

Singapore updates: The e-ATIGA Form D will go live on 1 January 2018

Singapore Customs has just published a circular announcing that the electronic exchange of Form D through the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) will be ready to go live on 1 January 2018. Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam, the 'exchange-ready' member states, will be the first ASEAN member states allowing the electronic exchange of e-Form D through the ASW between one another. However, there has been no official announcement from any other ASEAN member states on this yet.

For Singapore exporters, the application procedure for the e-ATIGA Form D for their qualifying goods will remain the same as the current standard application procedure for the issuance of a normal Form D in TradeNet®. However, as TradeNet® (and TradeXchange®) is supposed to be replaced by the National Trade Platform (NTP) in 2018, some issues may be expected during the transition phase and/or familiarisation with using the new platform. Singapore exporters can still obtain the hardcopy of the Form D, even though there is no need for this if they already have the e-ATIGA Form D for their exports to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. However, it is advised that the importers of Singapore origin goods into Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam consult with their respective customs authorities for the relevant procedures. Special focus should be on operational matters, for example what an importer should do if there is no e-ATIGA Form D found in the ASW (i.e. the customs authorities in the country of import do not receive the e-ATIGA Form D).

For imports into Singapore from the 'exchange-ready' member states, an e-ATIGA Form D is acceptable to claim preferential tariff treatment. However, it is worth noting that currently, only stout/porter (HS 2203.0010), other beer including ale (HS 2203.0090), medicated samsu (HS 2208.9010/20) and other samsu (HS 2208.9030/40) – the only four products that are subject to customs duty in Singapore – imported from the Philippines and Thailand are eligible for preferential rates under the ATIGA. Unfortunately, neither of the two are ready to implement the e-ATIGA Form D on 1 January 2018. Eligibility will likely expand to other countries as these product move to their Inclusion Lists on 1 January 2018 as per their ATIGA commitments.

Singapore exporters and agents that wish to enable the transmission of e-ATIGA Forms D must pre-register with Singapore Customs. A copy of the registration form can be requested via e-mail at customs_roo@customs.gov.sg. There would be an additional step in the system to authorise and trigger the transmission of the e-ATIGA Form D through the ASW. Traders who are already pre-registered will be provided with further information by Singapore Customs.

Full text of the circular can be found at the following link:

<https://www.customs.gov.sg/~media/cus/files/circulars/ca/2017/circular152017%20over%201.pdf>

Let's talk

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