

CUSTOMS ACT
(CHAPTER 70, SECTION 143)

CUSTOMS (CONTAINER) REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

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[11th January 1975]

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Customs (Container) Regulations.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“container” means a box, tank or container of standard dimensions which —

- (a) is specially constructed for the safe carriage of goods;
- (b) is of permanent character and can be used more than once;
- (c) is specially designed to facilitate carriage of goods by one or more modes of transport;
- (d) is fitted with devices which enable it to be locked and sealed;
- (e) has an internal volume of at least one cubic metre; and
- (f) has conspicuous and permanent identification marks;

[Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

“container terminal” means a berth or wharf designated by the Director-General as a place from which containers are loaded on or unloaded from vessels, as the case may be;

“full container load”, in relation to a container, means a container with goods for one consignee only or a container with goods from one consignor only, as the case may be;

“less than full container load”, in relation to a container, means a container with goods for more than one consignee or a container with goods from more than one consignor, as the case may be.

Permit required for containers for transhipment

3.—(1) No container which has any goods therein and is imported or intended for transhipment shall be removed from the ship wherein they arrived or from the Woodlands Train Checkpoint if imported by train, or beyond the customs station at Woodlands or Tuas if imported by road, except under a permit issued by the proper officer of customs and in accordance with all the conditions specified in the permit.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), no permit shall be required for the removal by a licensed FTZ operator administering a free trade zone of any container from a vessel direct into such free trade zone, if a full and correct inward manifest required under section 39 of the Act has been furnished to the proper officer of customs.

[S 891/2024 wef 25/11/2024]

Permit required for movement of loaded containers

4. No container which has any goods therein may be moved from a container terminal to a consignee's premises except under a permit issued by the proper officer of customs and in accordance with all the conditions specified in the permit.

[S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

5. *[Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]*

Damaged containers

6. Any container damaged on import shall be brought to the attention of the proper officer of customs and may not be removed from the customs station at Woodlands or Tuas or from the Woodlands Train Checkpoint or from a container terminal, as the case may be, without the prior permission of a senior officer of customs.

Tampered seals to be notified to customs officer

7.—(1) The owner of a container or the agent appointed by him to take charge of or to manage the container shall forthwith notify the proper officer of customs if any seal placed on the container is found by the owner or agent to be tampered with, opened, broken, altered or removed on import.

(2) Such container shall not be removed from the customs station at Woodlands or Tuas or from the Woodlands Train Checkpoint or from a container terminal, as the case may be, without the prior permission of a senior officer of customs.

Permit to contain full description of contents of container

8.—(1) Where a permit to move a container from a container terminal to the consignee's premises is issued under regulation 4, that permit shall contain a full description of the contents of the container.

(2) [*Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013*]

Permit required for removal of container

9. No container which has any goods therein may be removed from a consignor's premises to a container terminal except in accordance with a permit, issued by the proper officer of customs, authorising the removal.

[*S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013*]

Supervision for stuffing and unstuffing

10. The stuffing and unstuffing of every container shall be carried out under the supervision of the proper officer of customs unless a senior officer of customs otherwise requires.

Permission for use of terminal in customs territory

11.—(1) No person shall, inside customs territory, make use of or operate a container terminal to store, import or export any containerised goods without the written permission of the Director-General and except in accordance with such conditions as the Director-General may impose.

[*S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013*]

(2) Any person applying for such permission shall furnish the following particulars:

- (a) his name, identity card number and address;
- (b) the name of his firm and, if the applicant is a company, the name of the company;
- (c) the type and quantity of goods to be removed from, stored or moved into the container terminal; and

[*S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013*]

(d) [*Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013*]

- (e) a site plan of the entire container terminal showing access roads and the buildings to be constructed thereon and the boundary or area thereof.

[S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

- (f) *[Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]*

(3) Upon receiving an application made under paragraph (2), the Director-General may grant such permission subject to such conditions as he thinks fit or refuse to grant it.

(4) The Director-General may, at any time, vary or revoke any condition of any permission granted under this regulation or impose conditions or additional conditions thereto.

(5) The Director-General may suspend or revoke any permission granted under this regulation without assigning any reason therefor.

12. *[Deleted by S 791/2004 wef 01/01/2005]*

Records of container to be maintained by owner

13. The owner of every container brought into or removed from the customs station at Woodlands or Tuas or from the Woodlands Train Checkpoint or from a container terminal or, if such owner is not present in Singapore, the agent appointed by the owner to take charge of or to manage the container, shall keep and maintain proper records of the container showing its official number and reference and such other particulars as the Director-General may require in respect of the container.

Records of container's movements and contents

14. A person to whom any permission to make use of or operate a container terminal to store, import or export any containerised goods is granted under regulation 11 shall keep and maintain proper records of —

- (a) every container brought into or removed from the container terminal in respect of which the permit is issued; and

- (b) such details of goods stuffed into or unstuffed from the container as the Director-General may require.

[S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

15. [Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

Securing of dutiable goods in containers

16.—(1) The proper officer of customs may lock, seal or otherwise secure a container containing any goods at any place, including any free trade zone, in such manner as he thinks fit.

(2) [Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

(3) All costs and expenses incurred —

(a) under paragraph (1), shall be borne by the owner of the container or the agent appointed by the owner to take charge of or to manage the container; and

(b) [Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

(4) No person shall, without prior permission of the proper officer of customs, tamper with, open, break, alter or remove any lock, seal or other safeguards used in respect of a container under paragraph (1).

[S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

(5) No person shall, without the written permission of a proper officer of customs —

(a) possess a seal, which is to be or is issued by the Customs and Excise Department for the purpose of securing a container; or

(b) use or re-use such a seal for that purpose.

(6) No person shall possess a seal which that person knew or had reason to believe at the time when he possessed it to be a counterfeit of a seal issued by the Customs and Excise Department for the purpose of securing a container or use that counterfeit seal to secure a container.

Examination of goods

17.—(1) Where it appears to a senior officer of customs that any container is being transported to a consignee's premises, he may require the goods to be brought to any customs station or premises for examination.

(2) The person in charge of or transporting the container shall comply with any such requisition.

Facilities for customs

18. The person to whom permission has been granted under regulation 11 shall provide, at his own expense at the container terminal in respect of which the permission was granted, office accommodation for officers of customs and such other facilities and equipment as the Director-General may require, including equipment for examining, weighing, fumigating, disinfecting and destroying goods.

[S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

Hours for stuffing and unstuffing of containers

19. The stuffing and unstuffing of any container, in respect of which customs supervision of its stuffing and unstuffing has not been waived by a senior officer of customs under regulation 10, shall be carried out during —

(a) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday; and

(b) 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday.

[S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]

20. *[Deleted by S 325/2019 wef 02/05/2019]*

21. *[Deleted by S 642/2013 wef 31/10/2013]*

Penalties

22. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of these Regulations or any of the conditions of a permit shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$8,000.

Composition of offences

***23.** [*Deleted*].

*[G.N. Nos. S 6/75; S 202/75; S 59/76; S 296/83; S 233/93;
S 372/94; S 553/97; S 393/98; S 227/2002]*

* Regulation 23 relating to the composition of offences has been transferred to the Customs (Composition of Offences) (Consolidation) Regulations (Rg 10).

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
CUSTOMS (CONTAINER) REGULATIONS
(CHAPTER 70, RG 1)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Customs (Container) Regulations. It is not part of these Regulations.

1. G. N. No. S 6/1975 — Customs (Container) Regulations 1975

Date of commencement : 11 January 1975

2. G. N. No. S 202/1975 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 1975

Date of commencement : 15 August 1975

3. G. N. No. S 59/1976 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 1976

Date of commencement : 2 April 1976

4. G. N. No. S 296/1983 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 1983

Date of commencement : 1 January 1984

5. 1990 Revised Edition — Customs (Container) Regulations

Date of operation : 25 March 1992

6. G. N. No. S 233/1993 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 1993

Date of commencement : 1 July 1993

7. G. N. No. S 372/1994 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 1994

Date of commencement : 1 October 1994

8. G. N. No. S 553/1997 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 1997

Date of commencement : 2 January 1998

9. G. N. No. S 393/1998 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 1998

Date of commencement : 1 August 1998

10. 1999 Revised Edition — Customs (Container) Regulations

Date of operation : 1 July 1999

11. G. N. No. S 227/2002 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 2002

Date of commencement : 1 June 2002

12. 2002 Revised Edition — Customs (Container) Regulations

Date of operation : 30 September 2002

13. G. N. No. S 791/2004 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 2004

Date of commencement : 1 January 2005

14. G. N. No. S 642/2013 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

Date of commencement : 31 October 2013

15. G.N. No. S 325/2019 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 2019

Date of commencement : 2 May 2019

16. G.N. No. S 891/2024 — Customs (Container) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

Date of commencement : 25 November 2024