



## Contact

### Indonesia

Turmanto  
Partner  
Tel: +62 21 2992 3100, ext. 33891  
Email: [turmanto@deloitte.com](mailto:turmanto@deloitte.com)

### Malaysia

Eng Yew Tan  
Executive Director  
Tel: +60 3 77125164  
Email: [etan@deloitte.com](mailto:etan@deloitte.com)

### Philippines

Richard R. Lapres  
Partner  
Tel: +63 2 510 9044  
Email: [rlapres@deloitte.com](mailto:rlapres@deloitte.com)

### Singapore

Bob Fletcher  
Director  
Leader – Southeast Asia Customs  
& Global Trade Services  
Tel: +65 6216 3338  
Email: [bobfletcher@deloitte.com](mailto:bobfletcher@deloitte.com)

### Thailand

Stuart Simons  
Partner  
Tel: +662 676 5700, ext. 5021  
Email: [ssimons@deloitte.com](mailto:ssimons@deloitte.com)

### Vietnam

Tuan Bui  
Partner  
Tel: +84 4 6288 3568 ext. 2103  
Email: [tbui@deloitte.com](mailto:tbui@deloitte.com)

Or by e-mail:

[seacustomsalerts@deloitte.com](mailto:seacustomsalerts@deloitte.com)

If you do not wish to continue receiving this free service, please click on the unsubscribe-link at the bottom of this newsletter.

## Customs and Trade Alert

The Customs and Trade Alert is an initiative of the Deloitte Customs & Global Trade group. This newsletter is your reference for practical information on relevant customs issues.

April 2014

## Implementation of the Agreement Between Singapore and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Partnership (ASTEP)

The Economic Partnership between Singapore and the Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (ASTEP) entered into force on 19 April 2014. The ASTEP aims to liberalise and facilitate trade between Singapore and Taiwan, allowing for enterprises from both countries to establish stronger ties in each other's economics.

Under the ASTEP:

- Singapore will remove all tariffs on goods from Taiwan. This will cover :
  - Elimination of import duties for originating stout/porter, beer including ale, mediated samsu or other samsu from Chinese Taipei. **Note:** Excise duties will still apply.
- Taiwan will remove 99.48% of its tariff lines within 15 years (including 83% of tariff lines enjoying immediate elimination), with the exception of 40 agricultural products.
- Exporters should complete the Declaration of Origin, for the exports of qualifying goods;
- Importers should claim for preferential tariff treatment, at the time of importation, if the Declaration of Origin is available. **Note:** Where the Declaration of Origin is not available at importation, applicable import duties will be collected, and the importer can subsequently apply for refund of duties with the Certificate of Origin and supporting documents within one year from importation date.

### What does it mean for you?

Singapore companies exporting qualifying goods under the ASTEP, with the supporting Declaration of Origin can benefit by enjoying preferential tariffs into Taiwan, thus making their products more competitive. Specifically, Singaporean companies in the electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and processed food products sectors exporting to Taiwan will stand to benefit most

from the removal of tariffs.

Singapore companies that are importing originating goods from Taiwan will also be able to benefit from zero import duties.

### **What to do?**

Companies should:

- Critically examine whether their goods meet the qualifying criteria under the ASTEP. Assuming that their goods qualify under the ASTEP, and put in place processes and procedures to support application for Certificate of Origin;
- Review their supply chain and consider export volume into Taiwan to take advantage of preferential rates under ASTEP, upon implementation.

### **How we can support**

Deloitte can support your company in the following:

- Research on the available FTAs and the corresponding preferential duties, based on companies' current/ proposed supply chain;
- Determine whether the correct HS code is being declared for the exported product(s);
- Research on the applicable Rules of Origin, and determine whether or not your products, parts and components, etc. are able to satisfy the applicable Rules of Origin under the FTAs;
- Advice on what steps could be taken to meet the applicable Rules of Origin;
- Assist in preparing the required evidential documentation;
- Assist in the application to obtain the Certificate(s)/ Declaration of Origin from the Authorities;
- Assist in the application for claims to preferential tariff rates in the destination countries;
- Support in audit defense to address and resolve any origin challenges from the Customs Authorities;
- Develop Procedure Manual/ Standard Operation Manual (SOP) for FTA implementation.

For more information on the ASTEP and how your business can leverage on this, or any Customs and Global Trade matters, please contact Bob Fletcher or any of the contacts shown.

### **Disclaimer**

This publication contains general information only, and none of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, its member firms, or their related entities (collectively, the "Deloitte Network") is, by means of this publication, rendering professional advice or services. Before making any decision or taking any action that may affect your finances or your business, you should consult a qualified professional adviser. No entity in the Deloitte Network shall be responsible for any loss whatsoever.

sustained by any person who relies on this publication.

---

Deloitte & Touche LLP  
6 Shenton Way, OUE Downtown 2  
#32-00  
Singapore 068809

Deloitte & Touche LLP (Unique entity number: T08LL0721A) is an accounting limited liability partnership registered in Singapore under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act (Chapter 163A).

© 2013 Deloitte & Touche LLP

Deloitte refers to one or more of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, a UK private company limited by guarantee, and its network of member firms, each of which is a legally separate and independent entity. Please see [www.deloitte.com/about](http://www.deloitte.com/about) for a detailed description of the legal structure of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited and its member firms.

[Deloitte Singapore](#)

**To no longer receive emails on tax, please click [here](#).**

**To no longer receive any email from Deloitte Singapore please send a return email to [enquiries@deloitte.com](mailto:enquiries@deloitte.com) with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.**