

For Immediate Release

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
REGULATIONS OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ACT**

1. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is seeking public feedback on the proposed amendments to the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act (RIEA). The proposed key amendment will allow the sharing of trader's declaration information among domestic public agencies for national security, public health and safety reasons, among others. There are also technical amendments to clarify the trade terms used, with no change in policy or its execution. The proposed amendments are made to ensure effective administration and operation of the legislation.

3. Currently, the RIEA prohibits Singapore Customs from disclosing information provided by traders to public agencies, unless the traders give their consent in writing, or the information is required for the investigation, enforcement and prosecution of offences under the Act. However, in cases such as public health and safety threats, for example, pandemic flu and food contamination incidents, public agencies may need traders' declaration information to trace movement of food supplies and specific items in order to deal with the crisis.

3. The proposed main changes under the draft Regulation of Imports and Exports (Amendment) Bill 2013 are summarised as follows:

(a) Changes to facilitate sharing of information among domestic public agencies:

- (i) Allow sharing of information collected under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act with domestic public agencies for processing, analysis and publishing of trade statistics;
- (ii) Allow sharing of that information with domestic public agencies to safeguard national security, public health and safety; and,
- (iii) Allow sharing of that information with domestic public agencies for the investigation, enforcement and prosecution of offences under domestic laws.

(b) Changes to give greater legal clarity on trade terms used.

4. There will be safeguards in place to ensure that traders' information remains well-protected. The Ministry's prior approval will be required for certain circumstances. The last time RIEA was amended for trade policy and administration purpose was in 2003.

5. MTI welcomes all feedback and views over the next four weeks from **22 July 2013 to 20 August 2013**. The public consultation paper and draft legislation can be accessed on MTI at www.mti.gov.sg. All views and comments should reach MTI on or before 20 August 2013.

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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