



**SINGAPORE  
CUSTOMS**

**MTI** MINISTRY OF TRADE  
AND INDUSTRY  
SINGAPORE

## **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

### **TRADE COMPLIANCE: AN INTEGRAL PART OF SINGAPORE'S ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS**

**Singapore, 9 Jun 2025** – Singapore is a trusted, open, and inclusive international business hub with strong rule of law. Adherence to our laws, including compliance with our customs regulations, is integral to the integrity of our business environment and our competitiveness.

2 The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and Singapore Customs take trade compliance seriously. On 9 June 2025, Singapore Customs issued a circular reminding all traders and Declaring Agents (DA) of the importance of accurately declaring the “Country/Region of Origin” in all import, export, and transshipment permit applications submitted through Singapore’s TradeNet system. Traders and DAs may declare “Singapore” as the Country/Region of Origin only if the goods meet the relevant origin criteria under Singapore’s Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that are in force or Singapore’s non-preferential Rules of Origin. Singapore Customs also maintains regular engagement with Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) on their responsibilities as Authorised Organisations issuing ordinary Certificates of Origin, and to ensure their processes remain aligned with regulatory obligations.

3 Incorrect declarations of the country/region of origin in permit applications may amount to an offence under the Customs Act and Regulation of Imports and Exports Act and result in penalties. Singapore Customs will not hesitate to take enforcement action against non-compliant entities. Since 2020, Singapore Customs has investigated close to 690 cases of non-compliance related to certificates of origin and

rules of origin. Penalties imposed have included notices of advisory, composition sums and prosecutions in court.

4 "Accurate origin declaration is fundamental to Singapore's rules-based trade framework," said Mr Lee Boon Chong, Senior-Assistant Director General (Trade) of Singapore Customs. "This advisory reminds businesses of their responsibilities in meeting origin determination requirements, thereby supporting Singapore's reputation as a trusted global trade hub."

5 For more information on the rules of origin criteria, please refer to Customs Circular No: 06/2025, available on the Singapore Customs website ([www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)) and provided below. Businesses may also contact Singapore Customs at [customs\\_roo@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_roo@customs.gov.sg) for further assistance.

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#### **About Singapore Customs**

Singapore Customs protects revenue and facilitates trade for Singapore's economic growth while continuously striving to be a world-leading customs authority. As a partner of the Ministry of Finance, we ensure compliance with customs and tax regulations, safeguard the nation's financial interests, and combat illicit trade activities. We also enable seamless trade by simplifying customs processes, building global trade connectivity, and maintaining Singapore's position as a trusted global trading hub. Guided by our values of integrity, commitment, courage, responsiveness and teamwork, we strive for excellence with a professional and innovative team. Together, we ensure revenue and enable trade, fostering a thriving Singapore economy.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg).

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#### **About the Ministry of Trade and Industry**

Our vision is for Singapore to be a leading global city with a dynamic economy, worldclass and innovative enterprises, a conducive environment for entrepreneurs and enterprises to tap its diverse opportunities and good jobs for all Singaporeans. We aim to promote economic growth and create good jobs, to enable Singaporeans to improve their lives.

For more information, please visit [www.mti.gov.sg](http://www.mti.gov.sg).

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**SINGAPORE  
CUSTOMS**

Circular No: 06/2025

9 Jun 2025

Traders and Declaring Agents

Dear Sir/Madam

**ADVISORY: ACCURATE DECLARATION OF “COUNTRY/REGION OF ORIGIN”  
FIELD IN IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSHIPMENT PERMITS**

Singapore Customs would like to remind all traders and declaring agents of the importance of accurately declaring the “Country/Region of Origin” field in Singapore’s import, export and transshipment permit applications. Accurate origin declaration is essential to ensure compliance with Singapore’s regulations.

**Country/Region of Origin**

2. For the purposes of Singapore’s import, export and transshipment permit applications, the “Country/Region of Origin” of a good refers to the country/region in which the goods were wholly obtained or substantially transformed to their final form. When declaring the “Country/Region of Origin”, the good must meet the prevailing rules of origin of the country/region where the goods are produced or manufactured.
3. You may declare “Singapore” as the “Country/Region of Origin” only if your goods meet the applicable origin criteria based on the following:
  - a) The Rules of Origin applicable to your goods under a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to which Singapore is a party, if you want your goods to be eligible for preferential tariff treatment when imported into that FTA partner country/region; or

- b) Singapore's non-preferential Rules of Origin<sup>1</sup> for all other scenarios. This also applies if you would like to obtain an ordinary (non-preferential) Certificate of Origin for commercial reasons.

### **Origin Criteria for Goods Claiming FTA Preferential Tariff Treatment**

4. To qualify as Singapore-originating goods and be eligible for preferential tariff treatment when goods are exported from Singapore to a FTA partner country/region, your goods must meet the specific origin criteria set out in the relevant FTA that is in force. You may use the [EnterpriseSG FTA search engine](#) to identify the applicable origin criteria for your goods.

### **Origin Criteria for Goods Not Seeking FTA Preferential Tariff Treatment**

5. To qualify as Singapore-originating goods for goods that are not seeking preferential tariff treatment, Singapore's non-preferential origin criteria are as follows:

- a) Be wholly obtained (i.e. wholly grown or produced entirely in Singapore);  
or
- b) Have undergone substantial transformation in Singapore by meeting any of the following criteria:
  - i) Manufactured in Singapore with minimum 25% of Local Content based on the ex-factory price of the finished goods;
  - ii) Attained a Change in Tariff Classification at the 6-digit level (i.e. Change in Tariff Sub-Heading); or
  - iii) Undergone a Chemical Reaction (only for products under HS Chapters 27 to 40).

6. Goods which have only undergone minimal processing in Singapore would not qualify as Singapore-originating. The following are considered minimal processes:

- a) Operations to ensure the preservation of products in good condition during transport and storage (ventilation, spreading out, drying, chilling, placing in salt, sulphur dioxide or other aqueous solutions, removal of damaged parts, and like operations);

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to [Circular No.: 20/2010](#) for the origin criteria for Singapore manufactured goods. The updated list of Authorised Organisations can be found on the [Customs website](#).

- b) Simple operations consisting of removal of dust, sifting or screening, sorting, classifying, matching (including the making up of sets of articles), washing, painting, cutting up;
- c) Changes of packing and breaking up and assembly of consignments, and simple placing in bottles, flasks, bags, cases, boxes, fixing on cards or boards, and all other simple packing operations;
- d) The affixing of marks, labels or other like distinguishing signs on products or their packaging;
- e) Simple mixing of products, whether or not of different kinds;
- f) Simple assembly of parts of products to constitute a complete product;
- g) A combination of two or more operations specified in (a) to (f);
- h) Slaughter of animals.

### **Offences for Incorrect/False Declaration**

7. All customs declarations, including Singapore's import, export and transshipment permit applications, are required to be accurate and truthful under the Customs Act and Regulation of Imports and Exports Act. An incorrect declaration, including as to country/region of origin, may amount to an offence and result in penalties. You are required to maintain a record of documents<sup>2</sup> relating to the purchase, import, sale or export of your goods for at least 5 years from the date of permit application approval.

8. Singapore Customs expects all businesses operating in Singapore to take into account other countries' regulations, including their import requirements, if they apply to their international business activities. These activities should be conducted transparently and in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Singapore Customs will take firm and decisive action against companies and individuals that violate our laws to maintain the integrity of our business environment.

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<sup>2</sup> Refer to Appendix A, FAQ 5, for the typical documents required to prove origin.



Yours faithfully

Wan Boon Oon  
Head Tariffs and Trade Services  
for Director-General of Customs  
Singapore Customs

*(This is a computer-generated notice. No signature is required.)*

We hope that this circular has been written in a way that is clear to you. If not, please let us have suggestions on how to improve this circular at [customs\\_roo@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_roo@customs.gov.sg).

## Appendix A

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q1: How do I determine the “Country/Region of Origin” in the export permit application if my goods have undergone processing in two or more countries?**

**A1:** In general, your goods should meet the country-specific origin criteria to be qualified as originating from that country. For example, to qualify as Singapore-originating, your goods would have to meet Singapore’s non-preferential origin criteria for goods that are not seeking preferential tariff treatment under any FTA. If your goods have undergone processing in two or more countries, you may wish to take into consideration the ‘substantial transformation criterion’ for origin determination, where the country/region of origin would be the country/region where the last substantial manufacturing or processing which has given the good its essential character has been carried out. For more information, you may wish to refer to the [World Customs Organisation \(WCO\) Rules of Origin Compendium](#).

**Q2: What should I declare as the “Country/Region of Origin” in the export permit application if the goods do not fulfil Singapore’s non-preferential origin criteria, for goods that are not seeking FTA preferential tariff treatment? Is ‘N/A’ permissible?**

**A2:** The “Country/Region of Origin” field cannot be marked as ‘N/A’ and should be marked as the country/region where the last substantial manufacturing or processing which has given the goods its essential character has been carried out, in accordance with the ‘substantial transformation criterion’, as detailed in A1.

**Q3: What constitutes substantial transformation?**

**A3:** Based on the [WCO Rules of Origin handbook](#), there are three major criteria to express a substantial transformation:

- a) **A criterion of value added:** A good is considered substantially transformed when the value added of a good increases up to a specified level expressed by ad valorem percentage. The value-added criterion can be expressed in two ways, namely a maximum allowance for non-originating materials or a minimum requirement of domestic content; or
- b) **A criterion of a change in tariff classification:** A good is considered substantially transformed when the good is classified in a chapter, heading or subheading different from all non-originating materials used; or

- c) **A criterion of manufacturing or processing operations:** A good is considered substantially transformed when the good has undergone specified manufacturing or processing operations.

The above serves as a general summary of the three major criteria to express a substantial transformation. To declare your goods as Singapore-originating in the export permit application, please ensure that the specific origin criterion set out in the FTA you are applying for or Singapore's non-preferential origin criteria (for goods not seeking preferential tariff treatment) has been fulfilled.

**Q4: I am a Singapore exporter who would be exporting goods manufactured in Country A to Country B. Can I declare the country/region of origin as Singapore?**

**A4:** No. Since the goods were manufactured/substantially transformed in Country A, they do not qualify as Singapore-originating. To qualify as Singapore-originating, the goods must meet the relevant rules of origin as outlined in Paragraph 3 of the circular above.

**Q5: What documentation is required to prove origin?**

**A5:** The typical documents required to prove origin include:

- a) Manufacturing records;
- b) Cost statements;
- c) Manufacturing process flowcharts;
- d) Invoices for purchase of raw materials;
- e) Supplier declarations; and
- f) Import/export documentation.

Singapore Customs may request for supporting documents to verify if the country/region of origin declared in the import, export and transshipment permit is accurate.