

IN SYNC

HIGHLIGHTS

More Companies Keen to Learn About Strategic Trade Controls

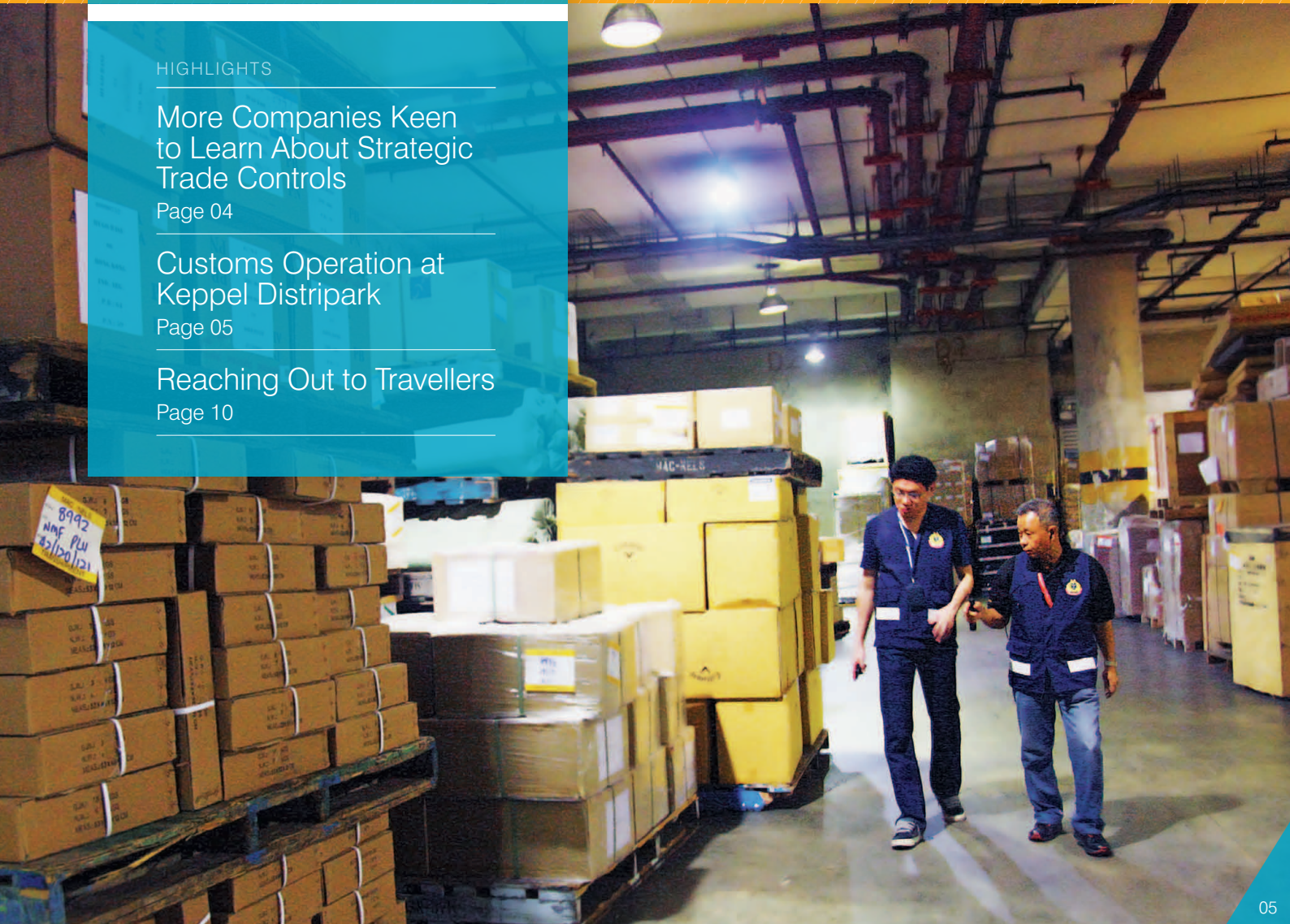
Page 04

Customs Operation at Keppel Distripark

Page 05

Reaching Out to Travellers

Page 10



05

CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT RESULTS 2012 **CONTRABAND CIGARETTE SITUATION KEPT IN CHECK**

Increased revenue from duty-paid cigarettes, fewer contraband cigarettes seized and the disruption of four syndicates in 2012 indicate that Singapore Customs continues to keep the contraband cigarette situation under control, a result of strong enforcement efforts and close inter-agency cooperation.

Page 01

CONTENTS

inSIGHT

FEATURES

- 01** Contraband Cigarette Situation Kept in Check
- 03** Revised 'SDPC' Mark for Cigarettes Sold in Singapore
- 04** More Companies Keen to Learn About Strategic Trade Controls
- 05** Customs Operation at Keppel Distripark
- 06** Singapore Stops 1.8 Tonnes of Illegal Ivory from Transshipment

UPDATES

- 08** Two Parallel Importers Fined for Failure to Retain Trade Documents
- 08** Attempt to Smuggle Beer into Singapore Snowed In
- 09** Singapore Customs Restructures Senior Management Team
- 10** Reaching Out to Travellers

INSIDE CUSTOMS

- 12** Sharing Gifts with the Needy
- 13** Training Calendar

UPHOLDING LAWS, ENGAGING PEOPLE

Welcome to the first issue of the new-look inSYNC. We have given the Singapore Customs newsletter a facelift to provide you with a better reading experience.

We remain committed to providing the trading community with relevant news updates and engaging insights on customs and trade matters. We hope you will find the change refreshing and will continue to support us.

In this issue, we shine the spotlight on the agency's enforcement efforts. Singapore Customs enforces the Customs Act and other related legislation to ensure that there is a level playing field for all businesses.

The agency's multi-pronged approach to clamp down the contraband cigarette trade has seen results, with higher revenue collected from duty-paid cigarettes in 2012. Read our feature story for an overview of the contraband cigarette situation in Singapore. We are also vigilant in enforcing the laws within the country's free trade zones and recently conducted an operation at Keppel Distripark.

Besides upholding the country's laws, Singapore Customs actively engages its stakeholders. To increase awareness of customs requirements among travellers, the agency embarked on an outreach and publicity initiative in 2012. We also frequently conduct activities to educate traders on developments in international trade. The recent Joint Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Controls provided industry participants with an understanding of the strategic trade regimes of Japan, the European Union and the United States.

We hope you will enjoy reading these stories. Best wishes for the year ahead!

Tan Zi Jie
Editor

DESIGN BY

Green House Design + Communications

Please let us know what you think of inSYNC. We welcome your ideas on what you would like to see and how we can do better. Write in to the Editor at customs_media@customs.gov.sg

inSYNC is a publication of Singapore Customs. Copyright of the materials contained in this publication belongs to Singapore Customs. Nothing in here shall be reproduced in whole or in part without prior written consent of Singapore Customs. All rights reserved. All information is correct at time of publication.



To read, download or subscribe to the online edition of inSYNC, please visit www.customs.gov.sg/insync

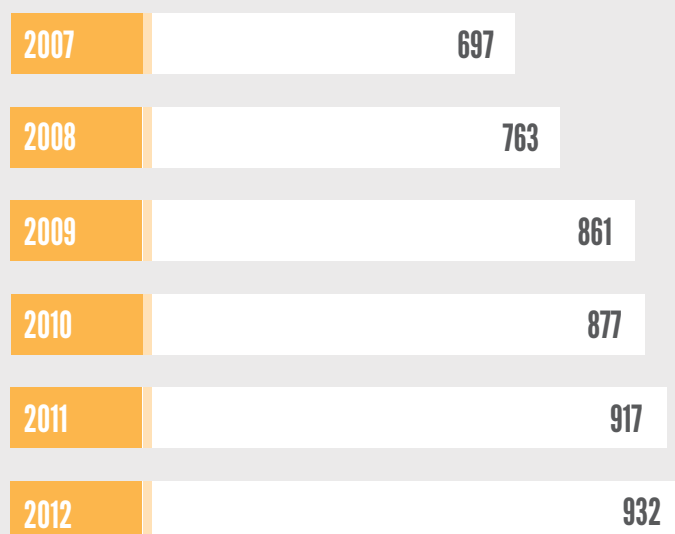


www.facebook.com/SingaporeCustoms

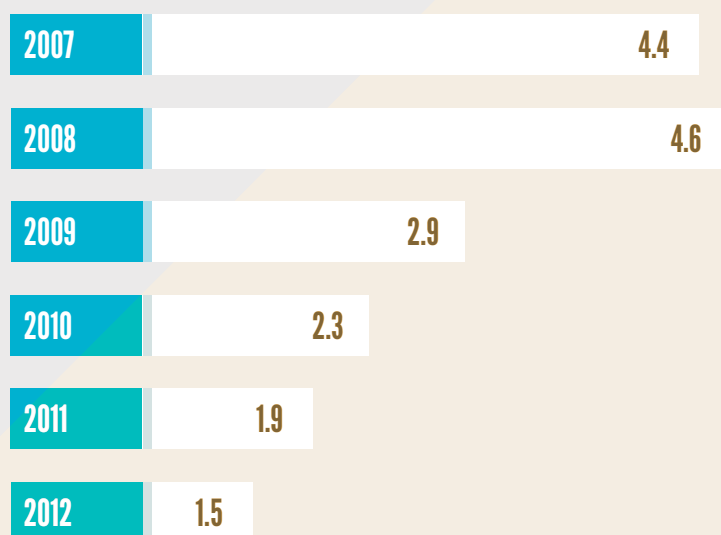


www.twitter.com/sg_customs

Duty Collection for Cigarettes (\$ million)



Duty-Unpaid Cigarettes Seized (million packets)



Contraband Cigarette Situation Kept in Check

Increased revenue from duty-paid cigarettes, fewer contraband cigarettes seized and the disruption of four syndicates in 2012 indicate that Singapore Customs continues to keep the contraband cigarette situation under control, a result of strong enforcement efforts and close inter-agency cooperation.

ENFORCEMENT YIELDS POSITIVE RESULTS

In 2012, \$932 million in cigarette duties was collected, up from \$917 million in 2011. Since 2007, the revenue collected from the sale of duty-paid cigarettes has been on the upward trend, indicating the level of demand among smokers for duty-paid cigarettes.

At the same time, strong enforcement efforts by Singapore Customs, intelligence-sharing and joint collaboration with other enforcement agencies (such as the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority and the Singapore Police Force) have kept the contraband cigarette supply in check. The quantity of contraband cigarettes seized has been decreasing since 2007. It fell from 1.9 million packets in 2011 to 1.5 million packets in 2012.

PERSISTENT STREET DEMAND FOR CONTRABAND CIGARETTES

However, the street demand for contraband cigarettes remains persistent, with more smokers caught for buying contraband cigarettes in 2012. The number of buyers caught inland increased by 4.5% from 5,977 in 2011 to 6,248 last year.

The total number of illegal cigarette offenders caught inland and at Singapore's checkpoints also went up – from 26,164 in 2011 to 28,502 last year, an increase of 8.9%.

Last year, 402 peddlers were caught for hawking contraband cigarettes. Peddlers continued with their "creative" attempts to hide from enforcement officers, by operating in alleys and back lanes and stashing their contraband cigarettes in appliances such as refrigerators and air compressors.

CONTRABAND CIGARETTE SYNDICATE CHASED DOWN

In September 2012, Singapore Customs intercepted multiple vehicles at various parts of Singapore in an operation, successfully disrupting a contraband cigarette syndicate which deployed a network of prime-movers and vans to transport the contraband cigarettes for distribution island-wide.

Eight men were arrested and a total of 4,000 cartons and 5 packets (40,005 packets) of duty-unpaid cigarettes worth more than \$400,000 were seized. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded exceeded \$330,000.

On 3 September 2012 evening, Singapore Customs officers were watching keenly as men transferred multiple boxes from three prime-movers to three vans in a car park at Pioneer Road. Suspecting the boxes to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes, officers trailed the vehicles.

Over the next hour, the three prime-movers made two return trips to a storage facility in western Singapore to transport boxes of contraband cigarettes to the car park. The prime-movers and vans then left the car park, fanning out in different directions.

To nab all the men involved, Singapore Customs officers split into different teams to intercept the vehicles at various parts of the island, including Sunset Way and Upper Changi. All six vehicles were seized.

The syndicate latched on to the idea of using prime-movers to transfer the cigarettes to vans as the prime-movers would look "empty" without the trailers attached. They hid the boxes of contraband cigarettes in the space behind the driver's seat in the prime-movers.

Investigations established that prime-mover driver Suparman Bin Padio was the coordinator. He recruited other drivers to transport and distribute the cigarettes. As Suparman was a repeat offender, he received the enhanced punishment under Section 128L(5A) of the Customs Act. He was sentenced to three years' jail and fined \$10 million or in default three years' jail.

Tan Heng Leong, who assisted to carry the boxes of cigarettes from the prime-movers to the vans, was sentenced to one year's jail and fined \$3.6 million or in default two years' jail. Four other men received jail sentences ranging from 15 months to three years. Investigations are still ongoing for two other men involved in the syndicate.



Boxes of contraband cigarettes were found hidden in the space behind the driver's seat in the three prime-movers.



Contraband cigarettes were hidden in air compressors.

FOUR CONTRABAND CIGARETTE SYNDICATES SMASHED

Despite the seemingly "ingenious" attempts by peddlers to elude arrest, Singapore Customs, working closely with other enforcement agencies, had managed to disrupt the contraband cigarette supply – not only through seizing contraband cigarettes but also by cutting off the sources.

Last year, the agency smashed four syndicates which attempted to smuggle contraband cigarettes into Singapore via land, air and sea.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND REGULATORY CHANGES

"To tackle the demand for contraband cigarettes, Singapore Customs will continue to intensify enforcement against buyers and sellers, implement regulatory changes, and reach out to the public through a seven-month-long anti-contraband cigarette

campaign," said Mr Lee Boon Chong, Singapore Customs Senior Assistant Director-General (Intelligence and Investigation).

Singapore Customs maintained its public outreach and engagement activities last year, conducting over 200 anti-contraband cigarette talks and road shows at schools, transportation and freight-forwarding companies, and foreign worker dormitories. In November 2012, the agency launched its new anti-contraband cigarette campaign '1 IS ALL IT TAKES'. Using a range of traditional and new media platforms, the campaign highlights the consequences of buying or selling contraband cigarettes – one stick of illegal cigarette is all it takes to be fined and/or jailed.

The agency has also introduced a revised 'SDPC' (Singapore Duty-Paid Cigarette) mark, which takes effect from 1 March 2013.

LIQUOR AND FUEL GAUGE OFFENCES

The number of liquor offenders decreased by 16% in 2012, from 2,323 offenders in 2011 to 1,951 offenders last year. In May 2012, Singapore Customs crippled a liquor-smuggling syndicate. More than 12,000 cans and 18,000 bottles of beer and rice wine were found hidden among cartons of soft drinks, wine, vinegar and instant noodles. Investigations are currently ongoing.

In the last year, 17 offenders were prosecuted for fuel gauge offences – tampering with fuel gauges or attempting to leave Singapore with fuel tanks less than three-quarters full.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences under the Customs Act and the GST Act. Offenders will be severely dealt with. They can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty evaded and/or jailed for up to six years.

First-time and repeat offenders of tobacco-related offences will face minimum court fines of \$2,000 and \$4,000 respectively. Repeat offenders who are caught with more than two kilogrammes of tobacco products will also face a mandatory jail sentence. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences may also be forfeited.

The public is strongly advised not to buy duty-unpaid products. For possessing a packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes, buyers may face a minimum fine of \$500 or prosecution in court.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST should contact Singapore Customs on its hotline 1800-233-0000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

Revised 'SDPC' Mark for Cigarettes Sold in Singapore

From 1 March 2013, all cigarettes sold in Singapore will have a revised 'SDPC' (Singapore Duty-Paid Cigarette) mark.

In addition to the letters 'SDPC', the new mark features a series of vertical bars around the cigarette stick. The revised 'SDPC' mark is a measure to visibly differentiate duty-paid cigarettes from duty-unpaid ones or contraband cigarettes.

This will further enhance the effectiveness of the anti-contraband cigarette operations that Singapore Customs conducts across the island to curb the selling, buying and possession of contraband cigarettes. The 'SDPC' mark on

legal cigarettes was introduced in 2009.

To give cigarette manufacturers and retailers sufficient time to phase in the revised 'SDPC' mark, cigarettes bearing the revised mark were allowed to be sold from 1 December 2012.

Come 1 March 2013, all cigarettes sold in Singapore need to bear the revised 'SDPC' mark. Cigarettes without this revised SDPC mark will be deemed to be duty-unpaid and illegal.



More Companies Keen to Learn About Strategic Trade Controls

To keep traders up-to-date with developments in export controls, Singapore Customs organised the Joint Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Controls in December 2012. The event saw about 50% increase in industry participants from 2011.

The seminar provided manufacturers, exporters, logistics providers, freight forwarders and researchers with an overview of the strategic trade regimes of Japan, the European Union (EU) and the United States (US).

It also highlighted the importance of self-compliance for businesses, to prevent them from unwittingly violating the strategic trade control laws of Singapore or any other nation.

Strategic goods refer to military goods such as conventional arms as well as dual-use goods that can have both civilian and military applications, or can potentially be used as components of weapons of mass destruction.

Businesses in Singapore need to stay abreast of international developments on strategic trade controls requirements and exercise due diligence in their daily transactions.

This is due to increasing security concerns in the global supply chain and the rising number of unilateral sanctions imposed by countries.

The one-day seminar drew more than 340 industry and government representatives.

BEST PRACTICES AND LIVELY DIALOGUE

During the seminar, speakers touched on the responsibilities of exporters, provided tips to help companies improve their internal compliance and shared how exporters can steer clear of risky transactions.

Experts on the US export control regime also presented on a range of topics from US export control reforms, licence exceptions, internal compliance programmes to end-user checks. In addition, the participants learnt about Japan's end-use certificate system and technology transfer controls, and the latest developments in the EU export control system.

Speakers included experts from Singapore Customs, Germany's Federal Office of Economics and Export Control, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the US Bureau of Industry and Security, and the US Embassy in Singapore.

There were candid exchanges between the audience and speakers throughout the seminar. Participants shared about the challenges they encountered in complying with strategic trade controls regimes of different countries.

Singapore Customs then-Senior Assistant Director-General (Trade) Lim Teck Leong welcomed participants to the Joint Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Controls. (Mr Lim was appointed Deputy Director-General (Compliance and Facilitation) on 1 January 2013.)



Customs Operation at Keppel Distripark

Singapore Customs conducted an enforcement operation in Keppel Distripark on 22 November 2012.

Officers were on the lookout for violations of the Customs Act and other legislation pertaining to importation, exportation, and transshipment of goods. They checked for compliance with dutiable goods requirements, rules of origin, intellectual property rights border measures and strategic goods control. During the operation, over 30 warehouses in the Distripark were checked to ascertain that cargo had been accurately declared and accounted for.

Keppel Distripark is a cargo distribution complex within the Keppel Free Trade Zone (FTZ) of Singapore, providing extensive warehousing services for transloading and co-loading of cargo.

To facilitate Singapore's entrepot trade and transshipment activities, businesses operating in the FTZs enjoy facilitative customs procedures. Duties and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on cargo within the FTZ are suspended, and are only payable when the goods leave the FTZ and enter customs territory for local circulation. This benefits businesses, especially exporters and logistics service providers.

The enforcement operation involved nearly 40 Customs officers. Singapore Customs' roving inspection team also conducts regular checks in the FTZ.

For more information on documentation in FTZ, visit the Permits & Documentation page on the left navigation bar at www.customs.gov.sg

Located within the Keppel FTZ, Keppel Distripark houses 45 warehouse modules to facilitate the importation, exportation and transshipment of goods.





1



2



1 About 40 Singapore Customs officers, split into four teams, set off from the Customs Operations Command to conduct the operation at Keppel Distripark.

2 Officers targeted dutiable goods, garments and textiles for checks and kept an eye out for strategic goods control and intellectual property rights infringement.

Combing through the large warehouses filled with cargo was no easy task. Some ways to assess cargo legitimacy are to check the labels for insufficient or dubious information and odd-sized packaging. Cargo labels usually include information such as item description, measurements and country of origin.

Singapore Stops 1.8 Tonnes of Illegal Ivory from Transshipment

A shipment of illegal raw ivory tusks transiting through Singapore from Africa was intercepted by Singapore Customs and the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA).

Acting on a tip-off, Singapore Customs and AVA conducted a joint inspection on a shipment that was declared as waste paper on 23 January 2013. Some 1,099 pieces of raw ivory tusks were found packed in 65 gunny sacks.

The estimated value of the shipment is about \$2.5 million.



3



4



5

3 To inspect a shipment of textile material, officers unsealed the box, verified the contents within and resealed it in the presence of the warehouse operator.

4 Selective checks were carried out in warehouses. To verify the accuracy of goods, Singapore Customs officers requested supporting documents from the warehouse operators, who readily provided assistance.

5 Besides checking for violations, Singapore Customs also took the opportunity to reach out to warehouse operators to convey the dangers of dealing with contraband cigarettes. Community engagement officers spoke to the operators and distributed posters and brochures bearing anti-contraband cigarette messages. They were encouraged to provide information on illegal activities to the Customs hotline at 1800-233-0000.

This is the second largest ivory seizure in Singapore since 2002. The case is currently being investigated by the AVA.

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), of which Singapore is a signatory to, all African and Asian

elephants are endangered species. International trade in ivory has been banned under the Convention since 1989.

The maximum penalty for illegal trade (import, export and re-export) of ivory is a fine of S\$50,000 per scheduled specimen (not exceeding an aggregate of S\$500,000) and/

or imprisonment of up to two years. The same penalties apply to any transshipment of ivory through Singapore without proper CITES permits from the exporting/importing country.



Singapore Customs and the AVA intercepted an illegal shipment of about 1.8 tonnes of raw ivory tusks smuggled from Africa.

Two Parallel Importers Fined for Failure to Retain Trade Documents

In November 2012, Ricky Yeo Beng Huat and Teo Hong Poh were charged and sentenced under the Customs Act for failing to retain books of accounts and sales invoices from 2005 to 2007, for the statutory record retention period.



Investigations by Singapore Customs revealed that motor vehicle parallel importer Pan Express was registered as a sole proprietorship in Teo Hong Poh's name. He signed all documents relating to the importation of cars and cheques for payment to suppliers though the firm's operations were managed by Ricky Yeo.

As the sole proprietor of Pan Express, Teo Hong Poh did not make any attempts to ensure that Ricky Yeo kept the necessary books of accounts and sales invoices relating to the importation and sale of vehicles for the statutory retention period. For that,

Teo Hong Poh was fined \$4,000 or in default 10 days' jail.

For his negligence in not retaining the documents concerning Pan Express, Ricky Yeo was charged with abetment of failing to retain the books of accounts and sales invoices of the company.

In addition, Ricky Yeo faced a similar charge for another parallel importer business, VT Express, he managed. For his failure to retain documents relating to the importation and sales of vehicles under VT Express for the statutory record retention period, Ricky Yeo was fined \$5,000, or in default

Attempt to Smuggle Beer into Singapore Snowed In

Singapore Customs seized more than 32,900 bottles of Snow beer declared as soft drinks last November. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) of the seized beer exceeded \$59,500.

The two containers were shipped into Singapore from China with its cargo declared as soft drinks.

Targeted by Singapore Customs for checks, the containers were inspected at the Pasir Panjang Scanning Station on 28 November 2012. Some 17,318 bottles of Snow beer were found hidden in cartons among a consignment of soft drinks in one container, while another 15,600 bottles of Snow beer were found in the second container. Singapore Customs seized all 32,918 bottles of the beer. Investigations are ongoing.

As the authority on trade facilitation and customs revenue collection matters, Singapore Customs regulates the trading system to

ensure that a level playing field is maintained for all traders. Any trader found attempting to gain an unfair advantage will be dealt with accordingly.

Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of all declarations submitted to Singapore Customs. Any person found guilty of making incorrect declarations will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$10,000 or the duty/GST payable, whichever is higher, or a jail term not exceeding 12 months or both.

two weeks' jail. The charge for abetment of failing to keep and retain the books of accounts and sales invoices relating to Pan Express was taken into consideration during sentencing.

Retaining documents and records relating to the purchase, import, sale or export of dutiable goods facilitates Singapore Customs' verification of the accuracy and authenticity of Customs declarations. This also enables the agency to recommend necessary measures to correct any discrepancies in these declarations.

Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of every importer and exporter of dutiable goods, or their agent, to keep documents and recordings relating to the goods. With effect from 1 March 2007, the retention period was reduced from seven to five years. The same record retention requirement also applies to imported goods subject to payment of Goods and Services Tax (GST).



Singapore Customs seized more than 32,000 bottles of duty-unpaid Snow beer hidden among consignments of soft drinks from China.

Singapore Customs Restructures Senior Management Team

To fulfil its mission of making trade fair, easy and secure within the dynamic operating environment of the global supply chain, Singapore Customs regularly reviews its operations to achieve optimal performance.

The agency views trade facilitation and compliance as two sides of the same coin – helping traders to comply with Customs regulations will enhance the swift flow of legitimate trade.

Reflecting this philosophy, Mr Lim Teck Leong has been appointed Deputy Director-General (Compliance and Facilitation). Mr Lim will chart the strategic direction of both Trade and Compliance divisions, such that Singapore Customs' approach towards the trading community balances the need for regulation with support for enterprises.

Mr Lim, who was previously Senior Assistant Director-General (Trade), continues to oversee the Trade

division. Mr Lee Tiow Yong has taken over as Assistant Director-General (Compliance) from Mr Loh Fook Meng, who will be retiring in February 2013 after 30 years of public service. Mr Lee is also concurrently holding the post of Assistant Director-General (Policy & Planning).

As Singapore Customs' enforcement work has grown in complexity and sophistication, Mr Lee Boon Chong has been appointed Senior Assistant Director-General (Intelligence & Investigation). He is assisted by Mr Yeo Sew Meng, who has been appointed Assistant Director-General (Intelligence & Investigation) to directly supervise the operational branches in the division.

To find out more about the organisation structure of Singapore Customs, visit the About Us page at www.customs.gov.sg

Reaching Out to Travellers

Singapore handles a large number of inbound and outbound travellers – visitor arrivals alone are above 10 million every year. A seamless travelling experience includes ensuring that travellers are aware of customs requirements at the checkpoints. Singapore Customs embarked on an outreach and publicity initiative to educate travellers and stakeholders in 2012.



COLLABORATING WITH THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY

To raise awareness of customs requirements among travellers, Singapore Customs reached out to two key groups of stakeholders: tour operators and tourist guides. As the first and primary point of contact for most travellers, knowledgeable tour operators and guides can advise travellers on the appropriate procedures when moving in and out of Singapore's borders.

Hence, Singapore Customs collaborated with several associations – the National Association of Travel Agents Singapore, Singapore Tourism Board, Express Bus Agencies Association, Society of Tourist Guides Singapore and Singapore Cruise Centre Pte Ltd to reach out to those in the travel industry.

Four dialogue sessions involving air, sea and land tour operators and tourist guides were held between December 2011 and December 2012. During the sessions, Singapore Customs shared information about customs requirements relevant to travellers: there is no duty-free concession for cigarettes, and if travellers have

cigarettes and/or purchases that exceed their Goods and Services Tax (GST) relief amount, they need to declare them at the Customs Red Channel and pay tax at the Customs Tax Payment counter.

Participants candidly discussed issues that they encountered at the checkpoints and provided valuable feedback and suggestions to Singapore Customs on how to improve the travellers' experience.

Besides engaging travel industry personnel through the dialogue sessions, the agency also distributed brochures, informational cards, videos and posters on customs matters and requirements to stakeholders.

EDUCATING THE HOLIDAYMAKERS

Singapore Customs' outreach efforts also included publicity through mass media. The publicity efforts were focused on peak travel periods such as the school holidays.

In January 2012, the agency launched a series of humorous yet informative comic strips in major newspapers, in Singapore's four official languages, to inform



travellers about the need to declare goods purchased from overseas if they exceeded the GST relief amount.

Messages on customs requirements were also broadcast on popular radio programmes.

Singapore Customs' latest outreach and publicity initiative is part of continual efforts to engage travellers who pass through Singapore's checkpoints. Currently, informative pamphlets in English, Chinese, Malay, Tamil, Korean and Japanese are readily available at every checkpoint. In addition, the agency's Customs Guide for Travellers video is screened in airplanes, ferries and coaches for travellers before they arrive in Singapore.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

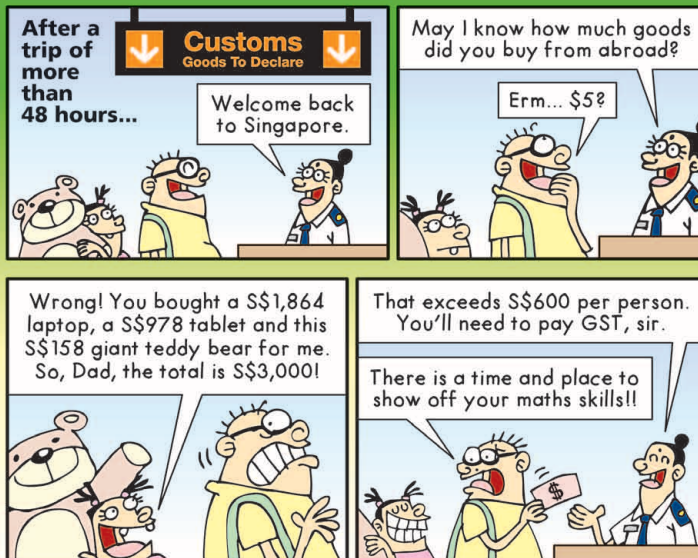
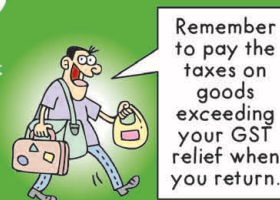
To find out more about customs requirements on dutiable items, duty-free concessions and GST relief on goods, refer to the Travel Advisory on the left navigation bar at www.customs.gov.sg



Singapore Customs engaged more than 100 tour operators and guides in dialogue sessions to enhance awareness of customs requirements among travellers.

going overseas for holidays?

All goods brought into Singapore are subject to 7 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST). You are required to pay tax on goods in excess of your GST relief. Please produce the receipts of your overseas purchases at the Customs Red Channel or Tax Payment Office to facilitate the computation of tax payable.



Period away from Singapore	Value of Goods granted GST relief
Away for 48 hours or more	S\$600
Away for less than 48 hours	S\$150

The GST relief is not available to holders of work permit, employment pass, student pass, dependent pass or long-term pass. It does not apply to goods imported for commercial purposes.

All cigarettes, including those with the 'SDPC' (Singapore Duty Paid Cigarette) mark, and tobacco products are subject to duty and GST when brought into Singapore. There is no duty-free allowance on liquor if you are arriving from Malaysia.

For more information, please visit the Singapore Customs website (www.customs.gov.sg)

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS



Singapore Customs published a series of comic strip advertisements in newspapers to educate travellers.

Sharing Gifts with the Needy

Amidst the year-end festivities, Singapore Customs staff did not forget the less fortunate – they donated \$4,800 worth of food items to the Boys' Brigade Share-A-Gift charity drive.

The cash donations from more than 200 staff were used to buy food items such as rice, canned food and beverages, which went towards helping needy households in Singapore.

The Boys' Brigade Share-A-Gift is an annual community service project that encourages the spirit of giving during the festive season, galvanising thousands of Singaporeans to fulfil the general and specific wishes of the needy. One way of fulfilling wishes is to donate food items such as cooking oil and instant noodles. The groceries and other gifts were collected by the Boys' Brigade and volunteers at collection points spread across the island in November and December. The donated items were distributed to 30,285 beneficiaries from households receiving assistance from government-funded ComCare programmes and voluntary welfare organisations.

"It's comforting to know that somebody will benefit from a simple act like this, even though the items donated may be small," said Singapore Customs staff Ang Xue Yun, a second-time donor.

Since 2009, Singapore Customs' Staff Well-Being Committee

has been encouraging staff to participate in the project every year. The committee members help to collect the donated items.

In previous years, most staff purchased the groceries on their own and brought the items to the Singapore Customs headquarters at Revenue House. The items were then transported to the Boys' Brigade collection point.

Last year, the Customs officers gave cash donations instead, and indicated the type of goods they wished to purchase. The orders were then consolidated and the essential items were purchased online and delivered to the Boys' Brigade. This encouraged greater contribution to the meaningful event.

The number of items donated by Singapore Customs staff in 2012 increased nearly threefold from 2009.

Singapore Customs' community involvement efforts also include regular outings with residents from the Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled, the agency's adopted charity since 2001.

Singapore Customs staff donated over 1,000 food items such as rice, canned food, biscuits and beverages to less fortunate households, as part of the Boys' Brigade Share-A-Gift charity drive.



TRAINING CALENDAR

Please note that dates are subject to change. For full programme and registration details, visit www.customsacademy.gov.sg

PROGRAMME

DATES

SC100 BASICS OF EVERY DECLARANT

This three-day course provides trade declarants with an overview of customs procedures pertaining to the import and export of goods, the basic requirements for preparing TradeNet declarations, classification of goods, and the rules of origin.

The course comprises three modules:

- SC101 Customs Procedures (2 days)
- SC102 Classification and the Harmonised System (half-day)
- SC103 Rules of Origin / Free Trade Agreements (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.

4 – 6 Mar 2013

10 Apr 2013
(SC 102 and
SC 103 only)

SC200 STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL PROGRAMME

This one-day seminar provides an overview of Singapore's strategic goods control system and its regulations, registration procedures and permit requirements for strategic goods transactions, as well as the essentials of an internal (export control) compliance programme.

The seminar comprises two modules:

- SC201 Basics of Strategic Goods Control (half-day)
- SC202 Essentials of Internal (Export Control) Compliance Programme (half-day)

Participants may register for individual modules.

21 Feb 2013

18 Apr 2013

SC400 CUSTOMS COMPETENCY TEST FOR DECLARANTS

This module is designed to test an individual's knowledge of customs procedures and documentation requirements. Upon passing this test, the individual can then apply for registration with Singapore Customs as a declarant to submit TradeNet permit declarations.

The test will be an open-book exam comprising 50 multiple-choice questions. The topics tested include: customs procedures, TradeNet permit declarations, valuation, classification, rules of origin and specialised procedures. The one-hour test can be taken during the AM or PM session.

22 Feb 2013
(AM and PM sessions)

28 Mar 2013
(AM and PM sessions)

26 Apr 2013
(AM and PM sessions)

TRADERS CLINICS

These monthly one-on-one consultation sessions provide an avenue for traders to seek advice and provide feedback on general customs procedures and services.

21 & 22 Feb 2013

27 & 28 Mar 2013

OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED TRADERS

This quarterly programme is designed to equip new traders with a better understanding of customs documentation procedures, as well as the various customs schemes and services available. For enquiries, please call 6355 2000 or email customs_documentation@customs.gov.sg

18 Mar 2013

OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY-REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS

This bimonthly programme is designed to equip newly-registered manufacturers with a better understanding of the rules of origin under Singapore's free trade agreements, the application procedures for certificates of origin, and the compliance requirements. For enquiries, please email customs_roo@customs.gov.sg

18 Feb 2013

17 Apr 2013



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

We make trade easy, fair and secure

55 Newton Road #10-01 Revenue House Singapore 307987
www.customs.gov.sg