



GST News Perspective \Rightarrow everything

Greetings from your Indirect Tax team at Deloitte Singapore. We are pleased to present to you details of recent updates in relation to GST:

[Extension of validity period and renewal application procedures for Major Exporter Scheme \(“MES”\)](#)

MES is a GST-facilitation scheme which allows you to import non-dutiable goods with the suspension of the import GST payable.

To address concerns about the cost of compliance, the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (“IRAS”) has recently extended the validity period of MES status for renewals from 3 years to 5 years.

MES traders must still perform a self-review and submit a certified GST Assisted Self-help Kit (ASK) declaration form when they apply or renew their MES status. For more information on the documents required for MES application and renewal, please refer to the table below.

Application for MES	Application for renewal of MES
<p>Documents required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A completed and signed GST F10 (Application for MES) with the trading figures for a 12-month period • A <u>certified</u> ASK declaration form “ASK: Declaration Form on Completing Annual Review & Voluntary Disclosure of Errors” 	<p>Documents required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A completed and signed Form R1 (Application for Renewal of MES) • A <u>certified</u> ASK declaration form “ASK: Declaration Form on Completing Annual Review & Voluntary Disclosure of Errors”

Note that the ASK declaration form is required to be certified by either an in-house or externally engaged tax professional who is accredited with the Singapore Institute of Accredited Tax Professionals (SIATP) as an Accredited Tax Practitioner (GST) or Accredited Tax Advisor (GST).

During the 5 years MES validity period, IRAS still expects MES traders to continue to pay close attention to compliance, for example by performing self-reviews on an annual basis. GST errors voluntarily disclosed within one year from the statutory filing date of the relevant GST return should qualify for full waiver of penalties.

In our view, it is important that MES traders make use of the ASK Annual Review to ensure that errors disclosed in one MES renewal exercise do not recur. This is because we understand that IRAS is unlikely to exercise leniency in terms of imposition of penalties/fines on MES traders who make and disclose similar errors in the next MES renewal exercise.

There is however no requirement for the ASK Annual Review to be certified by a qualifying tax professional if the review is conducted voluntarily and not for the purpose of MES renewal.

How Deloitte can help?

We are able to assist you with the following:

- Advise on whether you are eligible to apply for MES;
- ASK Annual Review for purpose of application for MES or renewal of your MES with also the necessary confirmation by our Accredited Tax Professionals with the SIATP;
- ASK Annual Review during your MES validity period to determine whether you have been GST compliant and past errors have recurred; and
- Voluntary disclosure of errors to the IRAS as well as negotiation with the IRAS on the most efficient rectification approach.

Contacts

For more information on the above or if you need assistance on other GST matters, please contact the below or your usual GST contact in Deloitte.

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