



## PRESS STATEMENT

### **EXPANSION OF THE STRATEGIC GOODS CONTROL LIST FOR EXPORT, TRANSHIPMENT AND TRANSIT**

1. The spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and WMD-related materials, equipment and technology remains a serious global concern, especially with the growing danger posed by the increasing sophistication of proliferation activities, and the continuing risk that terrorists will acquire and use WMDs.
2. As part of our continuous efforts to review and enhance our strategic goods control system<sup>1</sup>, and in line with Singapore's commitment to our international obligations to prevent the proliferation of WMD or their delivery systems, Singapore has decided to expand the strategic goods control list for export, transshipment and transit. The expanded list will incorporate all the items listed under the four multilateral export control regimes, namely, the Australia Group, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and Wassenaar Arrangement.
3. The expanded list will take effect on 1 January 2008. The new categories of items include high-end computers and telecommunications systems, equipment and components; marine systems, equipment, and components; propulsion systems, space vehicles and related equipment; and navigation and avionics, of certain technical specifications. Their related software and technology<sup>2</sup> will also be controlled.
4. The expanded list will comprise more than 1,000 new items, in addition to about 600 items already controlled under Singapore's current regime.
5. To minimise the potential impact on legitimate trade, Singapore will introduce a 3-tier licensing regime comprising individual permits, bulk permits and general licenses. The aim of the new licensing regime is to facilitate legitimate trade by streamlining documentary procedures at the point of shipment. Singapore Customs will work with the industry to help companies

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<sup>1</sup> Singapore enacted the Strategic Goods (Control) Act on 1 Jan 2003 to regulate trade in strategic goods in support of the global effort to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). "Strategic goods" refer to military goods, goods capable of military applications, and goods that can be used to develop or produce weapons of mass destruction, namely, nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to technology which may be used to develop, produce or operate such goods.

establish internal control procedures to ensure self-compliance. Periodic audits and checks will continue to be carried out by Singapore Customs to ensure compliance in the industry.

6. In view of the short turnaround of transshipment and transit cargoes, these cargoes will be exempted from permit requirements if they remain in the Free Trade Zone for 21 days or less (by air/land/rail) and 45 days or less (by sea). The exemption does not apply to goods that are in the current transshipment list, and any goods or technology that are known or suspected to be used in the production or development of weapons of mass destruction (i.e. nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and their means of delivery).
7. The new licensing regime will commence from January 2007, one year ahead of the implementation of the expanded list, to allow the industry to adjust to the changes in the strategic goods control system. Within the next few months, Singapore Customs, as the national authority for strategic goods control, will embark on a series of industry consultations to fine-tune the regulatory procedures. From January to December 2007, a series of industry outreach and briefing sessions will be carried out to inform the industry on the new control list and licensing regime.
8. The new control list and amended regulatory procedures will be gazetted, and also made available on the strategic goods control website at <http://www.stgc.gov.sg> by January 2007.

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