

Based on information collected up to July 2003

### 1. TARIFF MEASURES

#### Structure of the tariff schedule

Singapore adopted the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) on 1 January 1989 and the HS 96 nomenclature on 1 January 1996. Singapore applies a nine-digit nomenclature based on the Harmonized System and a parallel seven-digit statistical coding system based on the Standard International Trade Classification Rev.3. The tariff schedule has three columns showing the full and preferential duty rates as well as the rates of excise duty. The latter rates, however, are only applicable to locally produced goods and are the same as the full customs duty for imported goods.

#### Tariff publications

- Singapore, Trade Classification and Customs Duties, 1994, published by the Customs and Excise Department, Customs House, Maxwell Road, Singapore 0106. Current information on Customs related matters is either available from the Customs and Excise Department or the Trade Development Board, 1 Maritime Square, 03-01 World Trade Center, Singapore 0409.

- Bundesstelle für Aussenhandels information, Zoll Und Handels information, January 1989.

- International Customs Tariff Bureau, The International Customs Journal, No. 26, 12th ed., April 1989.

#### 11 Statutory Custom Duties

Goods such as motor vehicles and petroleum products are levied Ad Valorem duties ranging up to 46%.



#### 12 MFN Duties

MFN duty rates (defined in the tariff as full rates) are set on 5,843 lines at the HS-9 digit level. The majority of tariff lines are duty free (99.9%). MFN rates apply to imports of beer such as stout and porter at S\$ 1.70 per litre, other beer including ale S\$0.80 per litre, Samsoo (medicated) and Samsoo (other) S\$8.00 per litre of alcohol. A 5% rate is levied on goods such as sugar confectionery, pastrycook products, babies' bibs, shoulder pads, aprons, life jacket, gloves, leather clothing accessories, textiles and textile articles, headgear, imitation jewellery, accumulator plates, cathodic lamps, office equipment and furniture. On motor vehicles, 7% for taxis, 12%, for motor cycles and scooters, and 31% for other vehicles.



#### 13 Bound rates

As a result of the Uruguay Round and WTO Information Technology Agreements, Singapore has bound 70.5% of its tariffs. Of a total 5,843 lines at the HS-9 digit level, 4120 lines are bound, of which 4,065 lines (69.6% of the tariff) have ad valorem rates, while 55 lines or 0.9% of the

tariff carries specific duties. In the year 2000 on an overall average of 4,065 bound lines, agriculture items (HS 01-24) carry 838 lines bound at the rate of 15.4%; 779 lines are set in the Uruguay Round definition of agriculture 779 lines at the rate of 16.0%; and 3,227 lines of industrial products (HS 25-97) bear the rate of 7.4%

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## 16 Temporary reduced duties

Local industries that use dutiable raw materials in the manufacturing process may be eligible for duty exemptions from the Customs and Excise Department. Currently, exemptions are granted for imports of Samsou used by three food industries. In the context of duty reduction scheme, there are two programs of tariff reductions; with the fast track program, tariffs on 15 product categories above 20 per cent were reduced to an even 20% as of 1 of January 1998 and further reduced to between 0% and 5% or less by 1 of January 2000. The 15 product categories are vegetable oils, chemicals, fertilizers, rubber products, pulp and paper, wooden and rattan furniture, gems and jewelry products, cement, pharmaceuticals, plastics, leather goods, textiles, ceramics and glass products, copper cathodes, and electronics.

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## Preferential duties under trade agreements

### 19.1 Interregional agreements

Under the Agreement on Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among Developing countries of 1989, the tariff concessions granted by Singapore consist of ceiling binding of 5% on imports of hand tools, though they are in practice imported into Singapore duty-free on an m.f.n. basis. This commitment applies to all countries which are parties to the GSTP Agreement.

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### 19.2 Regional and sub-regional agreements

Singapore is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) together with Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. ASEAN aimed at promoting economic, social, cultural and scientific ties, as well as trade and monetary policies. Other areas of cooperation among ASEAN members, include harmonization of standards, reciprocal recognition of tests and certification of products.

In 1992, members called for the formation of an ASEAN Free Trade Area. In this regard, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, began implementing the Asean Free Trade Area on 1 of January 2002, bringing the reduction in tariff rates to 5% or less on all goods made at least with 40 percent of ASEAN goods, which tariff rates will be reduced to 0% by 2010, and quantitative restrictions and other non tariff barriers removed. As for latecomers, Vietnam joined ASEAN in 1995, and began implementing AFTA on 1 of January 2003, Burma and Laos joined the group in 1997 and will complete the tariff reduction by 2007; in the year 2015, final reductions will be achieved by these 4 countries. Tariff rates on imports from non-ASEAN countries will continue to be determined individually.

Consequently, since 1 of January 2003, the ASEAN countries have announced the abolishment of tariffs on 60 per cent of traded goods and the introduction of a 5% on import tariffs within its six original members, i.e. Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Products affected essentially by this measure are electronic products,

machinery items and petrochemicals. And good excluded from the tariff-reduction agreement are goods of key industries in some of the member countries; for example, Indonesia and the Philippines will delay the 5% cap on sugar and petroleum, and Malaysia will shelve the cap on car imports, until 2005. As for Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam, the four ASEAN's latecomers, will introduce the 5 per tariff cap only in 2010.

With the above arrangements, since 1 January 2001, Singapore accords tariff-free access for all ASEAN goods under the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme for the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

The eight ASEAN summit was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 4 to 6 November 2002. During this meeting, several free trade plans were developed involving 14 Asian countries, i.e. the 10 Asean members such as Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, with Vietnam, China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The objectives of these free-trade plans are to quicken the pace of trade liberalization and foster multilateralism in the region.

With the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme AICO, final products as well as raw materials, and semi-finished goods may be imported at a preferential rate of maximum 5%.

Singapore is also a member of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) along with Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam. APEC is a multilateral forum formed in 1989 so that Asian and Pacific economies can promote economic cooperation and mutual assistance in developing key economic sectors, including trade and investment. On 15 of November 1994, member countries agreed to implement open and free trade among themselves by 2020, with advanced industrialized nations realizing the trade liberalization goal by 2010. At their 1997 meeting in Vancouver, APEC leaders agreed on Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) to take place in 15 sectors, and the tariff elements of nine sectors were identified under the "accelerated tariff liberalization" (ATL) package i.e. chemicals, energy, environment, fish and fish products, forest products, gems and jewellery, medical equipment and instruments, and toys, as well as a mutual recognition agreement concerning telecommunications. The ATL initiative is aimed at achieving a zero target for almost all the sectors by 2008.

In addition to intra-ASEAN trade and ties, ASEAN aims at strengthening links with other preferential trade regimes in the region, for example, the high-level task force between the AFTA and the Closer Economic Relations (CER, i.e. a trade agreement between Australia and New Zealand) established to study the feasibility of settling an AFTA-CER free-trade agreement by 2010. ASEAN is pursuing similar agreements with other regional groupings such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).



### **19.3** Bilateral agreements

Singapore through the framework of ASEAN, maintains a commercial and economic cooperation agreement with the European Union. The agreement provides for most favoured-nation treatment and studies to remove trade barriers, create new trade patterns, and recommend trade promotion

measures.

An agreement between Singapore and New Zealand on a Closer Economic Partnership (ANZSCEP) was signed on 14 November 1999. The ANZSCEP is a comprehensive agreement covering trade in goods, services, investment, and government procurement, among others; the agreement reflects the two countries's commitment to maintain the momentum of trade liberalization in the Asia Pacific and an reinforcement to WTO's efforts to bring down trade barriers globally.

In line with the comprehensive agreement, Singapore and New Zealand signed a free trade agreement on 14 of November 2000, with the goal of eliminating tariffs on goods between the two countries.

On 13 of January 2002, Singapore concluded with Japan, a free trade agreement subject to review every five year; the agreement aims at eliminating tariffs on mutually traded goods. Singapore signed with the European Free Trade Association which comprises Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, a free trade agreement which was due to take effect on 1 of January 2003.

Singapore is discussing other free trade possibilities with Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America.

The Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) signed on 17 February 2003 is intended to boost and open trade between the two countries. The agreement covers tariff-free access for goods and trade facilitation measures in key areas such as standards and customs procedures.

A new trade initiative between the ASEAN and the U.S.A. has been set up as the Enterprise for Asean Initiative (EAI), which objectives aim at developing the Southeast Asian Region, and enhance close U.S. ties with ASEAN. The EAI offers bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) between the United States and individual ASEAN countries, by determining jointly the launching of FTA negotiations. ASEAN members and China leaders decided in Brunei on November 2001 to work on creating a free trade area within the next ten years.



## 2. PARA-TARIFF MEASURES

### Additional charges

#### 22.3 Import licence fee

A licence fee of S\$ 20 is levied per licence. However, in the case of motor vehicles and partly in that of ozone depleting substances, the actual cost of licences is much higher as these are only issued through competitive bidding and attributed to the highest bidder.

A surcharge of 0.5% on the CIF value is levied on licence applications for import of goods originating from Albania, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, and Vietnam.

Licence applications for imports from Albania, Laos, Mongolia and Vietnam are subject to a surcharge of 0.5 percent on the CIF value.



## 22.7 Taxes and charges for sensitive product categories

Fees linked with health and sanitary requirements are levied at specific rates, on the inspection of plants, crops and plant products and on the endorsement of phytosanitary certificates.

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## Internal taxes and charges levied on imports

### 23.1 General sales taxes

A flat 3% tax is levied on most goods and services irrespective of whether domestically produced or imported. It is levied both at the border in the case of imports, and internally at all stages of production and sale.

The GST or goods and services tax was due to be increased as of 1 of January 2003 and levied then, at 5%.

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### 23.2 Excise taxes

Excise duties are charged on the following four categories of products, i.e. alcohol, tobacco, petroleum products and motor vehicles (86 tariff lines at the HS-9 digit level) regardless of whether imported or locally produced.

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### 23.9 Internal taxes and charges levied on imports n.e.s.

Singapore operates a very detailed system of internal taxes and fees on motor vehicles. These charges include a registration fee of S\$5 to S\$7,000 per unit and an additional registration fee ranging from 5% to 150% of the c.i.f. value.

An additional charge of S\$ 10.000 is levied on imported second hand cars.

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## 3. PRICE CONTROL MEASURES

The Countervailing and Anti-dumping Duties Act, was passed by Parliament in October 1996. Under the provisions of the Act, the Minister for Trade and Industry may impose countervailing or anti-dumping duties on an import if it is determined that the export price of the good is less than the normal value, in the case of dumping, or that a countervailable subsidy is being provided; and that the import, through the effects of the subsidy or dumping, causes, or threatens to cause, material injury to Singapore industries producing like goods, or retards the development of such domestic industry in Singapore.

### 34.2 Antidumping investigations

Since 23 of January 1998, anti-dumping duties have been imposed on reinforcement steel bars originating in Malaysia and Turkey. And, as of 1 of July 2000, the levy is set at S\$ 30 per tonne against import from Turkey.

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## 5. QUANTITY CONTROL MEASURES

### 51 Automatic licence

Unlike rice covered by the Rice Stockpile Scheme, licences for other grades of rice are issued automatically.

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### 52.7 Prior surveillance for sensitive product categories

Imported food products must be registered with the Food Control

Department of the Ministry of Environment, 40 Scotts Rd., Singapore 1024; upon arrival in Singapore. Imported drugs are subject to registration with the Ministry of Health, 16 College Rd, Singapore, 0316.



## 6. QUANTITY CONTROL MEASURES

Licensing under the authority of Trade Development Board, 1 Maritime Square, 03-01 World Trade Center, Singapore 0409.

Most goods are freely importable into Singapore under open general license. A few imports are controlled or prohibited for health, safety, or security reasons.

### 61 Non-automatic licensing

All dutiable items require a customs permit when moving into customs territory.



#### 61.6 Licence combined with or replaced by special import authorization

A special import authorization (endorsement) of a designated governmental institution is required for imports of specific air conditioners for motor vehicles, coffee, rice, toy guns and walkie-talkie toys.

Goods manufactured with duty exempted raw materials may be re-imported under Customs endorsement.

Singapore has added to the list of products requiring non-automatic import licensing, Chinese proprietary medicines, scheduled chemicals under the Chemical Weapons Convention, controlled equipment, materials or substances useful for the manufacture of controlled drugs and merchandise, and products containing a photograph, drawing or design resembling, or used on Singapore currency notes and coins.



#### 61.7 Prior authorization for sensitive product categories

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority is the body under which is undertaken since 1 of July 2000, the import of agricultural products and processed foods, i.e. meat and meat products, poultry, plants, plant products, fish and other seafood, and fresh fruits and vegetables.



#### 61.7.1 To protect human health

Under the Sale of Food Act (Chapter 283) & Food Regulation 1988, and the Fisheries (Import, Export & Marketing) Rules of the Fisheries Act (Chapter 111), Revised Edition 1985, food items, artificial sweetening agents, irradiated foods and Ginseng roots are subject to control by the Food Control Department, Ministry of the Environment or the Primary Production Department, respectively. And from 10 December 1999, meat products and fish products intended for human consumption are subject to import licensing procedures, under wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999.

Chewing gum, as pharmaceuticals require permits or endorsements from specified government agencies.

Licensing requirement with the Center for Pharmaceutical Administration for cosmetics classified as type I which includes eye products, lip products, hair-dyes containing phenylenediamine, and oral and dental hygiene products.



**61.72 To protect animal health and life**

Imports of animals, birds and products thereof, fishes and other marine life, meat and meat products, veterinary medicaments, skimmed milk powder (coloured for animal feed), require a veterinary's endorsement from the Primary Production Department for sanitary reason in conformity with the Animals and Birds Act (Chapter 7), Revised Edition 1985.

Special permit from the Director of primary production is required before the importation of animal fat i.e, edible and inedible fat of animal origin or products containing such fat.



**61.73 To protect plant health**

In conformity with the Control of Plants Act 1993, the Control of Plants (Import of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables) Rules 1994, Control of Plants (Cultivation of Plant) (licensing and Certification) Rules 1994, the Control of Plants (Registration of Pesticides) Rules 1994 and the Control of Plants (Plant importation) Rules 1994, insects, soil, plants, flowers, seeds, plants for further propagation, fruits and vegetables originating in Brazil, Caribbean Islands, Columbia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, French Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, El Salvador and Venezuela require an agriculture endorsement from the Phytosanitary and Plant Quarantine Section, Primary Production Department, Ministry of National Development.



**61.74 To protect environment**

Prior approval (endorsement) for environmental protection reasons is required for radio-active materials and irradiating apparatus, poisons and hazardous chemicals in accordance with the Radiation Protection Regulations 1974, the Radiation Protection Act (Chapter 262), Revised Edition 1985, the Radiation Protection (Non-Ionising Radiation) Regulations 1991, and the Poisons Act (Chapter 234) and its Rules. Licensing for scheduled chemicals under the Chemical Weapons Convention, and controlled equipment. A prior approval from the Pollution Control Department, Ministry of the Environment and Trade Development Board, Ministry of Trade and Industry is required as well for the importation of certain ozone depleting substances (imports for re-exports) i.e. Halon 1211 and fire extinguishers using Halon 1211, Halon 1301 and fire protection systems using Halon 1301; Halon 2402; Carbon tetrachloride; 1,1,1-trichloroethane (methyl chloroform); Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) 11, 12, 113, 114, 115 as a refrigerant in new air conditioning and refrigeration equipment except for automotive air conditioners in vehicles registered before 1 January 1995 and domestic refrigerators; Other CFCs such as CFCs 13, 111, 112, 211-217; Hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs).



**61.75 To protect wildlife**

Prior approval is required for imports of goods protected by the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), such as live wild animals, hides, skins, leather and furskins of wild animals, zoological collectors pieces, fish for aquaria and ginseng in conformity with the Endangered Species (Import and Export Act) (Chapter 92A), Revised Edition 1985, and the Wild Animals and Birds Act.



**61.76 To control drug abuse**

Under the Poisons Act (Chapter 234), the Medicine Act (Chapter 176 and its subsidiary legislations, and the Misuse of Drugs Act (Chapter 185) and

Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1973, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, medicaments and medical supplies require a special approval (endorsement) by the Drug Administration Division. In addition, Chinese proprietary medicines, are subject to licensing, as well as materials or substances useful for the manufacture of controlled drugs and merchandise.

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**61.77 To ensure human safety**

In accordance with the Factories Act (Chapter 104), industrial safety helmets and other industrial safety items require an endorsement of the Ministry of Labour.

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**61.78 To ensure national security**

Under the Arms and Explosives Act (Chapter 13) Revised Edition 1985, an endorsement is required from the Arms and Explosives Branch, Singapore Police Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, for the importation of cellulose nitrates, matches, axes, SOS shrill alarms, handcuffs, Christmas crackers, articles of clothing intended as protection against attack, including bullet-proof vests, steel helmets, and toy guns including pistols and revolvers. Importation requirement applies as well to products containing a photograph, drawing or design resembling, or used on Singapore currency notes and coins.

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**61.79 For purposes n.e.s.**

Telecommunication equipment is subject to control by the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore in conformity with the Telecommunication Act 1982 (Chapter 323), the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore Act 1992 (No. 12 of 1992), and the Telecommunications (Dealers) Regulation 1994.

Under the Import, Export and Transshipment (Endorsement), Amendment Order 1983, and the Private Lotteries Act, Imports of fruit or jackpot machines are controlled by the Commissioner of Estate Duties.

Cypher equipment requires an endorsement of the trade Development Board under the Control of Imports and Exports Order (1990 ed.).

Under the Undesirable Publications Act (Chapter 338), Revised Edition 1985, prior approval (endorsement) for moral or political reasons is required for imports of publications, pre-recorded cartridges and cassettes as well as gramophones records and tapes.

Under the Film Act (Chapter 107) Rev. Edition 1985, cinema and video films are subject to control by the Board of Film Censors. Imported films, video tapes and video discs are subject to control by Films and Publications Department, Ministry of Information and the Arts.

As of 17 April 1998, a permit is required for imports of mastering equipment for CDs, CD-ROMs, VCDs, DVDs and DVD-ROMS. The same requirement from the same Trade Development Board, applies to Scrambler or encryption hardware or software capable of re-arranging the signs, signals, writing, sounds or intelligence for the purpose of secrecy.

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**61.9 Non-automatic licensing n.e.s.**

Specific licenses from the Trade and Development Board of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, are required for rice, irrespective of the country of origin, and for goods originating in or consigned from Albania, the Lao People's



## Quotas

### 62.74 Quotas for sensitive product categories

Singapore issues import quotas for chemicals under Schedule 1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The release into free circulation of substances controlled by the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, CFCs and Halons, alone or in mixtures, imported from State that is a Party to the Protocol, is subject to quantitative limits, effective through the Control of Imports and Exports (Montreal Protocol) (Chlorofluorocarbons) Order of 1989, and its Amendments of 1991 and 1993.



## Prohibitions

### 63.71 To protect human health

Imports of medicines containing amidopyrine, noramidopyrine, amygdalin, danthron, pangamic acid and suprofen and cosmetics containing prohibited substances of additive included in the above mentioned products are prohibited. As of 1 April 1995, motor vehicles components or spare parts containing asbestos, are prohibited.

The import of the following products is prohibited: intoxicating liquors exceeding 70 proof, including beer, cider, stout gin, and rum.

It is prohibited to import meat and meat products containing estrogen compounds such as diethylstilbestrol, hexoestrol, or dionoestrol. The prohibition is set on all food products containing detectable antibiotics.

Import prohibition of bovine meat and meat products, offal and by-products from European countries not free from BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy. The measure is in conjunction with the possible link between BSE in cattle and a new variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease in humans and the long incubation period of five years and more for BSE.



### 63.72 To protect animal health and life

The Primary Production Department has set as of 29 March 2000, an import ban on beef from Japan, and since September 2000, on pork and pork products from Kwazulu-Natal province in the Republic of South Africa; these measures are meant to safeguard animal health and the Foot-and-Mouth disease free status of Singapore.

In order to prevent the introduction of the foot-and-mouth disease virus into Singapore, an import ban has been set on beef and mutton products from the State of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.

Import ban on beef and mutton products from Uruguay to safeguard animal health and the Food-and Mouth Disease free status of Singapore.

Import prohibition of meat and meat products of sheep, goats, pigs and game except of game of avian origin, from the Netherlands and Ireland, in order to prevent the entry of the foot-and-mouth disease virus into Singapore.

The import of pork and pork products from France is prohibited for reasons of foot-and-mouth disease virus.

Import prohibition of bovine meat and meat products, offal and by-products from European countries not free from BSE, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

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**63.73 To protect plant health**

Under the Agricultural Pests (Plant Importation) Rules of 1989, imports of palm oil plants from Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago are prohibited. Prohibition is extended to all origins for any live plant infected with a pest. Imports of plants with soil except from West Malaysia are prohibited. Import prohibition is set as well on plants of rubber, cocoa, coconut and oil palm from Central and South America and West and Central Africa.

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**63.74 To protect environment**

The following products are subject to import prohibition: PCB and its substitutes, asbestos brakes and clutch linings in vehicles registered after 1 April 1995, asbestos in the form of crocidolite, amosite and amphiboles and products containing these forms of asbestos, asbestos in the form of chrysotile except for manufacturing of gaskets, aerosols products except medical aerosols, and used motor vehicles of more than 3 years old. Furthermore in accordance with the Control of Imports and Exports of Montreal Protocol, on Chlorofluorocarbons Order of 1989, and its Amendment Order 1991, the imports of certain ozone depleting substances meant for local distribution or consumption and non-pharmaceutical aerosols and polystyrene sheets containing these substances are prohibited from the countries non-signatories of the Montreal protocol. And as of January 1994, imports of ozone-depleting halons are prohibited. This affects the importation of chemical substances such as methylchloroform, methylbromide and tetrachlorocarbons (list B of the Montreal Protocol). Imported motor vehicles fitted with airconditioners using chlorofluorocarbons are prohibited. And under the Poisons Act (Amendment of Schedule), and the Poisons (Hazardous Substances Amendment) Rules 1994, imports of monomethyltetrachloro diphenyl methane, monomethyl-dichloro diphenyl methane, and monomethyl-dibromodiphenyl methane are prohibited.

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**63.75 To protect wildlife**

Imports of the following items are prohibited: rhinoceros horn, whether worked, unworked or prepared, its waste and powder; Ivory for commercial consignments, and tiger products.

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**63.77 To ensure human safety**

Import prohibition is set on cigarette and table lighters in the shape of a pistol or revolver, fire-crackers, volcanic rock aggregate not exceeding 40 mm, and chewing gum.

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**63.78 To ensure national security**

It is prohibited to import toy coins and currency notes, controlled telecommunications equipment such as scanning receivers, military communication equipment and call diverters.

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**63.8 Prohibition for political reasons (embargo)**

Imports of goods originating or consigned from Iraq are prohibited, except

for imports of petroleum and petroleum products under the UNSCs "Oil for Food" programme which are permitted.



## 7. MONOPOLISTIC MEASURES

### 71.7 Single channel for sensitive product categories

Under the Control of Imports (Licensing Order 1974, licences for "stockpile" (food) grades of rice are issued only to importers who participate in the Rice Stockpile scheme.



## 8. TECHNICAL MEASURES

### Technical regulations

For the major part of goods, Singapore's technical regulations are in conformity with the Trader's Manual for ASIA and the Pacific, Singapore, 1988 published in Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Government Gazette, No. 45 of 23 September 1988 respectively.

National standards in Singapore are promulgated by SPRING Singapore, known as Singapore Productivity Standards and Innovation for Growth Board. Items such as electrical, electronic, gas appliances, sanitary and building products are subject to standards in place.

### 81.1 Product characteristics requirements

Fats of animal origin and products containing such fats require a veterinary certificate confirming the compliance with the rules of production, processing and preservation. A certificate of origin and authenticity is required for mineral waters. A certificate of age must accompany brandies and whisky. Fog lamps for motor vehicles must comply with EU-standards. Standards are imposed on processed foods as well as meat and meat product for human consumption, as for their composition, use of additives and preservers, type of container, etc...

The Food Control Department, Ministry of the Environment has proposed as of 1 of April 2002, to allow the use of the following additives, in keeping with the international recommendations/practices: Lysozyme, also known as lysozyme hydrochloride, as a preservative in cheese; ferric ammonium citrate as a nutrient supplement; zinc sulphate as a nutrient supplement; magnesium chloride as a general purpose food additive. In the same context, as of 15 March 2001, to allow the use of potassium ferrocyanide as an anti-caking agent in food (maximum permissible level: 10ppm), sodium ferrocyanide as an anti-caking agent in food (maximum permissible level: 10ppm); Diacetyl as a solvent for flavouring agents (Under good manufacturing practice); Methanol as an extraction solvent (maximum permitted residual level 5ppm); Pentosanase (xylanase or hemicellulase) (under good manufacturing practice); Alpha-acetolactate decarboxylase (under good manufacturing practice); Beta-glucanase (Under good manufacturing practice).

Imported irradiated food products are subject to a certificate stating that the irradiating treatment meets the Codex Recommended International Code of Practice for the Operation of Radiation Facilities used for the treatment of foods and, that of the Codex General Standards for Irradiated Foods.

Imported drugs and cosmetics require the Ministry of Health registration, and are subject to a certificate of free sale as pharmaceuticals. In addition a registration requirement with the Center for Pharmaceutical Administration in the Ministry of Health, is set on pharmaceutical products, and vitamins containing certain high dosage nutrients. They must be accompanied by a free sale certificate and evidence of good manufacturing practice. The same requirement applies to cosmetics classified as Type I, including eye products, lip products, hair-dyes containing phenylenediamine, and oral and dental hygiene products.

Registration requirement with the AVA, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority, for the importation of agricultural products, processed foods, meat, and meat products, poultry, plants, plant products, fish and other seafood, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

Food regulations applying to food products have been enforced through specific product definitions such as ingredient standards. The food regulations cover the use of food additives as caking agents, antioxidants, artificial sweetening agents, chemical preservatives, coloring matter, emulsifiers, stabilizers, flavoring agents, flavour enhancers, humectants, nutrient supplements, sequestrants, general purpose additives, and gaseous packaging agents. Food regulations also rule pesticide residue levels, antibiotics, estrogen, toxins, and microbiological contaminants.

Genetically modified organisms and food products containing GMO required the approval of the Genetic modification Advisory Committee which has established a register of approved GMO.

Food products labelled as "pure" should not contain any added substances and their composition must meet quality and strength requirements set in the Food Regulations.



#### **81.11** To protect human health

A health certificate is required for the importation of meat and meat products, poultry and pork, high-risk shellfish such as live and frozen oysters, frozen cooked prawns, and frozen cooked crab meat, and bottled water.

Import registration for the following food additives: Potassium ferrocyanide as an anti-caking agent in food (maximum permissible level: 10ppm); sodium ferrocyanide as an anti-caking agent in food (maximum permissible level: 10ppm; diacetin as a solvent for flavouring agents (under good manufacturing practice); methanol as an extraction solvent (maximum permitted residual level: 5 ppm); pentosanase (xylanase or hemicellulase) (under good manufacturing practice); alpha-acetolactate decarboxylase (under good manufacturing practice); Beta-glucanase (under good manufacturing practice).



#### **81.12** To protect animal health and life

Imports of animals and animal products are subject to certification practices including sanitary certificates, certificates of health, exports permits from the exporting country and certificates of origin. In particular a veterinary health certificate is required for imports of bovine meat and meat products, offals and by-products stating that the country has been free from BSE six years prior to the date of slaughter of the bovine animals. Veterinary requirements apply as well to imports of horses from South Africa, and to imports of dogs. Effective 1 of May 2001, microchip identification code of imported dogs must meet with ISO Standards 11784 or Annex A to ISO Standard 11 785.



### 81.13 To protect plant health

The importation of potted plants, plant propagation materials, plant intended for planting, seeds, mushroom spawn and ornamental foliage and branches is prohibited unless the consignment is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate when originating in the American tropics.



### 81.14 Product characteristics requirements to protect environment

The Singapore Green Label Scheme launched in 1992 by the Ministry of the Environment is currently administered by the Singapore Environment Council. 29 product categories are covered by the scheme; the scheme which is voluntary, is available for a number of products except for food, beverages, and pharmaceutical products.



### 81.17 To ensure human safety

Crash and industrial safety helmets as well as other industrial safety items such as belts, harness, life lines and nets must comply with safety standards.

In accordance with the new safety standard entered into force in 1993, all new trucks over 8 tonnes must be equipped with low-fitted bumpers and special fittings on the sides. The new standard also applies to new trucks in the range from 3.5 tonnes to 8 tonnes since 1994.

Registration requirement of accessories for electrical fittings used in electrical installation, upon certificates of Conformity (COCs) issued by CABs or MRA partners, all designated by SPRING Singapore.



### 81.2 Marking requirements

### 81.3 Labelling requirements

### 81.4 Packaging requirements

Pharmaceutical products are subject to marking, labelling and packaging requirements set out in the Singapore Drug Registration Rules administered by the Pharmaceuticals Department of the Ministry of Health.



### 81.2 Marking requirements

Compulsory marking "free of radiation" requirements are set on most imports of food items from European countries, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Thailand.

Accessories for electrical fittings used in electrical installation are required to be marked with the SAFETY Mark before placing them in Singapore Market.



### 81.3 Labelling requirements

Pre-packed foods are subject to labelling requirements concerning the contents of the package, operational warning as well as information on the origin and the local importer. Health warning labels and labelling of tar and nicotine content are imposed on tobacco products, in accordance with the Smoking-Control of Advertisements and Sale of Tobacco, Labelling Regulations 1993. Labelling requirements are also set on paints containing lead compounds, in order to provide information about the lead content and the precautions to take in using such paints, effective through the Poisons Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 1992, and the Poisons (Labelling) Order, 1992.

All imported goods should be labelled in English. The following food products are subject to labelling requirements: flour, bakery, and cereal products, aerating ingredients, meat and meat products, fish and fish products, edible fats and oils, milk and milk products, ice cream, frozen confections, and related products, sauces, vinegars and relishes, sugar and sugar products, tea, coffee, and cocoa, fruit juices and fruit cordials, jams, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, salts, spices and condiments, flavouring essences and extracts, flavour enhancers; special purpose foods as infant foods and diabetic foods, miscellaneous foods as custard powder and edible gelatin, and rice; and specification of vitamins and minerals.

The following goods should be labelled to indicate their country of origin: medicines, edible and non-edible animal fats, paints, and solvents.

Labelling of cosmetic products must state the product name, list of ingredients, name and address of the importer, batch reference, and applicable precautions. Product composition of vitamins and supplements must be labelled.

One of the following warnings to be periodically rotated in turn, must be labelled on cigarette packs: "Smoking causes cancer", "Smoking harms your family", or "Smoking kills".

Use of colour additive such as "Tartrazine", "Colour (102)", "Colour (FD & C Yellow No.5)" must be stated in the list of ingredients of food products. The labels of goods containing aspartame must show the words "phenylketonurics, contains phenylalanine; in any case the use of artificial sweeteners must be properly indicated. As for products containing royal jelly, a warning declaring that the product is not suitable for asthma or allergy sufferers must be placed on the label; "treated with ionising radiation" or "irradiated" in letters not less than 3 millimeters high must be stated on labels of irradiated foods and products containing irradiated ingredients. Expiration date preceded by "use by", "sell by", "expiry by", "best before" or a similar term must be labelled on food products; the date must include the day and month for products with a short shelf life, such as pasteurised dairy products, juice, soybean products, vitamin fortified fruit juice and drinks, vegetable juice and drinks, flour, salad dressing, mayonnaise, raisins and sultanas, chocolate, and chocolate confectionery products with chocolate or cocoa as the characteristic ingredient, breakfast cereal, except in cans, infant foods, edible cooking oils and products that require refrigeration other than fresh fruits and vegetables; other food products must be dated with the month and year. Raw produce must be labelled with the packaging date, packages of dressed birds such as duck or chicken with the date of slaughter. Information on labels must be printed in characters not less than 3 millimeters high.

Food labels showing pictorial representation, or a recipe must include appropriate "serving suggestion".

Indications "low in calories", "source of protein" or "sugar free" must be supported by additional information on the label.

In addition food nutrients must be expressed per 100 grams, i.e. energy in kilojoules or kilocalories; sodium, potassium and cholesterol in milligrams; protein, fat, and carbohydrates in grams. Food labels should not claim any specific health benefits but be in compliance with the Food Regulations e.g. for vitamin and mineral contents according to the products. The country of origin, the name of the manufacturer, the trade description of animal fats or

products containing animal fats, their nature, must be indicated on the labels; and in capital letters, the following "NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION" must appear on labels of inedible animal fats.

The Agri-Food Veterinary Authority of Singapore requires that all meat and meat product packings be labelled with all details according to the sanitary certificates of the goods.

Labelling of the following food additives is mandatory for import registration purposes: potassium ferrocyanide as an anti-caking agent in food (maximum permissible level: 10 ppm); sodium ferrocyanide as an anti-caking agent in food (maximum permissible level: 10ppm); Diacetin as a solvent for flavouring agents (under good manufacturing practice); Methanol as an extraction solvent (maximum permitted residual level: 5 ppm); pentosanase (xylanase or hemicellulase) (under good manufacturing practice); alpha-acetolactate decarboxylase (under good manufacturing practice), beta-glucanase (under good manufacturing practice). The declaration of the above products must include; description of the product; brand name of the product, or the word "unbranded" if the product is without a brand name; country of origin of the food product, quantity and units; arrival date, importer's name, address and contact telephone number, and declarant name, code and NRIC number.

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#### **81.4 Packaging requirements**

Packaging regulations and prescribed quantities of pre-packed goods are set out for the following essential commodities: butter, margarine, edible oils

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#### **81.5 Testing, inspection and quarantine requirements**

Denatured ethyl alcohol and poppy seeds are subject to product composition tests at the time of entry. Imports of most food items from European countries and, Hong Kong, Philippines and Thailand are subject to sample a testing that they are free of radiation. Cosmetics must be free from lead or its compounds. Animals, birds, meat and meat products, live plants, fodder of animal origin, coloured skimmed milk, animal fertilizers, veterinary medicaments and veterinary biologics are subject to sanitary or phytosanitary control.

A certificate of analysis is required for imported milk, butter other milk derivatives subject to decomposition.

Processed foods and pharmaceuticals are subject to inspection by the Ministry of Health prior to release from Customs.

As of 1 January 1994, condoms are subject to quality control in conformity with Quality of Condoms (Specification and Prohibition) Order 1993 and the Import of Condom Regulations 1993.

Animals for slaughter imported from any country, other than Malaysia, are subject to a ten-days quarantine requirement.

Cosmetics classified as Type I, i.e., eye products, lip products, hair-dyes containing phenylenediamine, and oral and dental hygiene products are subject to control by the Center for Pharmaceutical Administration. Imported Telecommunications equipment requires type approval by for Pharmaceutical Administration.

Imported Telecommunications equipment requires type approval by the Telecommunications Authority; electrical goods are checked by the Public Utilities Board before installation; and paints and solvents are controlled by the chief inspector of factories in the Ministry of Manpower.

Compulsory inspections by the AVA, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority, of all imports of processed foods, meat, and meat products, and poultry; random inspections may be conducted as well by the same Authority, of other agricultural shipments, including plants, plant products, fish and other seafood, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Effective 1 May 2001, in addition to the current veterinary requirements for the importation of dogs and cats into Singapore, the entry of dogs will be subject to a microchip identification code in its accompanying health documents as well as certification that the dog was examined at the time of shipment.

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### **81.6** Information requirements

Electric household appliances as well as radio, television and video apparatus are covered by the Consumer Safety Scheme and require testing of each new model to be sold in Singapore by the SPRING, the Singapore Productivity, Standards, and Innovation for Growth Board which administers the Consumer Protection safety requirements through registration scheme, or an authorized laboratory.

Under the Consumer Protection Regulations 1991, the following seventeen products that have the potential to be hazardous must be registered and declared safe and must receive the Consumer protection Act mark before they can be sold in Singapore; they include cooking ranges, electric irons, gas cookers, LPG systems, hair dryers, microwave ovens, televisions, video display units, video cassette recorders, table fans, high-fidelity equipment, immersion water heaters, kettles, refrigerators, rice cookers, room air-conditioners, vacuum cleaners, and washing machines. The CPA mark is a compulsory stamp of approval given by the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board (PSB), to ensure that consumers are safe from hazards such as fires, explosions, and electrical shock when using these appliances.

As of 1 of April 2003, remaining prescribed Articles of the Public Utilities (Electricity) essentially accessories for electrical fittings used in electrical installation will be transferred to SPRING Singapore as controlled goods under the Consumer Protection Safety Requirements.