



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

27 Jun 2023

### **EXPEDITED EXPORT CLEARANCES TO SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM**

*Companies certified by the Singapore Customs and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs with robust security practices will have their exports cleared faster.*

Singapore, 27 Jun 2023 – Singapore and the United Kingdom (UK) have signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes on 23 June 2023. This enables companies from both countries to import goods from one another with less documentation and cargo inspections. The signing between Singapore Customs and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs took place at the sidelines of the 141<sup>st</sup>/142<sup>nd</sup> World Customs Organization (WCO) Council Sessions held in Brussels, Belgium.

2      “The UK and Singapore have always had enduring and collaborative trade and economic ties. This new UK-Singapore AEO-MRA brings our longstanding cooperation between both customs administrations to the next level where we deepen our unwavering commitment towards facilitating trade by the AEOs,” said Mr Lim Teck Leong, Deputy Director-General of Singapore Customs. “We encourage more companies to come onboard the STP-Plus programme and make full use of the benefits offered through our network of MRA partners that Singapore Customs has established over the years.”

3      The Head of Customs International of His Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Ms Megan Shaw, said that the signing of the MRA with Singapore is great news for both

countries. “This milestone will strengthen the UK and Singapore’s strong partnership, and open doors to our traders by promoting efficient customs procedures, facilitating trade between our nations and enhancing end-to-end supply chain security.”

4 The UK – Singapore AEO MRA recognises the compatibility of the supply chain security measures implemented by companies certified under Singapore Customs’ Secure Trade Partnership - Plus (STP-Plus) programme (see Annex A), as well as companies accredited under the UK’s AEO programme. In exporting their goods to the UK, STP-Plus certified companies in Singapore are now recognised as having lower risks and will benefit from faster clearances of their goods in the UK. Companies certified by the UK will similarly receive the same level of facilitation for their goods exported to Singapore.

5 Companies in Singapore with significant trade with the United Kingdom also welcomed the signing of the MRA.

- Mr Wong Pau Chiang, Vice President of Corporate Supply Chain from Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, commented, “As an STP-Plus certified company, Infineon is assured that this MRA will benefit us and our business partners in the UK—reducing document and cargo inspections, resulting in a higher efficacy for our supply chain. This collaboration will further reinforce secure trade for companies like Infineon and strengthen Singapore’s position as a global trading hub,”
- “AMD recognizes the considerable and important work of Singapore and the United Kingdom to finalize this Mutual Recognition Agreement for Authorised Economic Operators,” said Susan Moore, Corporate Vice President of International Government Affairs and Corporate Responsibility. “We applaud this step to promote trade and business continuity through more streamlined customs clearances for exporters.”

6 Singapore’s total trade with the United Kingdom averaged S\$15.4 billion for the past three years (2020 – 2022).

## **Annex A: Background on Singapore Customs' Secure Trade Partnership Programme and Mutual Recognition Arrangements**

### **Annex B: Photographs**

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#### **About Singapore Customs**

Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We promote trade competitiveness and ensure the security of the supply chain.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations as we safeguard Singapore's borders against potential risks and threats. With the use of data analytics and various advanced technologies, we continuously leverage digital initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing these intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)  
Follow us at [www.facebook.com/SingaporeCustoms](https://www.facebook.com/SingaporeCustoms)

## **ANNEX A**

### **Background on Singapore Customs' Secure Trade Partnership Programme and Mutual Recognition Arrangements**

Singapore Customs' Secure Trade Partnership (STP) programme is based on the World Customs Organization (WCO) Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework of Standards).

The Framework highlights the need for all stakeholders to take measures to ensure the security of the supply chain, and for customs administrations to establish Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes to certify companies which adopt robust security practices.

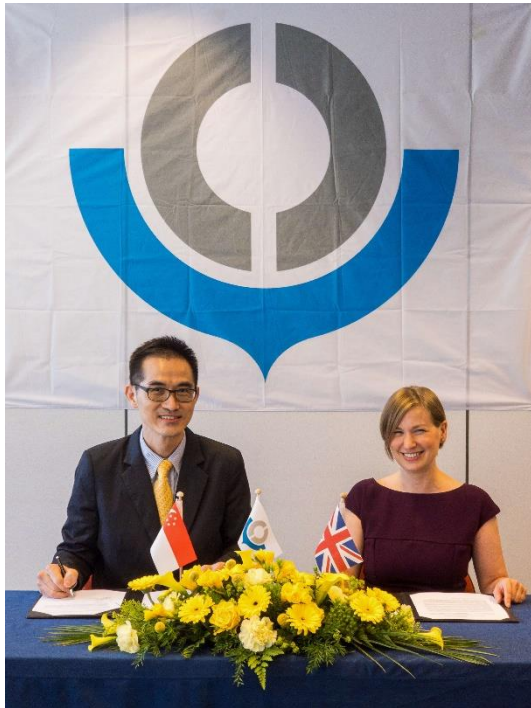
Companies with higher security measures in place will be eligible for STP-Plus. They will also receive additional facilitation through the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) with our partners.

To date, 77 companies are certified as AEOs by Singapore Customs under the STP-Plus.

MRAs multiply the benefits of national AEO programmes by elevating trade facilitation and trade security to the international level. Such arrangements also help to facilitate continuous secure trade flows in situations of high alert or when international trade is disrupted.

Singapore Customs is the first customs administration in Southeast Asia to enter into mutual recognition of AEO programmes with other customs administrations. To date, it has signed MRAs with 11 customs administrations: Canada, Republic of Korea, Japan, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the United States, Australia, Thailand, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

## ANNEX B



Deputy Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Lim Teck Leong, and the Head of Customs International of His Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Ms Megan Shaw, signed the United Kingdom-Singapore AEO-MRA on 23 June 2023, at the sidelines of the 141<sup>st</sup>/142<sup>nd</sup> WCO Council Sessions.