(s). You can contact your account managers or email your requests to customs_schemes@customs.gov.sg.
- (d) With the implementation of the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020, you need to note that past advisories from Singapore Customs on the classification of certain strategic goods and strategic goods technology become outdated. You are advised to re-classify the goods when your company deals with new products, when there are changes in technical specifications of existing products or when there are changes in the existing control list. This can be done by comparing the description and technical specifications provided in the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020. If there is doubt, you may email your enquiries to customs_classification@customs.gov.sg or submit a new application for the determination of strategic goods and strategic goods technology classification. For more information on our classification advisories, you may refer to www.customs.gov.sg > Businesses > Strategic Goods Control > Strategic Goods Control List > Determination of Strategic Goods.
- (e) All brokers of items listed in the Strategic Goods (Control)(Brokering) Order need to be registered with Singapore Customs at least **14 working days** prior to brokering in these items. For more information on brokering, you may refer to www.customs.gov.sg > Businesses > Strategic Goods Control > Permit and Registration Requirements > Brokering. If there is doubt, you may write in to customs_stgc@customs.gov.sg with your enquiries.

5) Where can I find the Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020 ("SGCO 2020") and its amendments?

The Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020 can be accessed via www.customs.gov.sg > Businesses > Strategic Goods Control > Strategic Goods Control List.

A summary on its amendment can be accessed via www.customs.gov.sg > Businesses > Strategic Goods Control > Resources.

6) How many days in advance do I need to apply for a strategic goods export permit or strategic goods transshipment permit?

The application for a strategic goods **export** permit or a strategic goods **transshipment** permit should be submitted at least **5 working days** before the loading of goods onto the conveyance on which the goods are to be brought out of Singapore.

Traders are advised to submit their permit applications well in advance, with a complete set of supporting documents and information, so as to allow adequate time for the permit applications to be processed.

7) How many days in advance do I need to apply for a strategic goods transit permit?

The strategic goods transit permit application should be submitted at least 5 working days before the arrival of the conveyance on which the goods are to be brought in transit into Singapore.

Traders are advised to submit their permit applications well in advance, with a complete set of supporting documents and information, to allow adequate time for the permit applications to be processed.

8) I have an urgent shipment for a product that is now classified as a controlled good due to the change in Strategic Goods (Control) Order 2020. Should I apply for an individual permit first or a bulk permit?

If the export of this product is urgent, traders should apply for an individual permit first, as an interim measure. Thereafter, once the relevant supporting documents are ready, traders can submit an application for an STS Bulk Permit.

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