



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

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Faster customs clearance for certified Singapore companies exporting goods to the United States

Singapore companies that have been certified by Singapore Customs can now enjoy faster customs clearance for the goods they export to the United States of America.

Singapore Customs and the United States Customs and Border Protection (US CBP) have agreed that such companies will have their exports recognised by the US CBP to be of lower risk, allowing them to enjoy faster customs clearance of their goods when they export to the United States. These companies can therefore better plan their cargo movements, particularly for time-sensitive exports, and enjoy savings in costs which would otherwise be incurred due to port delays.

Similarly, companies in the United States which have been certified by the US CBP will have their exports cleared expeditiously when the goods arrive in Singapore.

This mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) to enhance supply chain security and facilitate trade between Singapore and the United States was signed in Singapore on 1 December 2014 by Singapore's Director-General of Customs Mr Ho Chee Pong and US CBP Commissioner Mr Richard Gil Kerlilowske.

The United States-Singapore MRA recognises the compatibility of the supply chain security measures implemented by companies certified under Singapore Customs' Secure Trade Partnership (STP) programme and validated members of the US CBP's Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) programme.

The heads of the two Customs administrations also signed a United States-Singapore Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA). The agreement allows the United States and Singapore to exchange information and render assistance (such as sharing of experiences on enforcement best practices) to each other in the prevention and investigation of customs offences.

"The MRA and CMAA that have been signed today point to the close cooperative relationship shared by the Customs administrations of the United States and Singapore," said Mr Ho.

"The MRA will promote the facilitation of low risk cargo and strengthen supply chain security. It will be welcomed by the trading community, and bring benefits to our bilateral trade. The CMAA will further strengthen ongoing cooperation between our Customs administrations to combat cross-border customs fraud and smuggling. Such cooperation will contribute to the integrity of the trading system, and enhances Singapore's reputation as a trusted trade hub," added Mr Ho.

"The signing of the MRA and CMAA between the US and Singapore demonstrates the partnership and commitment of each country to combatting customs fraud and to a secure global supply chain," said Mr Kerlikowske.

The United States was Singapore's fourth largest trading partner in 2013, with total trade amounting to more than S\$77 billion. The top products traded between the United States and Singapore included petroleum oil products, aviation components, electronic integrated circuits and parts for printing machinery.

Companies in Singapore with significant trade with the United States welcomed the signing of the MRA.

"AMD is extremely pleased to hear that the US-Singapore MRA has concluded successfully," said Ms Suhana Mohd. Ali-Ten, Senior Manager, Supply Chain at Advanced Micro Devices (S) Pte Ltd.

"As a US-based company, this milestone is important as it enhances capability of our Singapore plant in export activities. AMD will greatly benefit as time-sensitive shipments will be able to proceed at ease through expedited release at the point of importation. We look forward to secure trade flows between the countries with the enhanced supply chain security. These capabilities will in turn benefit AMD's customers," she added.

"As a Canadian-based company with increasing business activities, we are pleased that the US-Singapore MRA has been concluded," said Ms Jane Chee, Manager, Asia Trade Compliance at Future Electronics Inc (Distribution) Pte Ltd.

"Not only will it improve predictability of lead time and on-time delivery of goods, it also minimizes supply chain disruption. The MRA provides a single, uniform set of security standards between Future Electronics Singapore and Future Electronics US," noted Ms Chee.

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ANNEX



Commissioner of the United States Customs and Border Protection Mr Richard Gil Kerlikowske (left), and Director-General of Singapore Customs Mr Ho Chee Pong signed the mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) and the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) between the United States and Singapore on 1 December 2014 in Singapore.