

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

MEDIA RELEASE

M/S WORLD FREIGHT PTE LTD FINED \$22,000 FOR EXPORTING STRATEGIC GOODS WITHOUT AUTHORISATION

1. On 10 September 2007, M/S World Freight Pte Ltd pleaded guilty to the offence of exporting strategic goods without the required permit in violation of the Strategic Goods (Control) Act (SGCA). M/S World Freight also pleaded guilty to one count each of the offence for importing and exporting goods without a permit under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations. M/s World Freight was fined a total of \$22,000 for the offences.

2. M/S World Freight Pte Ltd had exported a consignment of controlled military electronics connectors valued \$13,599 on 17 August 2006, without first obtaining the required strategic goods "Joint Declaration 3" TradeNet permit from Singapore Customs. The goods were intended to be shipped from Switzerland via Singapore to a consignee in Iran.

3. Under the SGCA, Singapore Customs controls the export, transhipment, transit and brokering of strategic goods; as well as the transmission of any strategic goods technology. These strategic goods and technology can, amongst other things, contribute towards the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and missiles capable of delivering these weapons.

4. Consequently, the SGCA requires all persons to obtain the necessary permit from Singapore Customs before engaging in any of the above activities. Failure to obtain the required permit is a violation of the SGCA and is subject to the following maximum penalties:

• Up to \$100,000 fine or 3 times the value of the goods/technology (whichever is greater), and/or 2 years jail for the first offence.

• Up to \$200,000 fine or 4 times the value of the goods/technology (whichever is greater), and/or 3 years jail for subsequent offences.

For more information, please go to the Singapore Customs' strategic goods control website: http://www.stgc.gov.sg

5. Singapore Customs hopes that the successful prosecution of M/S World Freight would send a strong and clear message to all parties that they must exercise due care and diligence if they are involved in the export, transhipment, transit and brokering of strategic goods, or the transmission of any strategic goods technology.

6. Members of the public with information on illegal transactions involving strategic goods and their related technology can contact Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

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