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GST: Guide on Imports

1 Aim

The scope of this e-Tax Guide

- 1.1 This e-Tax Guide provides details on GST matters relating to importation of goods, including GST reporting requirements and various import related schemes available.

Who should read this guide?

- 1.2 You should read this guide if:
- (a) You are GST-registered and import goods for your business; or
 - (b) You are GST-registered and import goods on behalf of overseas persons.

2 At a glance

GST upon importation of goods

- 2.1 Generally, all goods (except investment precious metals)¹ imported into Singapore are subject to GST, regardless of whether the person importing the goods is GST-registered.
- 2.2 As the importer, you are required to take up the appropriate import permit and pay GST upon importation of the goods into Singapore unless the goods qualify for import relief as explained in paragraphs 10.15 to 10.17 or are investment precious metals.

Computation of GST on imported goods

- 2.3 Import GST is levied on the taxable value, which includes the Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF), the customs duty payable (if applicable), commission and other incidental charges².

¹ The import of investment precious metals is exempt from GST since 2012. For more information on the import of investment precious metals, please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST: Guide on Exemption of Investment Precious Metals (IPM)”.

² Where supplies had taken place prior to goods being removed from customs control, valuation of import GST is to be based on the value of last supply (also usually known as the last selling price) and all other costs, charges and expenses incidental to the sale and delivery of the goods up to the port and place of importation.

Illustration 1:

Price of goods	\$10,000.00
Freight and Insurance	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>
CIF	\$12,000.00
Add Customs Duty	<u>\$ 3,600.00</u>
Taxable Value	<u>\$15,600.00</u>
GST (9%)	\$1,404.00

- 2.4 The value of the imports should be in Singapore dollars. Imported goods expressed in a foreign currency must be converted into Singapore dollars using the prevailing rate of exchange quoted by Singapore Customs³ at the time of declaration.

Import permit

- 2.5 You should declare an import payment permit for the importation of dutiable and non-dutiable goods before bringing them into customs territory⁴. The permit declarations are to be electronically submitted through the TradeNet[®] System⁵ to Singapore Customs.
- 2.6 You are required to activate your Unique Entity Number (UEN) with Singapore Customs before making electronic submissions of permits through the TradeNet[®] System.

Payment of GST at the point of import

- 2.7 All goods which are stored or held in Free Trade Zones (FTZs), Zero-GST/Licensed/Bonded Warehouse and Excise Factories are 'goods under customs control'⁶ and they may not be removed except with the permission of the officer of the Singapore Customs. Accordingly, you should pay the import GST to Singapore Customs before the goods are removed from customs control.
- 2.8 GST payment for imports will be made to Singapore Customs through the Inter-Bank GIRO facility. This GIRO arrangement with Singapore Customs is separate from the GIRO arrangement you have with IRAS (if any).
- 2.9 Either you or the declarant (e.g. freight forwarder) must apply to Singapore Customs for the payment of import GST through GIRO.

³ The exchange rates are published on Singapore Customs' website on a weekly basis.

⁴ Section 3 of the Customs Act defines "customs territory" to mean Singapore and the territorial waters thereof but excluding any Free Trade Zone.

⁵ For more information on TradeNet[®] System, please visit website of Singapore Customs www.customs.gov.sg and <https://www.tradenet.gov.sg/tradenet/login.jsp>.

⁶ Section 3(2) of the Customs Act.

3 Glossary

3.1 Local goods

Local goods refer to goods that have cleared customs control and locally-manufactured goods.

3.2 Overseas goods

Overseas goods refer to goods from outside Singapore landing in FTZ and pending customs clearance.

3.3 Overseas person

A person who does not belong in Singapore. The overseas person shall be treated as belonging in Singapore if:

- He has a business or fixed establishment only in Singapore; or
- He has no business or fixed establishment overseas but his place of incorporation or the place where the business is legally constituted is in Singapore; or
- He has such establishments both in and outside Singapore, and the service it is providing is directly concerned with its Singapore establishment.

3.4 Section 33A agent

A person who imports goods belonging to an overseas principal (who is either not GST-registered or is GST-registered under the overseas vendor registration (OVR) pay-only regime) and subsequently exports the goods (but without a supply of the goods). A section 33A agent is allowed to claim the import GST paid on behalf of the overseas principal.

3.5 Section 33(1) agent

A person who is substituted for an overseas person registered for GST. As a section 33(1) agent, he assumes all the GST responsibilities of the registered overseas person including the reporting and payment of GST due.

3.6 Section 33(2) agent

A person who imports goods belonging to an overseas principal (who is either not GST-registered or is GST-registered under the overseas vendor registration (OVR) pay-only regime) for the purpose of supplying them as its agent. For the purposes of GST Act, the section 33(2) agent is treated as if he is the principal who is importing and supplying the goods.

4 Background

- 4.1 GST is a tax on domestic consumption. Hence, nearly all local supplies of goods and services, as well as the importation of most goods and services into Singapore fall within the scope of tax.
- 4.2 GST will be extended to low-value goods worth \$400 or less imported by air or post and imported Business-to-Consumer non-digital services from 1 Jan 2023.
- 4.3 Sections 7 and 8(4) of the GST Act provide the authority to charge and collect GST on all importation of goods into Singapore. The GST on importation of goods is imposed and collected according to the provisions of the Customs Act (Cap 70) as if all goods imported into Singapore were liable to customs or excise duties.
- 4.4 Singapore Customs administers the collection of GST on the importation of goods into Singapore. This Guide is not meant to be a comprehensive guide on import procedures. For more information on import procedures, please visit Singapore Customs' website at www.customs.gov.sg. Alternatively, you may call Singapore Customs on 6355 2000 or email to customs_documentation@customs.gov.sg.

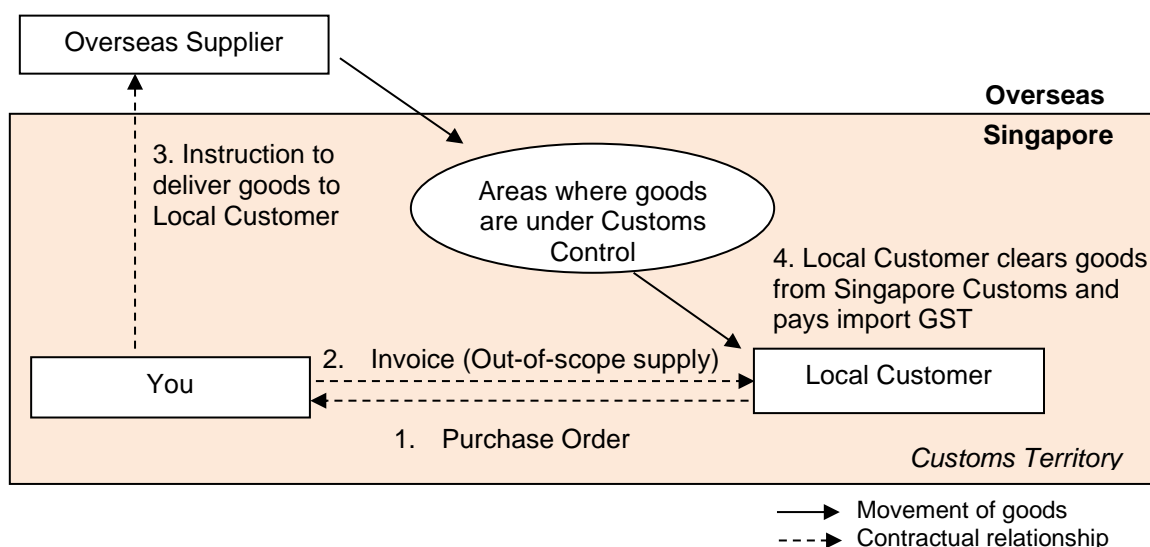
5 Supply of imported goods to local customers

General rule – Transfer of ownership determines the place of supply

- 5.1 To establish if GST should be charged on the sale of imported goods to your local customer, you have to determine when the ownership of the goods is transferred to the customer. This is to establish whether the supply of goods is made in or outside Singapore.
- 5.2 Generally, the person who has ownership of the goods at the point of importation should be the importer. This is because only the rightful importer can claim input tax incurred on the import of goods and he must have an import permit in his name to support the claim. The parties privy to the contractual arrangement will be in the best position to determine when the ownership of goods passes.
- 5.3 Hence, if you have the ownership of the goods before the goods are imported, you should import the goods. The subsequent supply of goods to your customer in Singapore will be subject to GST. On the other hand, if the ownership of the goods has been transferred to your customer before the goods were imported into Singapore, the supply of goods to your customer would be treated as an out-of-scope supply. The importation of the goods should be made by your customer who has ownership of the goods. Please see scenarios 1 and 2 below for a detailed illustration.

Scenario 1: Ownership of the goods is transferred to the local customer outside Singapore

- 5.4 You have transferred the ownership of the goods to the Local Customer **before** the goods were imported into Singapore. Hence, the sale of goods is made outside Singapore and treated as an out-of-scope supply. You are not required to charge GST on the supply or report the supply in the GST return⁷. The Local Customer who has the ownership of the goods at the point of importation should import the goods and declare the import permit in his name. He will then be responsible for paying the GST upon importation of the goods into Singapore.



Supplies of low-value goods (w.e.f. 1 Jan 2023)

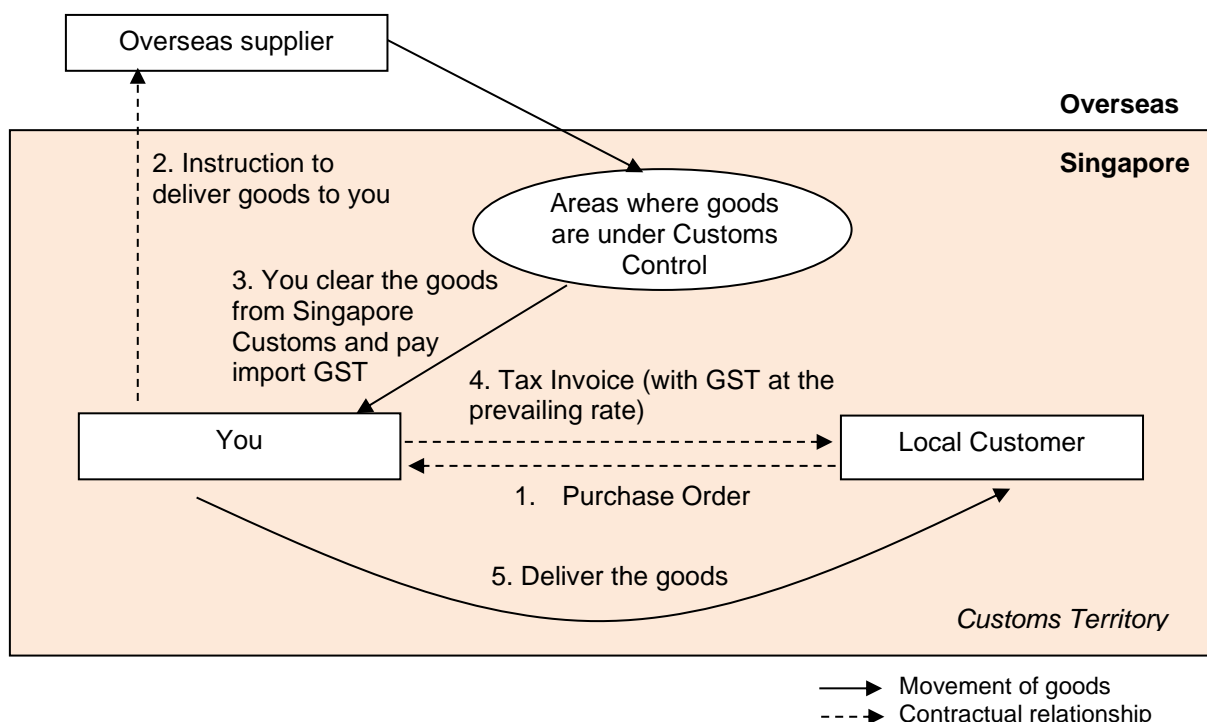
- 5.5 With effect from 1 Jan 2023, if you make direct sales of low-value goods to customers who are not GST-registered in Singapore, you will have to charge GST at the prevailing rate. For more information, please refer to the e-Tax Guide [GST: Taxing imported low-value goods by way of the overseas vendor registration regime \(First Edition\)](#) (PDF, 487KB).

Scenario 2: Ownership of the goods is transferred to the local customer in Singapore

- 5.6 You transfer the ownership of the goods to the Local Customer **after** the goods are imported into Singapore. Since you own the goods before the goods are imported into Singapore, you should be declared as the importer on the import permit and are responsible for paying the GST upon importation of goods into Singapore.

⁷ If the out-of-scope supplies form part of your main trading or business income, please include the figure in your GST return under “Revenue” (Box 13).

- 5.7 When the imported goods are subsequently delivered to your customer in Singapore, you have to charge GST at the prevailing rate as the supply of goods is made in Singapore.



Exceptions to the general rule

- 5.8 When you supply goods under agreements which provide that ownership of the goods will be transferred to your customer at some time in the future, your supply is regarded as being made outside Singapore if you transfer the possession of goods to your customer outside Singapore. Examples of such agreements are hire purchase agreement or an agreement with a retention of title clause (also known as a Romalpa clause). Possession refers to control of the goods in the sense of having immediate facility for their use. This is notwithstanding that you transfer the ownership of the goods to the customer after the goods are imported into Singapore. The importation of the goods should be made by your customer who has the control of the goods.
- 5.9 When the possession of goods is transferred can be determined from the agreement between the parties involved, as well as the conduct of the supplier and customer. The following are some examples where the possession of goods has passed to the customer while the goods are outside Singapore:

Example 1

You make goods available at a warehouse outside Singapore. Your local customer is responsible for bringing the goods to Singapore, including arranging for picking up of goods from you, making customs export declaration, import declaration and clearance of the goods from Singapore Customs.

Example 2

You deliver goods alongside or on board your local customer's vessel at the named overseas port of shipment. Your customer bears all costs and risks of loss of or damage to the goods from that moment.

6 Claiming import GST

6.1 You are allowed to claim the GST incurred on importation of goods only if you satisfy all the conditions for claiming input tax:

- The goods or services must have been supplied to you or the goods have been imported by you acting as a section 33(2) or section 33A agent⁸;
- The goods or services are used or to be used for the purpose of your business;
- The input tax is directly attributable to your taxable supplies or out-of-scope supplies which would be taxable if made in Singapore;
- The input tax claims must be supported by tax invoices addressed to you, or simplified tax invoices. For imports, the claims should be supported by import permits which show you as the importer of the goods and other supporting documents such as the supplier's invoices and relevant transport documents; and
- The input tax claims are not disallowed expenses under regulation 26 and 27 of the GST (General) Regulations.

6.2 Generally, you are required to maintain the import permit, which shows you as the importer of the goods to support the input tax claims. This applies also to instances when you import goods via logistics companies. However, an exception is made for goods imported via courier or air express shipments through TNT Express Worldwide (S) Pte Ltd⁹, Federal Express (S) Pte Ltd, United Parcel Service Singapore Pte Ltd or DHL Express (Singapore) Pte Ltd. For these imports, you may use the tax invoices issued by these 4 companies to support your import GST claims instead of the import permit.

6.3 You may claim the import GST through your GST F5 return for the accounting period corresponding to the date shown in the import permit. The value of imported goods and the GST paid, based on the import permit, should be declared in your GST F5 return under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Input Tax and Refunds Claimed (Box 7) respectively.

6.4 If you have temporarily exported your own goods for repair, customer trials etc, and subsequently re-import the same goods, you are allowed to claim the input tax incurred subject to all the input tax claim conditions in paragraph 6.1. Alternatively, you may apply for GST relief on the export and subsequent re-importation of goods into Singapore. Once the import relief is granted, you do not need to make payment for GST on the re-importation of the goods. Please refer to paragraphs 10.15 to 10.17 for more information on import relief.

⁸ See paragraph 8 for the qualifying criteria as such agent.

⁹ TNT Express Worldwide (S) Pte Ltd has been amalgamated with Federal Express (S) Pte Ltd with effect from 1 Oct 2021.

7 Correcting errors made on importation of goods

Responsibility of the importer

- 7.1 As the importer, you have the overall responsibility to ensure that the import permit is taken up in a timely manner for the import of goods. You must also make true and correct declarations when submitting permit applications for Singapore Customs' approval. This includes declaring the correct value of the imported goods and the correct importer on the import permits.
- 7.2 If you have made an incorrect declaration on the import permit, please follow the guidelines below and rectify the error accordingly.

Over-declaration on the value of imported goods

- 7.3 If you have over-declared the value of the imported goods, you may claim the higher amount of GST paid as your input tax in your GST F5 return for the relevant accounting period. You are required to declare the correct value of the imported goods before GST (not the over-declared value of the goods reflected on the import permit) and the actual GST paid based on the import permit in the GST F5 return under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Input Tax and Refunds Claimed (Box 7) respectively.

Illustration 2¹⁰:

Over-declared value as per the import permit \$ 10,000
GST paid to Singapore Customs \$ 900
Correct value of the goods \$ 1,000

You should declare the value of imports and the corresponding GST amount in your GST F5 return as follows:

GST F5 return:

Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5)	\$ 1,000
Input Tax and Refunds Claimed (Box 7)	\$ 900

- 7.4 For over-declaration of the value of goods imported under the various import GST suspension schemes¹¹ (e.g. Major Exporter Scheme and Approved Third Party Logistics Company Scheme), you are required to declare the correct value of the imported goods (and not the over-declared value) in the GST F5 return under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Total Value of Goods Imported under this scheme (Box 9). You must maintain relevant documents such as a commercial invoice to support the correct value of goods imported and the reconciliation between the figures reflected on the invoices/permits and the figures reflected in the GST returns.

Under-declaration on the value of imported goods

- 7.5 If you have under-declared the value of the imported goods, you are required to take up a short-payment permit (with reference to the original permit) to

¹⁰ For illustration purposes, all currency/monetary amounts refer to Singapore dollars.

¹¹ For more information on the various types of import GST suspension schemes, please refer to paragraphs 10.21 to 10.48 of this guide.

declare and make payment for the GST shortfall. You may claim the additional GST paid to Singapore Customs with the short-payment permit as documentary evidence to support your input tax claim. The short payment permit and the additional input tax claim should be reported in the accounting period where the short payment permit is taken.

Illustration 3:

Import permit declared in the accounting period ended 31 Mar 2024

Under-declared value as per the import permit \$ 1,000
GST paid to Singapore Customs \$ 90
Correct value of the goods imported \$ 3,000
Correct GST amount to be paid to Customs \$ 270

Short payment permit declared for amount of imported goods under-declared \$2,000
Additional GST payable \$180

a) Short-payment permit is taken up in the same accounting period as the import permit

You should declare the value of imports and the corresponding GST amount in the GST F5 return as follows:

GST F5 return for the period ended 31 Mar 2024

Total value of taxable purchases (Box 5)	\$ 3,000
Input tax and refunds claimed (Box 7)	\$ 270

b) Short-payment permit is taken with Singapore Customs in the next accounting period

You should declare the import permit and the short-payment permit separately in the respective accounting periods as follows:

GST F5 return for the period ended 31 Mar 2024

Total value of taxable purchases (Box 5)	\$ 1,000
Input tax and refunds claimed (Box 7)	\$ 90

GST F5 return for the period ended 30 Jun 2024

Total value of taxable purchases (Box 5)	\$ 2,000
Input tax and refunds claimed (Box 7)	\$ 180

- 7.6 For under-declaration of goods imported under the various import GST suspension schemes (e.g. Major Exporter Scheme and Approved Third Party Logistics Company Scheme), you are required to declare the correct value of the imported goods (and not the under-declared value) in the GST F5 return under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Total Value of Goods Imported under this scheme (Box 9). You are **not required** to take up an additional permit to declare the shortfall. However, you must maintain relevant documents such as commercial invoice, to support the correct value of goods

imported and the reconciliation between the figures reflected on the invoices/permits and the figures reflected in the GST returns.

Wrong declaration of the name of importer

- 7.7 If you are the rightful importer but your name is not declared on the import permit, you cannot claim the GST based on the import permit as it does not show your name as the importer.
- 7.8 You and the declared importer should write to Singapore Customs (with documentary proof) to inform that the name of the importer on the permit has been wrongly declared. You should take up a replacement permit in your name. With the correct import permit, the GST paid can be claimed in your GST return provided that you satisfy all the conditions of input tax claims in paragraph 6.1. The declared importer should seek a refund of the GST amount paid from Singapore Customs.

Wrong declaration of permit type

- 7.9 If you are approved under schemes with import GST suspension¹² or deferment¹³ features but have wrongly declared a GST payment permit for an import, you may claim back the GST paid through your GST F5 return. You should report the value of the imported goods under 'Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and the GST paid under 'Input Tax and Refund Claimed' (Box 7) respectively. The claim should be made in the accounting period corresponding to the date shown in the import permit. You are required to maintain the import permit as proof of payment for the input tax claims.

Multiple payment permits taken up for one shipment

- 7.10 If you take up multiple payment permits for the same shipment, you may claim back the GST paid on the additional permit(s) through your GST F5 return under 'Input Tax and Refunds Claimed' (Box 7). The claim should be made in the accounting period corresponding to the date shown in the import permit. You are required to maintain the payment permits as proof of payment for the input tax claims.

8 Importing goods on behalf of an overseas person

Section 33(2) agent

- 8.1 If you import goods belonging to an overseas person, for the purpose of supplying them as its agent either locally or for export, you are acting as a section 33(2) agent. The overseas person must either be a non-GST registered person who do not belong in Singapore or a GST-registered person

¹² GST schemes with an import GST suspension feature are the Major Exporter Scheme (MES), Approved Third Party Logistics Company Scheme (A3PL), Approved Import GST Suspension Scheme (AISS), Approved Contract Manufacturer and Trader Scheme (ACMT) and Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme (ARCS).

¹³ Import GST Deferment Scheme (IGDS)

under the overseas vendor registration (OVR) pay-only regime¹⁴. Under section 33(2), you are deemed as the principal of the goods and are responsible for all the goods imported.

- 8.2 Goods imported and subsequently supplied by you on behalf of the overseas person are treated as imported and supplied by you. Hence, you are allowed to claim the GST paid on importation of the overseas person's goods as your input tax. You are also required to charge and account for GST on any local sales of the imported goods.

Requirements on the goods

- 8.3 You are allowed to act as a section 33(2) agent even when there is a change in nature and form of the imported goods. However, you must be able to track the goods and ensure that all goods imported are supplied and GST accounted for accordingly. This tax treatment takes into account the commercial reality that some imported goods may undergo treatment or processing that alters their nature or form before they are subsequently supplied.

Reporting and record-keeping requirements

- 8.4 You are required to report such imports and the corresponding GST amount in the GST F5 return under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Input Tax and Refunds Claimed (Box 7) respectively¹⁵. If you are approved under a scheme with an import GST suspension feature¹⁶, the import GST can be suspended. Nevertheless, you are still required to report such imports under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Total Value of Goods Imported under Major Exporter Scheme/ other approved schemes (Box 9).
- 8.5 When you supply these goods locally or export the goods, you are required to account for the supplies in the GST return.
- (a) For goods that are supplied locally, you have to issue a tax invoice to charge and account for GST at the prevailing rate on the supply made to the customers of your overseas principal. You are required to report such sales and the corresponding GST amount in your GST return under Total Value of Standard-rated Supplies (Box 1) and Output Tax Due (Box 6) respectively.
- (b) For goods that are exported, you can charge GST at 0% if you maintain the required export documentation¹⁷ to support the zero-rating. You are required to report such sales in your GST return under Total Value of Zero-rated Supplies (Box 2).

¹⁴ For more information on overseas vendor registration (OVR) pay-only regime, please refer to e-Tax Guide "[GST: Taxing imported services by way of an overseas vendor registration regime](#)" at www.iras.gov.sg > Quick Links > e-Tax Guides

¹⁵ For goods imported using IGDS, you should also declare the value of goods imported and the deferred import GST payable in the IGDS Section of your GST return.

¹⁶ GST schemes with an import GST suspension feature are the MES, A3PL, AISS, ACMT and ARCS.

¹⁷ For more information on export documentation to be maintained, please refer to our e-Tax Guide "GST: Guide on Exports".

- 8.6 In addition to the above, you must also maintain records of your imports and supplies separately from the imports and supplies (e.g. local sales or export) made on behalf of the overseas principal.

De-registration implications for a section 33(2) agent

- 8.7 There may be situations where you de-register from GST while the overseas person's goods are still in your custody. Any supply of the goods made by you on behalf of the overseas person after you have de-registered from GST will not be taxable. Since you did not supply those goods while you were GST-registered, you can no longer act as a section 33(2) agent.
- 8.8 If import GST had been claimed, suspended or deferred on the goods, you are required to repay the Comptroller the import GST before you de-register from GST:
- (a) If you had claimed the import GST, you are required to file a GST F7 for the period in which you made the claim to reduce the Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Input Tax and Refunds Claimed (Box 7)¹⁸.
 - (b) If you had used IGDS to defer the payment of import GST during your last GST accounting period, you are required to account for the amount deferred under Deferred Import GST Payable (Box 17) and Total Value of Goods Imported under IGDS (Box 19)¹⁹. You cannot claim the deferred import GST in your GST return.
 - (c) If you had used MES/ other approved schemes to suspend the import GST, you need to account for the amount suspended under Output Tax Due (Box 6) in your last GST return.

Change of section 33(2) agent and transfer of overseas person's goods

- 8.9 Due to commercial reasons, the overseas person may appoint another section 33(2) agent to act on his behalf. The change in agent would usually involve you transferring the overseas person's imported goods to the new agent. The new agent will then take over all the GST responsibilities, including charging and accounting for GST on the subsequent sale or disposal of the transferred goods. As the goods are transferred by you to the new agent without any payment, such transfer of goods will not be a supply for GST purposes.
- 8.10 You are allowed to transfer the overseas person's goods to the new agent without having to repay the import GST previously claimed, deferred or suspended on the condition that:

¹⁸ As a concession, you may choose to make the adjustment in your next GST return if:

- (i) The net GST amount to adjust for all the affected periods is not more than \$3,000; and
- (ii) The summation of non-GST amounts to adjust for each of the affected periods is not more than 5% of the Total Value of Supplies (Box 4) declared in the submitted GST return. In the case where there was no supply made in the affected period, the 5% rule will be applied to the total value of the taxable purchases.

¹⁹ Boxes 14 to 17 will be re-numbered to boxes 16 to 19 from 1 Jan 2020 onwards.

- (a) you and the new agent maintain relevant documents²⁰ from the overseas person to support your cessation and his appointment as the overseas person's agent respectively;
- (b) the ownership of the goods remains with the overseas person and you do not receive any payment for the transfer of goods;
- (c) the new agent is or will be GST-registered at the date of transfer of the goods;
- (d) there is no change in the nature or form of the goods to be transferred from the point of import to the subsequent supply, except where the Comptroller's prior approval has been obtained (refer to paragraph 8.14);
- (e) you and the new agent maintain the relevant records on the inventory balance at the date of the transfer of goods. Such records include date of removal, generic description, quantity and value of the goods, delivery note, inventory note and inventory lists;
- (f) you undertake to account for output tax on the value of the discrepancy found in the goods (if any) at the point of transfer; and
- (g) the new agent undertakes to take over and comply with all the reporting, accounting and record-keeping requirements required of a section 33(2) agent for the goods transferred to him as stated in paragraphs 8.5 to 8.9. If the new agent does not comply with the reporting, accounting or record-keeping requirements, he is required to repay the GST previously claimed or suspended on the importation of the transferred goods.

8.11 The above conditions are set out in the self-review form "Self-Review of Eligibility and Declaration on the Change of Agent and Transfer of Goods under section 33(2) of the GST Act"²¹. The original self-review form must be submitted to the Comptroller prior to the date of transfer of the goods and you and the new agent should maintain a copy of the form for your records. You may proceed with the transfer of the overseas person's goods once the original self-review form has been submitted to IRAS. No further approval from the Comptroller is required.

8.12 In the event any of the conditions in paragraph 8.10 is not satisfied (for example, the new agent is not GST-registered), you are required to repay the Comptroller the import GST which you have previously claimed, deferred or suspended on the transferred goods, i.e.:

- (a) If you had claimed the import GST on the transferred goods, you are required to file a GST F7 for the period in which you made the claim to reduce the Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Input Tax and Refunds Claimed (Box 7)²².

²⁰Examples are contract or letter of engagement for services, correspondences or notice on termination of services or letter of appointment.

²¹ You may download the form from www.iras.gov.sg > Quick links > Forms > GST > Self-review

²² As a concession, you may choose to make the adjustment in your next GST return if:

(i) The net GST amount to adjust for all the affected periods is not more than \$3,000; and

- (b) If you had used IGDS to defer the payment of import GST, you need to account for the amount deferred under Deferred Import GST Payable (Box 15) and Total Value of Goods Imported under IGDS (Box 17). You cannot claim the deferred import GST in your GST return²³.
- (c) If you had used MES/ other approved schemes to suspend the import GST, you need to account for the amount suspended on the transferred goods under Output Tax Due (Box 6) in your GST return for the accounting period in which the transfer of goods took place.

8.13 For transfers of goods that have undergone changes in nature or form after importation, you are required to seek approval from the Comptroller in writing before the transfer can take place without repayment of GST. You should provide in writing, details on:

- (a) the commercial circumstances leading to the change of agent and the change in nature or form of the goods; and
- (b) how you and the new agent ensure the traceability of the goods from the point of import, to transfer and the subsequent supply.

Waiver to issue tax invoices as a section 33(2) agent for supplies of imported goods from overseas principals to yourself

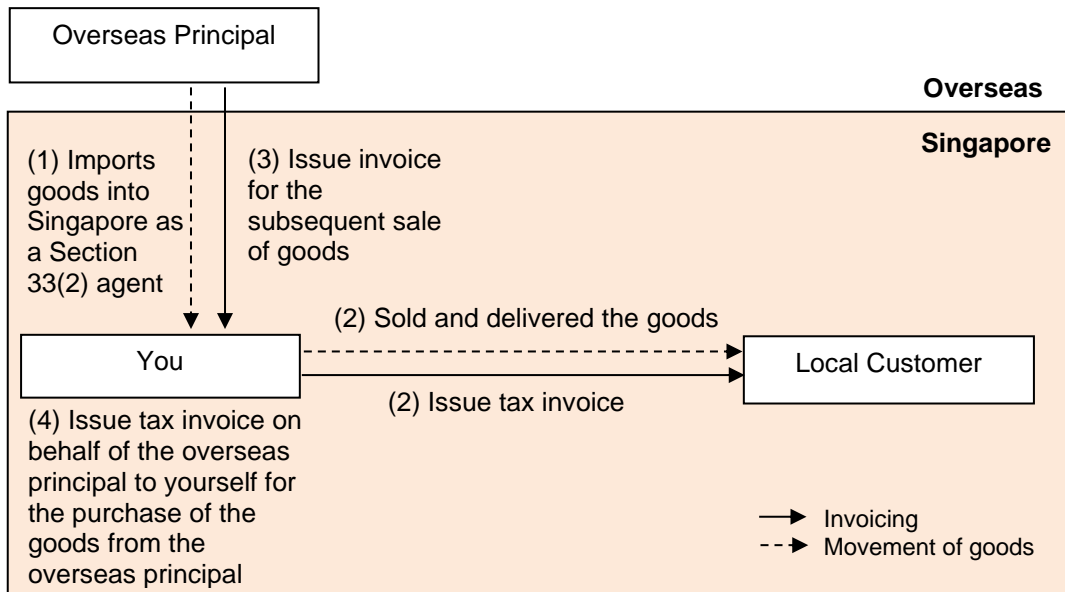
8.14 There may be situations where you may have dual roles: (i) as a section 33(2) agent importing goods belonging to the overseas principal and (ii) subsequently as a buyer of the imported goods from the overseas principal. A typical situation would be one where you purchased goods from an overseas principal on consignment basis.

8.15 Under the general invoicing requirements, as a section 33(2) agent, you are required to issue tax invoices on behalf of the overseas principal to yourself for the purchase of goods from the overseas principal (refer to (4) in the diagram). To ease compliance for businesses, the Comptroller has waived this requirement for you to issue tax invoices²⁴ on behalf of the overseas principal to yourself. However, you are still required to issue tax invoices for goods sold by you to your local customers (refer to (2) in the diagram).

(ii) The summation of non-GST amounts to adjust for each of the affected periods is not more than 5% of the Total Value of Supplies (Box 4) declared in the submitted GST return. In the case where there was no supply made in the affected period, the 5% rule will be applied to the total value of the taxable purchases.

²³ This scenario is applicable only in the situation where the import of goods and change of agent occur in the same accounting period. Where the events occur in different accounting periods, the adjustment required would follow that in paragraph 8.13(a).

²⁴ Under Regulation 10(1) of the GST (General) Regulations.



8.16 Although you do not need to issue the tax invoices on behalf of the overseas principal to yourself, you are still required to report the sale of the overseas principal's goods to you as your standard-rated supply and the corresponding output tax in your GST return, and concurrently report it as your taxable purchase and claim input tax. You are also required to comply with all other requirements of a section 33(2) agent.

Section 33A agent

8.17 If you import goods belonging to an overseas person and subsequently export the goods (but without a subsequent supply of the goods²⁵), you may claim the GST paid at importation on behalf of the overseas person (e.g. as an agent) under section 33A if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The overseas person must either be a non-GST registered person who do not belong in Singapore or a GST-registered person under the overseas vendor registration (OVR) pay-only regime²⁶;
- (b) The GST paid at importation is eligible for claim as input tax by the overseas person if the overseas person had been a taxable person in Singapore and had imported the goods himself;
- (c) You do not obtain reimbursement of the tax paid at importation. Hence, you must not obtain a reimbursement of the import GST paid from the overseas person nor add the import GST to your service fees to the overseas person;
- (d) The goods are imported for a qualifying purpose (see paragraph 8.19);

²⁵ As you do not import and subsequently supply the goods, you cannot claim the GST paid on importation as a section 33(2) agent.

²⁶ For more information on overseas vendor registration (OVR) pay-only regime, please refer to e-Tax Guide "[GST: Taxing imported services by way of an overseas vendor registration regime](http://www.iras.gov.sg)" at www.iras.gov.sg > Quick Links > e-Tax Guides

- (e) You retain control²⁷ over the goods during the period when they are in Singapore. If the goods undergo a treatment or process subsequent to the importation that changes their nature and form, you must be able to track the goods; and
- (f) You must ensure that the goods are exported (for purposes specified in paragraph 8.19 (a), (c), (d), (e) or (f)) or installed/ fitted onto a ship or aircraft (for purposes specified in paragraph 8.19 (b)) within 3 years or before you de-register from GST (whichever is the earlier).

8.18 If you are approved under MES/ IGDS or other approved schemes, you can use your scheme status to suspend or defer the GST on importation of goods belonging to an overseas person that satisfy the requirements stated in paragraph 8.17.

Qualifying purposes of importation

8.19 The goods must be imported for any of the following activities:

- (a) To be used as a tool or machinery for carrying a process or treatment on other goods that will be supplied to the overseas person;
- (b) In relation to goods that are parts or components to be installed or fitted onto a ship or an aircraft;
- (c) To be stored in or transit through Singapore;
- (d) To form the subject of any exhibition or convention;
- (e) To undergo a process or treatment; and
- (f) In relation to goods leased from the owner, the goods are imported for usage in Singapore.

8.20 After receiving possession of the goods upon importation, you must either:

- (i) Carry out the qualifying activities yourself; or
- (ii) Deliver the goods to a third party who carries out the qualifying activities and later receive the goods back from the third party. This usually happens if you are a freight forwarder or you outsource to a third party to carry out the qualifying purpose.

Reporting and record-keeping requirements

8.21 You are required to report such imports and the corresponding GST amount in the GST F5 return under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Input Tax and Refunds Claimed (Box 7) respectively.²⁸ If you are approved under a scheme with an import GST suspension feature²⁹, the import GST can be suspended. Nevertheless, you are still required to report such imports

²⁷ If you have oversight of the goods while they are in Singapore, you will be considered as having control over the goods although you may not physically possess the goods in your premises.

²⁸ For goods imported using IGDS, you should also declare the value of goods imported and the deferred import GST payable in the IGDS Section of your GST return.

²⁹ GST schemes with an import GST suspension feature are MES, A3PL, AISS, ACMT and ARCS.

under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Total Value of Goods Imported under MES/ other approved schemes (Box 9).

- 8.22 Subsequently, when you export these goods, you are required to report the export in your GST return under Total Value of Zero-rated Supplies (Box 2) in the GST return. You also must maintain the required export documentation³⁰.
- 8.23 You must maintain records of your own imports separately from the imports made on behalf of the overseas principal.

Implications for failure to satisfy the requirements and de-registration

- 8.24 There may be situations where you had claimed the import GST or had the import GST suspended or deferred on goods belonging to an overseas person but you fail to:
- carry out the qualifying purpose for which the goods are imported or;
 - receive the goods given to a third party to carry out the qualifying purpose (see paragraph 8.20) or;
 - export the goods or fit or install the goods onto a ship or an aircraft.
- 8.25 In the above situations (including the situation where you de-register from GST while the overseas person's goods are still in your custody and not exported), you can no longer act as a section 33A agent. You are required to repay the Comptroller the import GST claimed, suspended or deferred on the importation of those goods. To do so, you shall account for the amount under Output Tax Due (Box 6) in your GST return. If you have de-registered from GST, the amount should be accounted for under Output Tax Due (Box 6) in your last GST return (GST F8).
- 8.26 However, you are not required to repay the GST claimed or suspended on importation of goods in the following situations:
- (a) You disposed of the goods due to obsolescence or spoilage or on the instructions of the owner;
 - (b) The goods were lost or destroyed through fire, flood or theft;
 - (c) You supplied the goods on the instructions of the owner and you account for tax on the value of the supply; or
 - (d) You supplied the goods at an exhibition or convention and you account for tax on the value of the supply.³¹

Section 33(1) agent

³⁰ For more information on export documentation to be maintained, please refer to the e-Tax Guide "GST: Guide on Exports".

³¹ For situations (c) and (d), you are treated as a section 33(2) agent if you import and subsequently supply the goods on behalf of the overseas person. Hence, you are not required to repay the GST on importation which you have claimed/ suspended.

- 8.27 As a section 33(1) agent for a GST-registered overseas principal, you are responsible for GST obligations of the overseas principal, which include accounting of GST.
- 8.28 You should use the GST registration number of the overseas principal to charge and account for GST on taxable supplies made by the overseas principal.
- 8.29 For goods imported on behalf of the overseas principal, you will use your own Unique Entity Number (UEN) to import the goods. The “Importer” field on the import permit should show “(Your name as the section 33(1) agent) on behalf of (Name of overseas principal)”.
- 8.30 You have to report the goods imported on behalf of the GST-registered overseas principal and the corresponding input tax claims in the overseas principal’s GST returns.
- 8.31 If you are under Major Exporter Scheme, you are not allowed to use your MES status to import goods on behalf of your overseas principal who is GST-registered. The overseas principal should apply for MES in his name if he wishes to come under MES. Upon approval, you may use the overseas principal’s MES status to import goods belonging to the overseas principal into Singapore. You will use your UEN to import the goods. However, the “Importer” field on the import permit should show “(Your name as the section 33(1) agent) on behalf of (Name of overseas principal)”. You cannot use the overseas principal’s MES status for the importation of your goods.
- 8.32 If the GST-registered overseas principal is unable to use your UEN to import goods into Singapore because the goods to be imported are controlled goods (e.g. military goods, strategic control goods and etc.) and you do not have the necessary authorisation (advance notification, licence or certificate approval) from the relevant government agencies to import such goods, the non-section 33(1) agent importing the goods must obtain the necessary authorisation from the relevant government agencies³².
- 8.33 The non-section 33(1) agent must not claim the import GST in its GST returns. As the section 33(1) agent, you will continue to be responsible for the GST obligations of the overseas principal for the purpose of importing the controlled goods.
- 8.34 The overseas principal must also maintain the following documents to support that it has met the GST input tax conditions:
- i. Contracts/agreements;
 - ii. Supplier’s invoice
 - iii. Import permit;
 - iv. Evidence of payment of import GST by the GST-registered overseas principal;

³² For the list of authorisations required, please refer to Singapore Customs website www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/importing-goods/controlled-and-prohibited-goods-for-import.

- v. Transport and shipping documents of imports (e.g. packing list, bill of lading or airway bill etc.);
- vi. Appointment of non-section 33(1) agent as handling agent;
- vii. Documentation that the GST-registered overseas principal and you do not have the appropriate license; and
- viii. Declaration letter from non-section 33(1) agent that it will not claim the import GST in its GST returns.

8.35 In addition, if the overseas principal is GST-registered under the overseas vendor registration (OVR) pay-only regime, it can choose to appoint a Section 33(2) agent instead to import its goods into Singapore. In such a situation, you, as the section 33(1) agent, do not need to perform any import declaration or GST reporting for the overseas principal since these will be performed by the Section 33(2) agent instead.

9 Re-importing goods belonging to local persons or GST-registered overseas persons

9.1 With effect from 1 Jan 2015, you can also claim the full GST incurred on the re-import of goods belonging to your local customers or GST-registered overseas customers, which you have previously sent abroad for value-added activities. Examples of such value-added activities are testing, repair, assembly and manufacturing. This is provided for under section 33B and regulation 42B.

9.2 If you are approved under the Major Exporter Scheme (MES), Import GST Deferment Scheme (IGDS), Approved Contract Manufacturer and Trader (ACMT) Scheme as an ACMT CM or Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme (ARCS) as an Approved Refiner, you can use the import GST suspension/deferment privileges of the schemes to re-import the value-added goods without paying GST.

9.3 Please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST: Claiming of GST on re-import of value-added goods” for information on the eligibility conditions and requirements.

10 GST suspended at the point of importation

When will GST be suspended at the point of importation?

10.1 Import GST will be suspended in the following circumstances:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) Storage of goods in Free Trade Zones (FTZs) | } | Administered
by Singapore
Customs |
| (b) Storage of goods in Zero GST Warehouses and
Licensed Warehouses | | |
| (c) Importation of goods under Import Relief | } | Administered
by IRAS |
| (d) Importation of goods under Major Exporter Scheme (MES) | | |
| (e) Import GST Deferment Scheme (IGDS) | | |
| (f) Importation of goods under Approved Third Party Logistics
(3PL) Company Scheme | | |
| (g) Approved Contract Manufacturer and Trader
(ACMT) Scheme | | |
| (h) Approved Import GST Suspension Scheme (AISS) | | |
| (i) Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme (ARCS) | | |

Free Trade Zones (FTZs)

10.2 FTZs³³ are designated areas in Singapore where the payment of duties and taxes are suspended when the goods arrive in Singapore.

10.3 As the importer, you do not need to pay GST on goods that are imported and stored in FTZs. The payment is made only when goods leave the FTZs and enter customs territory for local consumption. However, GST payment will be suspended if the goods are moved into another FTZ, Zero-GST Warehouse or Licensed Warehouse. Similarly, no GST needs to be paid upon removal from FTZ if you operate under the following schemes:

- Major Exporter Scheme (MES);
- Approved Third Party Logistics Company Scheme (3PL);
- Approved Import GST Suspension Scheme (AISS);
- Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme (ARCS); or
- Import GST Deferment Scheme (IGDS).

10.4 If the overseas goods are removed from FTZ for export (e.g. transshipment), GST is not payable to Singapore Customs and the supply is regarded as out-of-scope. The same treatment applies if the overseas goods are supplied within the FTZ (e.g. the overseas goods remain within the FTZ although ownership of the goods has been transferred). However, if the overseas goods are used or consumed within FTZ, GST is payable to Singapore Customs.

10.5 For local goods that are removed from FTZ and re-enters customs territory, GST is payable to Singapore Customs unless relief has been granted by Singapore Customs. If the goods are supplied within FTZ, GST is chargeable and needs to be accounted for in the GST return as the supplies are standard-

³³ For the location of FTZs in Singapore, please visit Singapore Customs website www.customs.gov.sg.

rated. However, GST will not be chargeable in the following situations where the goods are:

- intended for export;
- for use or installation on a qualifying ship (whether by way of sale or lease)
- for use as stores or fuel on a qualifying aircraft or a non-qualifying ships; or
- merchandises for sale by retail on a qualifying aircraft or a non-qualifying ship³⁴.

- 10.6 Upon removal of the goods, you are required to report the value of goods released for local consumption and the GST paid in your GST return under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Input Tax and Refund Claims (Box 7) respectively. Subsequent sale of the goods in Singapore has to be accounted for in your GST return under Total Value of Standard-rated Supplies (Box 1) and Output Tax Due (Box 6).
- 10.7 For more details on the GST treatment of goods imported into, supplied in or removed from FTZs, please refer to our e-Tax Guide "GST Guide on Free Trade Zones, Warehouses and Excise Factories".

Zero GST (ZG) Warehouses and Licensed Warehouses

- 10.8 A ZG Warehouse is a designated area approved by Singapore Customs for storing imported non-dutiable goods with GST suspended. The ZG Warehouse may be located anywhere in Singapore. There are three types of licenses, namely Warehouse Type I, Type II and Type III, to cater to the different needs of companies.
- 10.9 A Licensed Warehouse is similar to a ZG Warehouse. It is a designated area approved by Singapore Customs for storing dutiable goods, with duty and GST suspended.
- 10.10 GST and Customs duty are temporarily suspended when dutiable goods such as liquor, tobacco products, motor vehicles and petroleum products are imported and directly stored into a Licensed Warehouse.
- 10.11 For goods imported and stored directly into ZG or Licensed Warehouses, you are still required to report the import value of the goods in Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) of the GST return, even though the GST is suspended.
- 10.12 If the goods are removed from ZG or Licensed Warehouses for local consumption, GST and/ or duty have to be paid to Singapore Customs via an import permit. Upon removal of the goods, you are required to report the value of goods released for local consumption and the GST paid in your GST return, again (first being upon importation), under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5) and Input Tax and Refund Claims (Box 7) respectively. Subsequent

³⁴ Please refer to the e-Tax Guides "GST Guide for the Marine Industry" and "GST Guide for the Aerospace Industry" for the definition of 'qualifying ship' and 'qualifying aircraft'. Information on zero-rating is also provided in the e-Tax Guides.

sale of the goods in Singapore has to be accounted for in your GST return under Total Value of Standard-rated Supplies (Box 1) and Output Tax Due (Box 6).

- 10.13 If the goods are removed and directly exported from ZG or Licensed Warehouses, you are required to report the export value of the goods in your GST return under Total Value of Zero-rated Supplies (Box 2).
- 10.14 For more details on the GST treatment of goods imported into, supplied in or removed from ZG or Licensed Warehouses, please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST Guide on Free Trade Zones, Warehouses and Excise Factories”.

Import relief

- 10.15 GST relief may be granted under the GST (Imports Relief) Order 1994, on the importation of certain types of goods subject to conditions and documentation requirements being met. Where the relief is granted, no GST is payable on the import of goods.
- 10.16 Where investment precious metals are imported together with other goods, the value of the investment precious metals should be disregarded when determining whether the value of the import is below an import relief threshold.
- 10.17 Some common scenarios are as follows:
- (a) Goods, excluding intoxicating liquors and tobacco, imported by air or by post to a total value not exceeding S\$400. Where the value exceeds S\$400³⁵, the entire sum would be subject to GST.
 - (b) Goods excluding intoxicating liquors and tobacco, temporarily imported (e.g. to be re-exported within 3 months from the date of importation) for approved purposes such as exhibitions, auctions, fairs, repairs, and stage performances. GST is payable if the goods are sold, disposed of or transferred locally.
 - (c) Goods temporarily exported (with an appropriate export permit) and re-imported into Singapore within a specific period.
- 10.18 Import relief is administered by Singapore Customs. For import relief such as those mentioned in 10.17 (a) to (c), you are required to apply for import relief through Singapore Customs before the arrival of goods into Singapore or the export of the goods from Singapore. For qualifying conditions, application procedures and documentation requirements, please contact Singapore Customs.
- 10.19 If you did not apply for the relief before the arrival of goods into Singapore, you would have to pay the import GST. In such a situation, you are allowed

³⁵ With effect from 1 Oct 2012, if IPM is imported together with other goods by air or by post, the value of IPM should be disregarded when determining whether the value of your import exceeds the import relief threshold of \$400.

to claim input tax incurred in your GST return, subject to all input tax claim conditions being satisfied.

- 10.20 For goods imported under import relief, although no GST is paid, you are still required to report the import value of the goods in your GST F5 return, under Total Value of Taxable Purchases (Box 5).

Major Exporter Scheme (MES)

- 10.21 MES is a scheme that suspends the payment of GST at the point of importation of goods. Businesses under the MES scheme can import non-dutiable goods without paying GST to Singapore Customs.
- 10.22 If you import goods and export a high percentage of the imported goods, you may face cash flow problem as import GST is payable upfront but is only claimable in the relevant accounting period subject to the input tax claim conditions (Please refer to paragraph 6.1). This scheme helps to alleviate the cash flow problem.
- 10.23 In order to qualify for the MES, your zero-rated supplies must account for more than 50% of the total supplies³⁶ or the value of the zero-rated supplies must be more than S\$10 million for the past 12 months³⁷. You must also satisfy all the other qualifying conditions.
- 10.24 If you are approved under MES, you can use your MES status to:
- (a) import your own goods in the course or furtherance of your business;
 - (b) import goods belonging to an overseas principal for sale in Singapore or re-export in the capacity of a GST agent under section 33(2) or section 33A of the GST Act;
 - (c) With effect from 1 Jan 2015 re-import goods belonging to a local customer or GST-registered overseas customer, which you previously sent abroad for value-added activities, under section 33B.
- 10.25 Under MES, you are required to put in place controls and measures to ensure that the value of goods imported using your MES status are declared accurately. For guidelines to rectify errors made on the declaration of ME permits, please refer to paragraphs 7.4, 7.6 and 7.9.

³⁶ The value of total supplies should exclude (i) supplies received under customer accounting, (ii) imported services subject to reverse charge and (iii) digital services supplied by an electronic marketplace operator on behalf of third-party suppliers

³⁷ The relevant period for calculating the value of supply will be the immediate past financial year or any 12 continuous months within the past 18 calendar months.

- 10.26 Under MES, if you engage the Air Express Companies (i.e. TNT Express Worldwide (S) Pte Ltd³⁸, Federal Express (S) Pte Ltd, United Parcel Service Singapore Pte Ltd or DHL Express (Singapore) Pte Ltd), you will receive an **Inward Summary report** stating the details of imports belonging to you on a periodic basis. Alternatively, these companies may issue subsidiary import certificate to you. You may use the Inward Summary report/subsidiary import certificate to declare your MES imports in your GST F5 returns.
- 10.27 For full details of the scheme, please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST: Major Exporter Scheme”.

Import GST Deferment Scheme (IGDS)

- The Import GST Deferment Scheme (IGDS) was implemented to ease the import GST cash flow for GST-registered businesses arising from the time lapse between the payment and claiming of import GST
- 10.28 IGDS allows an approved business to defer the payment of import GST until the submission of the GST return for the prescribed accounting period. This scheme is not applicable to Customs or Excise Duties, which remain payable upfront at the point of importation.
- 10.29 IGDS will apply to both dutiable and non-dutiable goods under the following circumstances:
- (a) Direct imports into Singapore
 - (b) Imported goods released from Zero-GST/Licensed warehouses for local consumption
 - (c) Local goods released from Excise Factory where a supply has taken place prior to the release
- 10.30 You need to self-assess that you satisfy all the qualifying conditions before applying for the IGDS.
- 10.31 If you are an approved IGDS business, you will account for the deferred import GST in the period the import GST is payable. You can also claim the import GST as input tax in the same period provided you satisfy the input tax conditions listed in paragraph 6.1.
- 10.32 For more information on the scheme, please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST: Import GST Deferment Scheme”.

Other industry specific import suspension schemes

- 10.33 There are other schemes that may be applicable to you if you are in the logistics, contract manufacturing, aviation or precious metal refining industries. Please see below for a summary of these schemes.

Approved Third Party Logistics (3PL) Company Scheme

³⁸ TNT Express Worldwide (S) Pte Ltd has been amalgamated with Federal Express (S) Pte Ltd with effect from 1 Oct 2021.

- 10.34 The Approved 3PL Company Scheme caters to GST-registered logistics companies providing value-added activities for their overseas principals in the capacity of a section 33(2) agent. This scheme enhances the competitiveness of an Approved 3PL company by allowing it to:
- (a) Import goods belonging to itself or its overseas principals without GST payment upon importation.
 - (b) Move the goods to its customers or the customers of its overseas principals who are approved MES traders or to other approved 3PL companies without having to charge GST.
 - (c) Remove goods belonging to itself and its overseas principals from a Zero GST warehouse without paying GST.
- 10.35 For more information on the scheme, please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST: Approved Third Party Logistics Company Scheme”.

Approved Contract Manufacturer and Trader Scheme (ACMT)

- 10.36 The ACMT Scheme is a scheme designed to relieve businesses that have substantial business with non-GST registered overseas customers (e.g. local contract manufacturers) of the need to account for GST on value-added activities performed on the goods of such customers. This scheme is available to contract manufacturers in the semi-conductor, printing industries and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in the biomedical industry.
- 10.37 ACMT businesses can disregard the supply of value-added service (e.g. processing, assembly and testing services) to their non-GST registered overseas client if the goods they have treated/ processed are:
- exported;
 - delivered to another ACMT person; or
 - delivered to the final customer of the overseas client.
- Consequently, no GST is chargeable on the fees charged to their overseas client.
- 10.38 ACMT businesses can enjoy import GST suspension for the following scenarios:
- Importation of own goods in the course or furtherance of its business;
 - Importation of goods if it is selling the goods in the capacity as a local agent of an overseas person;
 - Importation of goods if it is exporting the goods (e.g. back to the overseas person) and satisfy other requirements for section 33A agent in paragraph 8.18; and
 - Importation of goods (for example, raw materials) consigned to it by its overseas client on which value-added activities are performed under the ACMT scheme.
 - From 1 Jan 2015, re-importation of goods belonging to a local client or GST-registered overseas client, which were previously sent abroad for value-added activities, under section 33B.

- 10.39 For more information on how the ACMT scheme works and GST reporting requirements, please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST: Approved Contract Manufacturer and Trader (ACMT) Scheme”.

Approved Import GST Suspension Scheme (AISS)

- 10.40 This scheme is designed to alleviate the cash flow of businesses in the Aerospace industry.
- 10.41 AISS will allow approved GST-registered businesses in the Aerospace industry to:
- Import goods into Singapore with GST suspended
 - Remove qualifying aircraft parts from Airport Logistics Park of Singapore (ALPS) or other Free Trade Zones (FTZ) with GST suspended. This is regardless of the origin of the qualifying aircraft parts. They can be new imports, locally manufactured or purchased goods or goods that were previously imported into Singapore.
- 10.42 For more information on the scheme, please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST Guide for the Aerospace Industry”.

Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme (ARCS)

- 10.43 This scheme was announced in the 2012 Budget Statement as a measure to ease cash flow and compliance of qualifying refiners and consolidators of investment precious metals in their payment of GST on import and purchase of raw materials.
- 10.44 An Approved Refiner can enjoy import GST suspension for its own goods, goods belonging to an overseas person in its capacity as a section 33(2) or section 33A agent and goods consigned to it by its overseas customer for refining into investment precious metals or precious metals.
- 10.45 From 1 Jan 2015, an Approved Refiner can also enjoy GST suspension on its re-import of goods belonging to a local customer or GST-registered overseas customer, which were previously sent abroad for value-added activities, under section 33B.
- 10.46 An Approved Consolidator can enjoy import GST suspension for its own goods or goods consigned to it by an overseas customer, for the purpose of refining into investment precious metals or precious metals.
- 10.47 For more information on the scheme and how to report goods imported under the scheme, please refer to our e-Tax Guide “GST: Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme (ARCS)”.

11 Contact information

11.1 For enquiries on this e-Tax Guide, please contact us via:

- myTax Mail at mytax.iras.gov.sg, if you are GST registered, or
- www.iras.gov.sg > Contact Us > Goods & Services Tax (GST) > General GST enquiries, if you are not GST registered.

You may also chat with us using live chat from 8am to 5pm on weekdays, via www.iras.gov.sg > Contact Us > Goods & Services Tax (GST) > Chat With Us.

12 Updates and amendments

	Date of amendment	Amendments made
1	29 Nov 2013	(i) Editorial changes to the guide (ii) Inserted paragraphs 8.10 to 8.14
2	22 Dec 2014	(i) Editorial changes to the guide (ii) Inserted paragraphs 9.1 to 9.3, 10.24(c) and 10.46 (iii) Inserted additional point in paragraph 10.39
3	17 Jun 2015 and 13 Jul 2015	(i) Editorial changes to the guide (ii) Inserted paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8 including Examples 1 and 2 (iii) Inserted paragraphs 8.15 to 8.17
4	11 Feb 2016	(i) Replace “GST Guide on the Marine Industry-2010 Budget Changes” in footnote 32 with new “GST Guide for the Marine Industry”.
5	22 Oct 2019	(i) Amended paragraphs 3.4, 3.6, 8.1, and 8.17 and inserted paragraph 8.36 to explain application of Section 33(2) for overseas persons registered under overseas vendor registration (OVR) pay-only regime (ii) Inserted footnote 34 to clarify definition of ‘total supplies’ for MES purpose (iii) Deleted paragraph 8.3 on outdated rules relating to Section 33(2) agent (iv) Other editorial changes
6	20 Jan 2021	(i) Amended paragraphs 8.32 and 8.33 to remove the requirement for overseas principal to obtain approval from Singapore Customs and to ensure that the non-section 33(1) agent has the necessary authorisation from relevant government agencies (ii) Inserted footnote 31 to provide the link to Singapore Customs website for list of authorisations (iii) Inserted paragraph 8.33 to be clear that the non-Section 33(1) agent cannot claim the import GST

		and the Section 33(1) agent is still responsible for the GST obligations of the overseas principal (iv) Editorial changes to paragraph 8.34
7	11 Nov 2021	(i) Inserted footnote 9 on TNT Express Worldwide (S) Pte Ltd on the amalgamation (ii) Amended paragraph 10.26 and inserted footnote 38 on TNT Express Worldwide (S) Pte Ltd on the amalgamation
8	15 Aug 2022	(i) Amended paragraph 4.1 and 4.2 on the import of low-value goods and non-digital services (ii) Inserted paragraph 5.5 on the supply of low-value goods
9	13 Oct 2022	(i) Amended paragraphs 6.1 and 8.34 to include additional documents required to support claiming import GST
10	1 Jan 2023	Updated the GST rate from 7% to 8%
11	1 Jan 2024	Updated the GST rate from 8% to 9%