

# IRAS e-Tax Guide



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Investment Precious Metals (IPM)  
(Twentieth Edition)

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## 1 Aim

- 1.1 This e-Tax Guide provides details on the GST exemption of investment gold, silver and platinum. It is relevant to businesses that trade in physical gold, silver and platinum (hereinafter referred to as “**precious metals**”).
- 1.2 This guide covers the following:
  - a) Definition of Investment precious metals (hereinafter referred to as “**IPM**”);
  - b) GST treatment for the importation and supply of IPM;
  - c) Claiming of input tax incurred for precious metals trading businesses; and
  - d) GST reporting for the importation, purchase and supply of IPM.

## 2 At a glance

- 2.1 The importation and local supply of IPM are exempt from GST<sup>1</sup> while the supply of IPM exported from Singapore is zero-rated.
- 2.2 Only precious metals in the form of a bar, ingot, wafer and coin which meet certain criteria can qualify as IPM. To provide certainty, precious metal coins that qualify as IPM are prescribed in the GST Act.
- 2.3 Precious metals which do not meet the criteria cannot qualify as IPM (hereinafter referred to as “**non-IPM**”) and the supply of non-IPM continues to be taxable<sup>2</sup>. Examples of non-IPM are jewelry, scrap precious metals, numismatic coins and precious metals which are refined by refiners who are not on the ‘Good Delivery’ list of the London Bullion Market Association or the London Platinum and Palladium Market.
- 2.4 To provide clarity to your customers and to differentiate exempt supplies of IPM from taxable supplies of non-IPM, you are required to issue an invoice with specific information for an exempt supply of IPM.
- 2.5 You need to attribute and apportion your input tax incurred to make exempt supplies of IPM. Under the normal input tax claiming rules, the input tax directly attributable to an exempt sale of IPM is not claimable and only the portion of the residual input tax (e.g. office rental, utilities) that is attributable to the making of taxable supplies is claimable.

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<sup>1</sup> The exemption of IPM was announced in 2012 Budget Statement and took effect from 1 Oct 2012. The change was made in recognition that IPM are essentially financial assets like other actively traded financial instruments such as stocks and bonds, the supplies of which are GST-exempt, as well as to facilitate the development of IPM refining and trading in Singapore.

<sup>2</sup> The GST rate has been increased from 7% to 8% with effect from 1 Jan 2023 and from 8% to 9% with effect from 1 Jan 2024.

### Reverse charge

- 2.6 From 1 Jan 2020, if the business is GST-registered<sup>3</sup> and procures services from overseas suppliers (“imported services”), the business may be subject to reverse charge if it is not entitled to full input tax credit or if it belongs to a GST group that is not entitled to full input tax credit.
- 2.7 From 1 Jan 2023, a GST-registered business who is subject to reverse charge<sup>4</sup> should perform reverse charge on the imports of low-value goods (“LVG”<sup>5</sup>). The requirement to perform reverse charge applies to all LVG and includes LVG purchased from local and overseas suppliers, electronic marketplaces and redeliverers, regardless of whether they are GST-registered or not.
- 2.8 The application of reverse charge will mean that the business has to account for GST on the imported services or LVG<sup>6</sup> as if it is the supplier, except for certain services or LVG<sup>5</sup> which are specifically excluded from the scope of the reverse charge. It will also be entitled to claim the corresponding GST as its input tax, subject to the normal input tax recovery rules.
- 2.9 For more details on the scope of reverse charge, please refer to the e-Tax guide “GST: Reverse Charge”.

## **3 Investment precious metals**

- 3.1 Precious metals in the form of a bar, ingot, wafer or coin that meet certain criteria, can qualify as IPM. The importation and local supply of IPM are GST-exempt<sup>7</sup>.

### Criteria for IPM bar, ingot and wafer

- 3.2 To qualify for GST exemption, the precious metal **must meet all** of the following criteria<sup>8</sup>:

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<sup>3</sup> Non-GST registered persons that procure services from overseas suppliers exceeding S\$1 million in a 12-month period and not entitled to full input tax credit when GST-registered, will become liable for GST registration and will be required to apply reverse charge and account for GST on their imported services.

<sup>4</sup> From 1 Jan 2023, a non-GST registered business will become liable for GST registration, if the total value of its imported services and low-value goods for a 12-month period exceeds S\$1 million, and the business would not be entitled to full input tax credit even if it were GST-registered.

Once registered for GST, the business will be required to account for GST on its taxable supplies, its imported services and low-value goods which are subject to reverse charge.

<sup>5</sup> For definition of LVG, please refer to the e-Tax Guide GST: Taxing imported low-value goods by way of the overseas vendor registration regime.

<sup>6</sup> i.e. with effect from 1 Jan 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Paragraph 1A of Part 1 of the Fourth Schedule to the GST Act.

<sup>8</sup> Paragraph 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and paragraph 1A of Part 2 and paragraph 2 of Part 3 of the Fourth Schedule to the GST Act.

- (a) It is gold of at least 99.5% purity, silver of at least 99.9% purity or platinum of at least 99% purity.
- (b) It is capable of being traded on the international bullion market.

A precious metal bar, ingot or wafer refined by a refiner with the following accreditation/ endorsement is regarded as meeting this criterion:

- (i) For gold and silver, a refiner in the current or former ‘Good Delivery’ list of the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)<sup>9</sup>;
- (ii) For platinum, a refiner in the current or former ‘Good Delivery’ list of the London Platinum & Palladium Market (LPPM)<sup>10</sup>; or
- (iii) A refiner which intends to be in the ‘Good Delivery’ list of the LBMA (for gold and silver) or LPPM (for platinum) and is endorsed by the Enterprise Singapore. A refiner which intends to or has set up its refining business in Singapore may contact Enterprise Singapore regarding the endorsement on 68981800 or [enquiry@enterprisesg.gov.sg](mailto:enquiry@enterprisesg.gov.sg). The names of Refiners with Enterprise Singapore’s endorsement will be published on IRAS’ website<sup>11</sup>.

Precious metals produced by refiners with LBMA or LPPM accreditation are widely recognised by the industry as having the requisite quality to be traded on international bullion markets. They are also readily accepted for delivery on many international commodities exchanges. Hence, the two accreditations form the basis for the criterion of “capable of being traded on the international bullion market”.

- (c) It bears a mark or characteristic that is internationally accepted as guaranteeing its quality.

An example of such a mark is the hallmark of a refiner in the ‘Good Delivery’ list of the LBMA/ LPPM stamped on the bar, ingot or wafer. In addition to the hallmark of the refiner, some bars may also bear the name of specific banks (e.g. Credit Suisse, UBS, Commerzbank, Scotiabank). These bars are commonly known as bank-branded bars and if produced by LBMA or LPPM accredited refiners would qualify for GST exemption.

- (d) It is not a decorative bar, ingot or wafer or a collector’s bar, ingot or wafer.

This criterion replaces the previous criterion that the precious metal should be traded at a price based on the spot price of its precious metal

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<sup>9</sup> Please refer to LBMA’s website for its ‘Good Delivery’ list of gold and silver refiners at <https://www.lbma.org.uk/good-delivery/gold-current-list#->.

<sup>10</sup> Please refer to LPPM’s website for its ‘Good Delivery’ list of platinum refiners. The list can be found at <https://www.lppm.com/platinum-list/>.

<sup>11</sup> Please refer to <https://www.iras.gov.sg> > Taxes > Goods & Services Tax (GST) > Charging GST (Output Tax) > When is GST not charged > Supplies Exempt from GST.

content (“spot price criterion”)<sup>12</sup>. The spot price criterion was intended to ensure that only bars, ingots and wafers traded largely for their precious metal content enjoy GST exemption. Bars, ingots and wafers which are traded based on their rarity or numismatic characteristics are not exempt. However, as most bars, ingots and wafers are sold at a premium (i.e. above the spot price), it is difficult to apply the spot price criterion to determine whether the precious metals are being traded for their metal content or because of their rarity, aesthetic features or numismatic value. Hence, the revised criterion gives clarity by stating upfront that decorative and collector’s bars, ingots or wafers are excluded from GST exemption. Decorative and collector’s bars, ingots or wafers are traded at a premium reflective of their rarity, aesthetic or numismatic value in addition to their metal content.

Such bars, ingots or wafers are also not in the form ordinarily accepted by the international bullion markets for trading (i.e. they would not satisfy criterion (d)). Some examples of non-qualifying bars, ingots or wafers are<sup>13</sup>:

- Bars, ingots or wafers with a hanger or hole (for wearing as a pendant)
- Odd-shaped bars, ingots or wafers (e.g. boat shape, animal shape, heart-shaped)<sup>14</sup>

#### How to determine if a precious metal bar, ingot or wafer qualifies as IPM

3.3 You can assess whether a precious metal bar, ingot or wafer meets criteria (a) and (b) in paragraph 3.2 by examining the physical precious metal. Typically, the following details will be reflected on the surface of the precious metal:

- (a) the name of the refiner and/or the refiner’s hallmark;
- (b) the purity of the precious metal; and
- (c) the type of precious metal (e.g. gold, silver or platinum).

3.4 Hence, before treating a supply of precious metal as an exempt supply of IPM, you must ensure that:

- (a) the name of the refiner or the refiner’s hallmark reflected on the precious metal belongs to a refiner in the current or former ‘Good Delivery’ list of the LBMA/ LPPM or a refiner which has been endorsed by Enterprise Singapore; **and**
- (b) the purity reflected on the precious metal meets the minimum required purity content.

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<sup>12</sup> Amended with effect from 1 Sep 2016.

<sup>13</sup> These are examples of bars, ingots or wafers that do not qualify as IPM since inception i.e. 1 Oct 2012.

<sup>14</sup> In contrast, standard investment bullion bars, ingots or wafers normally come in rectangular, trapezoidal, square and round shapes.

3.5 Precious metals which are produced by LBMA/ LPPM accredited refiners or refiners endorsed by Enterprise Singapore with additional aesthetic features as described in paragraph 3.2(d) above do not qualify as IPM. This is because the price at which these precious metals are traded are influenced by other attributes such as their design, rarity or finishing, other than the precious metal content. Hence, these precious metals will not be regarded as having all the investment characteristics as stated in paragraph 3.2; accordingly, the importation and supply of such non-IPM will continue to be taxable.

3.6 The PAMP Suisse Fortuna Bar, the PAMP Suisse Lunar Series Bar (bar featuring the design of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac) and the Argor-Heraeus Gold KineBar qualify as IPM as they are accepted by international bullion markets for trading and their trading prices are based on their precious metal contents and not influenced by their designs.

Criteria for IPM coin

3.7 IPM coin is exempt based on criteria similar to those for IPM bar, ingot and wafer. Coins that qualify for GST exemption must be gold of at least 99.5% purity, silver of at least 99.9% purity or platinum of at least 99% purity; and is or was a legal tender in its country of origin.

3.8 To provide certainty to businesses, coins (excluding the proof, numismatic or collector's version) that qualify as IPM are prescribed under the Fourth Schedule to the GST Act<sup>15</sup>. They are<sup>16</sup>:

(a) List of qualifying gold coins

- (i) America Buffalo
- (ii) Australia Kangaroo Nugget
- (iii) Australia Lunar
- (iv) Austria Philharmonic<sup>17</sup>
- (v) Canada Maple Leaf
- (vi) China Panda
- (vii) Malaysia Kijang Emas
- (viii) Mexico Libertad
- (ix) Singapore Lion<sup>18</sup>
- (x) United Kingdom Britannia<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Paragraph 1(d), 1(e), 1(f) and paragraph 2 of Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the GST Act.

<sup>16</sup> Refer to Appendix C for the list of coins released under the prescribed IPM coin series.

<sup>17</sup> Renamed from "Austria Philharmoniker" to "Austria Philharmonic" with effect from 1 Sep 2016.

<sup>18</sup> Singapore Lion coins are minted by The Singapore Mint.

<sup>19</sup> United Kingdom Britannia gold coins minted from year 2013 onwards satisfy the minimum gold purity content of 99.5%. These coins are exempt from GST with effect from 1 Apr 2013 by way of remission under section 89(2) of the GST Act. On the presumption that the United Kingdom Britannia Oriental

- (xi) Canada Call of the Wild series
- (xii) United Kingdom Lunar (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xiii) United Kingdom The Queen's Beasts series (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xiv) Australia RAM Kangaroo (*wef 23 May 2018*)
- (xv) Australia Dragon Rectangular (*wef 1 Sep 2019*)
- (xvi) United Kingdom Royal Arms (*wef 1 Sep 2019*)
- (xvii) United Kingdom Myths and Legends series (*wef 23 Jun 2023*)
- (xviii) United Kingdom The Royal Tudor Beasts series (*wef 23 Jun 2023*)

(b) List of qualifying **silver** coins

- (i) America Eagle
- (ii) Australia Kookaburra
- (iii) Australia Koala
- (iv) Australia Lunar
- (v) Austria Philharmonic<sup>17</sup>
- (vi) Canada Maple Leaf
- (vii) China Panda
- (viii) Mexico Libertad
- (ix) United Kingdom Britannia<sup>20</sup>
- (x) Armenia Noah's Ark (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xi) Australia Kangaroo (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xii) Australia Saltwater Crocodile (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xiii) Canada Birds of Prey series (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xiv) Canada Wildlife series (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xv) United Kingdom Lunar (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xvi) United Kingdom The Queen's Beasts series (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (xvii) Australia Funnel-Web Spider (*wef 23 May 2018*)
- (xviii) Canada Superman™ S-Shield (*wef 23 May 2018*)

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Border gold bullion coin comes under, and has the same coin specification as the United Kingdom Britannia range of gold coins, the United Kingdom Britannia Oriental Border gold bullion coin would similarly be exempt from GST.

<sup>20</sup> United Kingdom Britannia silver coins minted from year 2013 onwards satisfy the minimum silver purity content of 99.9%. These coins are exempt from GST with effect from 1 Apr 2013 by way of remission under section 89(2) of the GST Act. On the presumption that the United Kingdom Britannia Oriental Border silver bullion coin comes under, and has the same coin specification as the United Kingdom Britannia range of silver coins, the United Kingdom Britannia Oriental Border silver bullion coin is similarly exempt from GST.

- (xix) Canada Tree of Life (*wef 23 May 2018*)
- (xx) South Africa Krugerrand (*wef 17 Jan 2019*)
- (xxi) Australia Dragon Rectangular (*wef 1 Sep 2019*)
- (xxii) United Kingdom Royal Arms (*wef 1 Sep 2019*)
- (xxiii) Canada Creatures of the North series (*wef 6 Aug 2021*)
- (xxiv) Canada Goose (*wef 6 Aug 2021*)
- (xxv) United Kingdom Myths and Legends series (*wef 23 Jun 2023*)
- (xxvi) United Kingdom The Royal Tudor Beasts series (*wef 23 Jun 2023*)

(c) List of qualifying platinum coins

- (i) America Eagle
- (ii) Australia Koala
- (iii) Australia Platypus
- (iv) Canada Maple Leaf
- (v) Austria Philharmonic (*wef 1 Sep 2016*)
- (vi) United Kingdom Britannia (*wef 23 May 2018*)
- (vii) United Kingdom Lunar (*wef 23 May 2018*)
- (viii) United Kingdom The Queen's Beasts series (*wef 23 May 2018*)
- (ix) Australia Kangaroo (*wef 1 Sep 2019*)
- (x) Australia Lunar (*wef 1 Sep 2019*)
- (xi) United Kingdom Royal Arms (*wef 6 Aug 2021*)
- (xii) South Africa Big Five series (*wef 6 Aug 2021*)
- (xiii) United Kingdom The Royal Tudor Beasts series (*wef 23 Jun 2023*)

3.9 Proof, numismatic and collector's versions of coins in the prescribed list (e.g. Singapore Lion gold proof coins and Canada Call of the Wild gold proof coins) will not qualify as IPM and thus, are not exempt from GST. Proof, numismatic and collector's coins are traded at prices largely determined by their rarity, finishing and beauty instead of the precious metals they contain. The importation and supply of such non-IPM coins are taxable.

#### **4 Importation of investment precious metals**

4.1 The importation of IPM into Singapore is exempt from payment of import GST (i.e. an 'exempt import')<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> Section 8(4) and section 22(1A) of the GST Act.

Permit requirements for importation of IPM

4.2 Notwithstanding that the importation of IPM is exempt from payment of import GST, you are required to take up an Exemption permit via TradeNet® for the importation of IPM and take note of the following requirements:

Permits details	Information / requirements
Message Type	In-Non-Payment (INP)
Declaration Type	GST Relief and/or Duty Exemption (GTR)
Place of receipt code	IGPM
HS Code	To declare HS Code/s of the IPM.
CA/CS Product Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For IPM bar, ingot or wafer, to declare 'Bar', 'Ingot' or 'Wafer' respectively;</li> <li>For IPM coin, to declare 'Goldcoin', 'Silvercoin' or 'Platinumcoin' accordingly.</li> </ul>
Supplier Name	For IPM bar, ingot or wafer, to declare name of the refiner who produced the IPM bar, ingot or wafer.
Brand Name	For IPM coin, to declare name of the coin in accordance with the list in paragraph 3.8, e.g. Canada Maple Leaf.
CA/SC Code 1	To declare purity content of the IPM. There is no need to indicate the unit of measurement (i.e. %). For example, a purity content of 99.8% should be declared as 99.8.

4.3 Failure to declare import permit for importation of IPM or wrong declaration of taxable imports as exempt imports is an offence and will attract penalties. For more information on exemption of GST on importation of IPM, please refer to Singapore Customs' website<sup>22</sup>.

4.4 Businesses under the Major Exporter Scheme (MES) should not declare ME permit for importation of IPM<sup>23</sup>. As highlighted in paragraph 4.2, an Exemption permit should be taken up for the import of IPM. Further, as MES is meant for the importation of goods which will be used for the making of taxable supplies, you should also not use MES to import materials which are for refining into IPM since such imports will be used to make exempt supplies of IPM locally or outside Singapore which would be exempt supplies if made in Singapore.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/importing-goods/import-procedures/importing-investment-precious-metals-ipms>

<sup>23</sup> The same also applies to Approved Third Party Logistics Company Scheme, Approved Contract Manufacturer and Trader Scheme and Approved Import GST Suspension Scheme.

### Erroneous payment of GST

4.5 A GST-registered business who has erroneously declared a payment permit and paid GST for an importation of IPM may write in to IRAS (the Comptroller of GST), with supporting documents to prove that the imports are in fact IPM, to seek a refund of the GST erroneously paid. Upon approval, the GST-registered business can claim the refund in its next GST F5 return by reporting the amount as input tax in Box 7 “Input tax and refunds claimed”.

## **5 Supply of investment precious metals**

5.1 A local sale of IPM (i.e. a supply of IPM where the IPM is delivered in Singapore) is an exempt supply.

5.2 An export sale of IPM (i.e. a supply of IPM that is exported from Singapore) is a zero-rated<sup>24</sup> supply. You are required to maintain the relevant export documents to support the export of IPM. Please refer to the e-Tax Guide “GST: Guide on Exports” for the list of documents to maintain.

5.3 A sale of IPM which is located outside Singapore continues to be an out-of-scope supply. You do not need to charge GST on the supply made.

### Determining the time of supply of IPM made in Singapore

5.4 Generally, the time of supply of goods is the earlier of invoice issued or consideration received. Therefore, you are required to report in your GST return your supply of IPM made in Singapore at the earlier of when you issue an invoice or receive consideration in respect of the supply.

### Invoicing requirements for an exempt supply of IPM

5.5 There is a wide range of precious metal products in the market and many cannot qualify as IPM even though the suppliers or customers may perceive them to be of “investment” in nature. To provide clarity to the customers and to differentiate exempt supplies of IPM from taxable supplies of non-IPM, you are required to issue an invoice which contains all the following information for an exempt supply of IPM<sup>25</sup>:

- (i) An identifying number
- (ii) Date of issue of the invoice
- (iii) Name, address and registration number of the supplier
- (iv) Name and address of the customer

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<sup>24</sup> Section 21(2) of the GST Act provides for zero-rating (e.g. when goods are exported) to override exemption.

<sup>25</sup> Regulation 13A of the GST (General) Regulations.

(v) A description of the IPM supplied –

For each IPM bar, ingot or wafer

- Type of precious metal (*gold, silver or platinum*)
- Weight
- Purity
- Name of refiner (e.g. *Metalor Technologies SA*)
- Unique serial number (where applicable)
- Unit price

For each IPM coin

- Type of precious metal (*gold, silver or platinum*)
- Name of coin (e.g. *Canada Maple Leaf coin*)
- Weight
- Unit price

(vi) Quantity of IPM supplied

(vii) Total amount payable

5.6 The invoice should be issued within 30 days of the time of supply of IPM. You are required to maintain the invoice to support the exempt supply made. Please refer to Appendix A for a sample invoice of an exempt supply of IPM.

## **6      Claiming of Input Tax**

6.1 Generally, a GST-registered business can only claim input tax incurred in the course or furtherance of its business to the extent that the input tax is incurred for the making of taxable supplies (i.e. standard-rated and zero-rated supplies). The input tax incurred for the making of exempt supplies is not claimable. If the input tax is incurred for the overall operation of the business (e.g. office rental and utilities) or incurred for the making of both taxable and exempt supplies, only a portion of the input tax is claimable and this is calculated based on the percentage of taxable supplies over total supplies.

6.2 Therefore, if you make both taxable supplies (e.g. sale of non-IPM or export of IPM) and exempt supplies of local sale of IPM, you will need to attribute and apportion the input tax claim like other partially exempt businesses. However, an exception to this requirement is when you satisfy the De Minimis Rule<sup>26</sup>. Please refer to the GST e-Tax Guide “GST: Partial Exemption and

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<sup>26</sup> If the value of the total exempt supplies in a GST accounting period is:

▪ less than or equal to an average of \$40,000 a month; and  
▪ less than or equal to 5% of the total supplies made in that GST accounting period,  
you can claim all input tax incurred in the course or furtherance of your business for that GST accounting period, including input tax that is directly attributable to exempt supplies.

Input Tax Recovery”<sup>27</sup> for detailed information on De Minimis Rule, apportionment and attribution of input tax and performance of longer period adjustments.

6.3 Based on the normal input tax claiming rules outlined in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2, you are required to attribute and apportion the input tax claim of your business as follows:

No.	Input tax	Whether or not the input tax is claimable
1	Input tax on purchases (including applicable imported services with effect from 1 Jan 2020) that are used or to be used exclusively to make a local sale of IPM (exempt supply).	You will not incur any GST on imports and local purchases of IPM since these are GST-exempt.  However, you may incur input tax on other expenses (e.g. local storage fee) that is used to make the local sale of IPM. Such input tax is directly attributable to the making of an exempt supply and is <b>not claimable</b> .
2	Input tax on purchases that are used or to be used exclusively to make:  (i) an export sale of IPM or non-IPM (zero-rated supply); or  (ii) a local sale of non-IPM (taxable supply)	Such input tax is directly attributable to the making of a taxable supply and is <b>claimable</b> <sup>28</sup> .
3	Residual input tax incurred for:  (i) the overall operation of the business (e.g. office rental, utilities, imported IT services or low-value goods); or  (ii) the making of both taxable and exempt supplies (e.g. local transportation for transporting IPM and non-IPM).	Only a portion of the input tax that is attributed to the making of taxable supplies is claimable and this is calculated based on the percentage of taxable supplies over total supplies <sup>29</sup> .

<sup>27</sup> The e-Tax Guide “GST: Partial Exemption and Input Tax Recovery” can be found at [www.iras.gov.sg](http://www.iras.gov.sg) > Quick links > e-Tax Guides.

<sup>28</sup> If you are a RC Business, you are not required to account for GST on imported services and low-value goods that are directly attributable to taxable supplies (unless you are prescribed a fixed input tax recovery rate or on special input tax recovery formula to be applied on all input tax claims). Therefore, you will not incur any GST on such imported services.

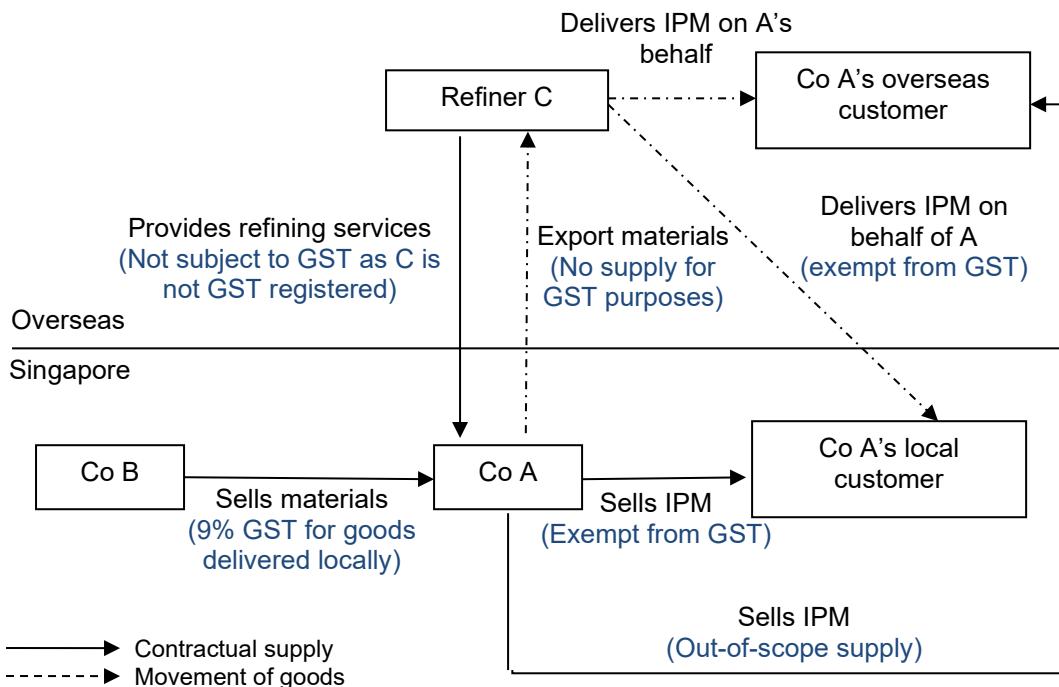
<sup>29</sup> For the purpose of computing the residual input tax claimable, the value of relevant supplies received from your supplier that are subject to customer accounting and imported services that are subject to reverse charge should not be included in both the numerator and denominator of the input tax recovery formula.

6.4 In addition to the above, if you purchase materials (e.g. scrap gold and other non-IPM) and deliver them to a LBMA or LPPM accredited refiner for refining into IPM under the toll refining model<sup>30</sup>, you cannot claim the GST incurred on the purchase of those materials if the GST is attributable to the making of exempt supplies of IPM in Singapore or out-of-scope supplies of IPM overseas which would be exempt supplies if made in Singapore.

**Example 1**

Company A (GST-registered) purchases materials from Company B (GST-registered). A exports the materials to Refiner C (a LBMA accredited refiner situated overseas) for refinement into IPM under the toll refining model. C refines the materials into IPM and is required to return the IPM to A. C charges A a refining fee for its refining services.

A sells some of the refined IPM to customers located overseas and in Singapore and instructs C to deliver the IPM to its customers respectively on its behalf (Please see diagrammatic illustration of the arrangement below).



In this case, the GST incurred by A on the purchase of materials is directly attributable to the subsequent exempt sale of IPM in Singapore and the sale of IPM overseas which would be exempt supplies if made in Singapore. Hence, A cannot claim the GST incurred on the purchase of materials under the normal rules.

<sup>30</sup> Under the toll refining model, the refiner is merely providing refining services to its customers in return for a fee and would not take ownership of their materials or IPM produced. There is no sale of materials by the customer to the refiner under this model.

6.5 Please refer to Appendix B for an illustration on the attribution and apportionment of input tax for a business that is trading in both IPM and non-IPM and consolidating materials for refinement into IPM and non-IPM.

Special input tax claim rules under the Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme

6.6 If you are a refiner of IPM or a consolidator<sup>31</sup> that makes exempt supplies of IPM, you may wish to apply for the Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme ("ARCS"). Under the scheme, you can enjoy GST suspension on the importation of materials for refining into IPM, as well as claim input tax incurred to make the first sale of newly-refined IPM. Such input tax is not claimable under the normal rules described in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2.

6.7 Approved Refiners under the ARCS are allowed to recover all the input tax incurred in the course or furtherance of their business pursuant to Regulation 46A(16) of the GST (General) Regulations, notwithstanding that they are partially-exempt businesses. Therefore, if you are an Approved Refiner, you will not be considered an RC Business<sup>32</sup>.

6.8 Please refer to the e-Tax Guide "GST: Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme (ARCS)"<sup>33</sup> for details on the eligibility requirements and input tax claim rules for approved persons.

**7 Other scenarios of investment precious metals supplied or deemed supplied**

Sale of IPM or non-IPM in return for non-monetary consideration

7.1 You may receive a payment for a supply of IPM or non-IPM in non-monetary forms. For example, your customer makes payment to you for IPM supplied to him by crediting your loco London gold account<sup>34</sup>. For GST purposes, there are two separate supplies made:

- (1) A supply of IPM by you; and
- (2) A supply of loco London gold by the counter-party, i.e. the customer.

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<sup>31</sup> Consolidators are businesses that consolidate or aggregate materials containing precious metals for supply or delivery to refiners for the purpose of refining into IPM.

<sup>32</sup> Partially-exempt businesses that are entitled to apply a provision in the GST legislation that grants them the right to claim their input tax in full even if they fail the De Minimis Rule, will not be subject to reverse charge. For more information, please refer to the e-Tax Guide "GST: Reverse charge".

<sup>33</sup> The e-Tax Guide "GST: Approved Refiner and Consolidator Scheme (ARCS)" can be located at [www.iras.gov.sg](http://www.iras.gov.sg) > Quick links > e-Tax Guides.

<sup>34</sup> A gold account held with individual London trading houses. A credit balance on a loco London gold account represents a holding of gold.

The value of the supply of IPM and the value of the supply of loco London gold will be their respective open market values.

***Example 2***

Company A (GST-registered) sells non-IPM, e.g. scrap gold to Consolidator B (GST-registered). B makes payment for the scrap gold by crediting A's loco London gold account.

In this case, A is making a taxable supply of scrap gold. It is required to charge and account for GST at 9% on the supply based on the open market value of the scrap gold supplied.

B is also making a supply of loco London gold to A. The supply of loco London gold without any physical delivery would qualify as an exempt supply under paragraph 1(n) of Part 1 of the Fourth Schedule to the GST Act<sup>35</sup>. B is required to report the exempt supply made based on the open market value of the loco London gold supplied.

7.2 You may also trade in IPM for non-IPM (e.g. jewellery) from a jeweller, or vice versa. For GST purposes, such transaction will be treated as two separate supplies:

- A supply of IPM by you; and
- A supply of non-IPM by the jeweller.

You need not charge GST on a) since the supply of IPM is an exempt supply. On the other hand, the supply in b) by the jeweller is a taxable supply. The jeweller is required to charge and account for GST on the open market value of the non-IPM.

**IPM given away free**

7.3 A supply of goods is deemed to be made by you when you transfer or dispose of goods forming part of your business assets for which input tax had been allowed to you previously, even if you do not receive consideration for the transfer or disposal of the goods<sup>36</sup>. Hence, when an IPM forming part of your business assets is given away free, you are deemed to be making a supply of IPM if you have been allowed the input tax on the purchase of the IPM or any goods you used to produce the IPM (e.g. materials). However, as a local supply of IPM is exempt from GST, you do not need to account for output tax on the IPM given away free in Singapore.

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<sup>35</sup> Paragraph 1(n) of Part 1 of the Fourth Schedule to the GST Act exempts the provision or assignment of any option or contract for the sale of any unallocated commodity which does not lead to a delivery of the commodity from the seller to the buyer.

<sup>36</sup> Paragraph 5(1) of the Second Schedule to the GST Act.

7.4 You should report the deemed supply of IPM given away free in Singapore based on its open market value in Box 3 “Total value of exempt supplies” in your GST F5 return.

**IPM assets held at the time of GST de-registration**

7.5 In the event you cancel your GST registration, any goods forming part of your business assets held on the last day of GST registration, is deemed to be supplied by you<sup>37</sup>. However, you are not required to account for output tax on the deemed supply if the value of the supply is less than or equal to \$10,000. For the purpose of determining if the value of the deemed supply has crossed the \$10,000 threshold, you do not need to include the value of IPM assets.

7.6 In the event the value of the deemed supply exceeds \$10,000, you only need to account for output tax on the taxable assets (excluding IPM) held on the last day of your GST registration for which input tax had been previously allowed to you.

**8 GST reporting for the importation, purchase and supply of IPM**

8.1 You are required to report the exempt supply of IPM and exports of IPM in Box 3 “Total value of exempt supplies” and Box 2 “Total value of zero-rated supplies” respectively in your GST F5 return.

8.2 You do not need to report exempt purchases and imports of IPM in your GST return. However, you should still maintain relevant documents (e.g. import permit, purchase order, invoice, delivery note) to support such purchases.

**9 Contact Information**

9.1 For enquiries on this e-Tax Guide, please contact the Goods and Services Tax Division at [www.iras.gov.sg](http://www.iras.gov.sg) (select “Contact Us”).

9.2 If you wish to enquire about permits declaration matters for importation of IPM, please contact:

**Singapore Customs**  
55 Newton Road  
Singapore 307987  
Website: [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)  
Tel: (+65) 6355 2000

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<sup>37</sup> Paragraph 7(1) of the Second Schedule to the GST Act.

## 10 Updates and Amendments

	Date of amendment	Amendments made
1	1 Apr 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Editorial amendments made to paragraphs 2.6, 4.7, 4.8, 6.8 and 7.4</li> <li>(ii) Revised paragraphs 4.2(b)(iii), 4.2(c), 4.2(d) and 6.7(v)</li> <li>(iii) Inserted paragraphs 4.7(a)(x), 4.7(b)(ix), 5.4, 7.4, Example 1 and Appendix A</li> <li>(iv) Renumbered Example 1 to Example 2 and Appendix A to Appendix B</li> <li>(v) Inserted footnote at paragraphs 4.1, 4.2, 4.7, 4.7(a)(x), 4.7(b)(ix), 5.1, 5.4, 6.7 and 7.4</li> </ul>
2	4 Nov 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Editorial amendments made to paragraph 4.5 and footnote 6</li> </ul>
3	1 Sep 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Amended paragraphs 4.2(d), 4.5 and 4.8</li> <li>(ii) Inserted qualifying IPM coins in paragraph 4.7</li> </ul>
4	3 Jul 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Amended footnotes 12, 13 and 18</li> </ul>
5	22 May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Inserted qualifying IPM coins in paragraph 4.7</li> <li>(ii) Amended footnotes 11 to 13 and 15</li> <li>(iii) Inserted footnotes 14, 19 and 21</li> <li>(iv) Amended paragraph 10.1 on contact information</li> </ul>
6	18 Jan 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Editorial amendments made to paragraphs 1.1, 2.1, 2.5, 3.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 7.2 and Appendix A and B to remove contents no longer relevant due to statutory time bar</li> <li>(ii) Editorial amendments made to paragraphs 3.2, 3.4 and 3.5 to update the name and contact details of International Enterprise Singapore (now known as Enterprise Singapore)</li> <li>(iii) Amended footnote 4 on website link</li> </ul>

	<b>Date of amendment</b>	<b>Amendments made</b>
		(iv) Inserted qualifying IPM coins in paragraph 3.7
7	27 Mar 2019	(i) Amended footnote 13 to insert a new qualifying IPM coin
8	30 Aug 2019	(i) Inserted qualifying IPM coins in paragraph 3.7 (ii) Amended footnotes 15, 23 and 26 (iii) Editorial amendments
9	24 Sep 2019	(i) Inserted paragraphs 2.6, 2.7 and footnote 2 to explain the input tax recovery rules applicable to Reverse Charge ("RC") Businesses. (ii) Amended table under paragraph 6.3 and inserted footnotes 35-36 to explain input tax attribution and apportionment rules applicable to RC businesses. (iii) Inserted paragraph 6.7 and footnote 39 to explain that RC is not applicable for approved refiners. (iv) Amended Illustration under Appendix B and footnotes 46 - 47 to include transactions that are subject to GST under the RC regime with effect from 1 Jan 2020.
10	8 Nov 2019	(i) Amended footnotes 16, 24 and 27 to update the list of coins issued
11	27 Apr 2020	(i) Inserted paragraph 3.6 on examples of common qualifying bars, ingots or wafers (ii) Amended footnotes 14, 16, 24 and 27 to update the list of coins issued
12	15 Oct 2020	(i) Amended footnotes 16, 24 and 27 to update the list of coins issued
13	3 Aug 2021	(i) Amended paragraph 3.8 to update the list of IPM coins (ii) Added Appendix C – Coins in prescribed IPM coin series

	<b>Date of amendment</b>	<b>Amendments made</b>
14	15 Aug 2022	(i) Amended paragraph 2 to explain the requirement to apply reverse charge to imported low-value goods.
15	1 Jan 2023	(i) Inserted footnote 2 regarding the GST rate changes from 1 Jan 2023 and 1 Jan 2024.  (ii) Amended GST rate to 8% in examples 1 and 2.  (iii) Amended numerical example in Appendix B to reflect GST rate of 8%.
16	15 Jun 2023	(i) Inserted qualifying IPM coins in paragraph 3.8 and Appendix C  (ii) Editorial amendments
17	1 Jan 2024	(i) Amended GST rate to 9% in examples 1 and 2.  (ii) Amended numerical example in Appendix B to reflect GST rate of 9%.  (iii) Editorial amendments

**Appendix A – Sample invoice to customer for an exempt sale of IPM**

ABC Bullion Pte Ltd  
No. 1 Raffles Quay  
Singapore 123456  
GST Reg No: M2-0123456-7  
[www.abc-bullion.com.sg](http://www.abc-bullion.com.sg)  
Tel: 6987 6543 Fax: 6987 6541

**Invoice**

Name and address of customer:  
G & S Trading Pte Ltd  
100 Thomson Road  
Singapore 888888

Invoice No : 090001  
Date : 1/10/2018

No.	Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
1	999.9 Gold Bar 1,000 gram Refiner – PAMP SA Unique Serial No: A333333	1 pc	\$70.00 per gram	\$70,000.00
2	Canada Maple Leaf One Ounce Gold Coin	2 pcs	\$1727.78	\$3,455.56
			Sub Total	\$73,455.56
			Exempt from GST	\$0.00
			Total Amount Payable	\$73,455.56

## Appendix B – Illustration on the attribution and apportionment of input tax claims

Bullion Trading Company (Bullion) is in the business of buying and selling precious metals and consolidating materials to be sent to Refiner A for refinement. Bullion trades in both IPM (exempt supplies) and non-IPM (taxable supplies). Refiner A is on the 'Good Delivery' list of LBMA and thus precious metals refined by A qualifies as IPM<sup>38</sup>.

The following taxable supplies, exempt supplies and expenses were made/ incurred by Bullion for the quarter ended 31 Mar 2024. Below is an illustration on the attribution and apportionment of the input tax incurred by Bullion, and computation on the amount of input tax claimable by Bullion.

<b>Supplies made</b>	<b>Value</b>
Standard-rated supply – Sale of non-IPM in Singapore	\$1,000,000
Zero-rated supply – Export Sale of IPM and non-IPM	\$2,000,000
Exempt supply – Sale of IPM in Singapore	\$ 500,000
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Purchases*</b>	<b>Input tax incurred</b>	<b>Attribution of input tax</b>
(A)	Purchase \$800,000 worth of non-IPM for sale	\$72,000	Directly attributable to the making of taxable supplies (i.e. standard-rated and zero-rated supplies) – claimable in full
(B)	Purchase/Importation of IPM (exempt)	No GST	Not applicable
(C)	Refining fee of \$50,000 and materials of \$200,000 incurred for refinement of materials into IPM for subsequent local sale	\$22,500	Directly attributable to the making of exempt supplies – not claimable
(D)	Local transportation costs of \$10,000 incurred for transporting IPM for sale locally	\$900	Directly attributable to the making of exempt supplies – not claimable
(E)	Brokerage/ introductory fee charged by an overseas broker pertaining to the local sale of IPM	\$225 <sup>39</sup>	Directly attributable to the making of exempt supplies – not claimable
(F)	Local storage costs of \$20,000 incurred for storing of IPM for export	\$1,800	Directly attributable to the making of taxable supplies – claimable in full
(G)	Local transportation costs of \$10,000 incurred for sale of IPM and non-IPM	\$900	Residual input tax – subject to apportionment

<sup>38</sup> The precious metals also meet the minimum purity content requirement of IPM.

<sup>39</sup> If Bullion is a RC Business, Bullion is required to apply reverse charge and account for GST on the brokerage/ introductory fee. This is because had the service been supplied by a taxable broker in Singapore, it would not qualify for zero-rating. For GST reporting requirements on reverse charge, please refer to the e-Tax Guide "GST: Reverse charge".

No.	Purchases*	Input tax incurred	Attribution of input tax
(H)	Rental for office space of \$500,000	\$45,000	Residual input tax – subject to apportionment
(I)	Procured IT system from overseas vendor <sup>40</sup>	\$562.50	Residual input tax – subject to apportionment

\*Value of purchases is exclusive of GST.

**Input tax directly attributable to the making of taxable supplies:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (A) + (F) \\
 &= \$72,000 + \$1,800 \\
 &= \$73,800
 \end{aligned}$$

**Residual input tax attributable to the making of taxable supplies:**

$$\text{Residual Input Tax} \times \frac{\text{Value of Total Taxable supplies}^{29}}{\text{Value of Total Supplies}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \{(G) + (H) + (I)\} \times \frac{\$3,000,000}{\$3,500,000} \\
 &= (\$900 + \$45,000 + \$562.50) \times 86\%^{41} \\
 &= \$39,957.75
 \end{aligned}$$

**Total amount of input tax claimable<sup>42</sup>:**

Input tax directly attributable to taxable supplies + Residual input tax attributable to taxable supplies

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \$73,800 + \$39,957.75 \\
 &= \$113,757.75
 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>40</sup> If Bullion is a RC Business, Bullion is required to apply reverse charge and account for GST on the IT system as the supply would be subject to GST if provided by a local vendor.

<sup>41</sup> The ratio (\$3,000,000/\$3,500,000) should be rounded off to the nearest whole number, i.e. 86%.

<sup>42</sup> The input tax claims are only allowed provisionally at the end of each prescribed accounting period. Bullion has to perform a Longer Period Adjustment in respect of the input tax that he has claimed during the longer period. For detailed information on the performance of Longer Period Adjustments, please refer to the e-Tax Guide “GST: Partial Exemption and Input Tax Recovery” ([www.iras.gov.sg](http://www.iras.gov.sg) > Quick links > e-Tax Guides).

## **Appendix C – Coins in the prescribed IPM coin series**

### Qualifying **gold** coin series

- Canada Call of the Wild series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) 2014 Howling Wolf (GST exempt from 1 Sep 2016)
  - (ii) 2015 Growling Cougar (GST exempt from 1 Sep 2016)
  - (iii) 2016 Roaring Grizzly (GST exempt from 1 Sep 2016)
  - (iv) 2017 Elk (GST exempt from 9 Jul 2017)
  - (v) 2018 Golden Eagle (GST exempt from 23 May 2018)
  - (vi) 2019 Moose (GST exempt from 1 Feb 2019)
  - (vii) 2020 Bobcat (GST exempt from date of launch)
- United Kingdom The Queen's Beasts series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) Lion of England
  - (ii) Griffin of Edward III
  - (iii) Red Dragon of Wales
  - (iv) Unicorn of Scotland
  - (v) Black Bull of Clarence
  - (vi) Falcon of the Plantagenets
  - (vii) Yale of Beaufort
  - (viii) White Lion of Mortimer
  - (ix) White Horse of Hanover
  - (x) White Greyhound of Richmond
  - (xi) The Queen's Beasts
- United Kingdom Myths and Legends series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) Robin Hood
  - (ii) Maid Marian
  - (iii) Little John
- United Kingdom The Royal Tudor Beasts series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) Lion of England
  - (ii) Yale of Beaufort

### Qualifying **silver** coin series

- Canada Wildlife series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) 2011 Silver Timber Wolf
  - (ii) 2011 Silver Grizzly
  - (iii) 2012 Silver Cougar
  - (iv) 2012 Silver Moose
  - (v) 2013 Silver Pronghorn Antelope
  - (vi) 2013 Silver Wood Bison
- Canada Birds of Prey series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) 2014 Peregrine Falcon
  - (ii) 2014 Bald Eagle
  - (iii) 2015 Red-tailed Hawk

(iv) 2015 Great Horned Owl

- United Kingdom The Queen's Beasts series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) Lion of England
  - (ii) Griffin of Edward III
  - (iii) Red Dragon of Wales
  - (iv) Unicorn of Scotland
  - (v) Black Bull of Clarence
  - (vi) Falcon of the Plantagenets
  - (vii) Yale of Beaufort
  - (viii) White Lion of Mortimer
  - (ix) White Horse of Hanover
  - (x) White Greyhound of Richmond
  - (xi) The Queen's Beasts
- Canada Creatures of the North series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) 2020 The Kraken
  - (ii) 2021 Werewolf
- United Kingdom Myths and Legends series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) Robin Hood
  - (ii) Maid Marian
  - (iii) Little John
- United Kingdom The Royal Tudor Beasts series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) Lion of England
  - (ii) Yale of Beaufort

Qualifying platinum coin series

- United Kingdom The Queen's Beasts series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) Lion of England
  - (ii) Griffin of Edward III
  - (iii) Red Dragon of Wales
  - (iv) Unicorn of Scotland
  - (v) Black Bull of Clarence
  - (vi) Falcon of the Plantagenets
  - (vii) Yale of Beaufort
  - (viii) White Lion of Mortimer
  - (ix) White Horse of Hanover
  - (x) White Greyhound of Richmond
- United Kingdom The Royal Tudor Beasts series consists of the following coins:
  - (i) Lion of England
  - (ii) Yale of Beaufort
- South Africa Big Five series. Under this series, a coin featuring an animal will be released every six months from 2020 to 2022, beginning with the elephant, followed by the lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo.