



Circular No: 02/2024
28 Feb 2024

Traders, Free Trade Zones Operators and Cargo Handlers

Dear Sir/Madam

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED FREE TRADE ZONES (FTZ) REGIME FROM 1 MARCH 2024

With the passing of the Free Trade Zones (Amendment) Bill on 4 Oct 2023, the revised FTZ regime is set to commence on 1 March 2024. As part of the enhancements to the FTZ regime, Singapore Customs will introduce a FTZ operator licensing regime and require FTZ cargo handlers and shipping agents to provide information. These are further elaborated below.

Details of the FTZ Operator licensing regime

2 Currently, the FTZs in Singapore are operated by FTZ authorities. From 1 March 2024, these entities and any other entities seeking to operate any FTZ in Singapore will be required to apply for and obtain FTZ Operator licences issued by Singapore Customs. Applicants must be able to ensure the proper and efficient functioning of the free trade zone and comply with the security and reporting requirements of Singapore Customs. Most of the requirements are not new or are clarifications of existing practices.

3 The application window will be open from 1 March 2024 and more information will be provided through the Customs Website. Customs will also engage the current FTZ authorities to smoothen the transition to the licensing regime.

Shipping agents to provide information

4 From 1 March 2024, shipping agents will be required to submit information found in the Bill of Lading (BL) to cargo handlers specified in **Annex A**. Submission requirements and instructions are specified in **Annex B**.

FTZ cargo handlers to provide information

5 Specified FTZ cargo handlers will be required to submit information to Singapore Customs, including the information provided to them by shipping agents. Specific details and instructions will be provided via separate notices to the specified FTZ cargo handlers on the date of commencement.

6-month Adjustment Period (1 March 2024 – 31 August 2024)

Containerised Cargo:

6 To allow shipping agents and specified FTZ cargo handlers more time to fully comply with the requirements, Singapore Customs will allow a 6-month adjustment period (1 March 2024 – 31 August 2024) for the industry to make any necessary further adjustments to their work processes for the submission of information on containerised cargo.

7 During the adjustment period, shipping agents and specified FTZ cargo handlers will generally not be penalised by Singapore Customs for non-compliance. This will include late or incomplete submissions. All other customs offences and penalties are still applicable during the adjustment period.

Non-Containerised Cargo

8 Shipping agents and specified FTZ cargo handlers are exempted from the requirements to submit information on non-containerised cargo until further notice.

Notice to Air FTZ cargo handlers and air cargo agents

9 Air FTZ cargo handlers and air cargo agents will be temporarily exempted from requirements to provide information. Singapore Customs will engage the air cargo community and relevant stakeholders to explore the setting up of the necessary system linkages and identify industry concerns prior to formalizing any future requirements.

Clarifications

10 If you require further clarifications, you may contact us at customs_ftz@customs.gov.sg.

Yours faithfully

LEE BOON CHONG
SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS
for DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS

(This is a computer-generated circular. No signature is required.)

We hope that this circular has been written in a way that is clear to you. If not, please let us have suggestions on how to improve this circular at customs_ftz@customs.gov.sg.

Annex A

List of FTZs and their respective specified FTZ cargo handlers

S/N	List of FTZs per Free Trade Zones (Declared Areas) Notification	Specified FTZ Cargo Handler
1	Brani Terminal	PSA Corporation Ltd
2	Keppel Distripark	PSA Corporation Ltd
3	Pasir Panjang Terminal	PSA Corporation Ltd
4	Sembawang Wharves	PSA Corporation Ltd
5	Tanjong Pagar Terminal and Keppel Terminal	PSA Corporation Ltd
6	Tuas Port	PSA Corporation Ltd
7	Jurong Port	Jurong Port Pte Ltd

Annex B

Form and manner for submission of information on movement of goods

Pursuant to Section 14N of the Free Trade Zones Act, information of goods provided by shipping agents¹ are to be submitted via the appropriate system platforms to specified FTZ Cargo Handlers.

2 The information to be provided by shipping agents are listed in the table below.

Fields from Bill-of-Lading	Remarks
Voyage number	<i>Mandatory for all cargo</i>
Bill-of-Lading number	<i>Mandatory for all cargo</i>
Container Number(s)*	<i>Mandatory for containerized cargo</i>
Place of Receipt	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>
Place of Delivery	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>
Shipper Name	<i>Mandatory for all cargo</i>
Shipper Address	<i>Mandatory for all cargo</i>
Cargo Description**	<i>Mandatory for all cargo</i>
Consignee Name	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>
Consignee Address	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>
Notify Party Name	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>
Notify Party Address	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>
HS Code**	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>
Goods Weight**	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>
Goods Quantity**	<i>Applicable for all cargo. To submit if this information is found in the bill-of-lading.</i>

*Container number(s) declared to be tagged to a corresponding B/L no.

**Fields to be tagged to a corresponding cargo description.

Timelines for Submission of Information on Movement of Goods

3 The paragraphs below specify the timelines for the submission of the prescribed information under the various scenarios:

¹Under Regulation 11(1) of the Free Trade Zones Regulations 2024, the prescribed class of shipping agents is the class of shipping agents of the carriers of the goods concerned.

Scenario A:

- 4 For imports and transhipment goods entering the listed FTZ(s):
- a) by sea via vessels; and
 - b) where the voyage duration from the last foreign port to Singapore is longer than 12 hours,

the information provided by shipping agents is to be submitted to the specified cargo handler no later than 12 hours prior to the vessel's berthing at Singapore.

Scenario B:

- 5 For imports and transhipment goods entering the listed FTZ(s):
- a) by sea via vessels; and
 - b) where the voyage duration from the last foreign port to Singapore is shorter than 12 hours,

the information provided by shipping agents is to be submitted to the specified cargo handler no later than the vessel's departure from the last foreign port.

Scenario C:

- 6 For export goods exiting the listed FTZ(s) by sea via vessels, the information provided by shipping agents is to be submitted to the specified cargo handler no later than 24 hours after the vessel's departure from Singapore.

Penalty for non-compliance

- 7 If any shipping agent, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with the specified requirements of this circular pertaining to the submission of information under Section 14N(2) of the Act, it shall be guilty of an offence under Section 14N(3) of the Act, and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.