

CHINA - SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (CSFTA) UPGRADE



Did you know?


China is Singapore's largest trading partner since 2013

JAN 2009 The CSFTA first entered into force
NOV 2018 The CSFTA was upgraded
OCT 2019 The upgraded CSFTA enters into force

Upgraded CSFTA will provide businesses with:

-  Improved market access
-  Enhanced investment protection
-  Simplified Customs Procedures

KEY BENEFITS

TRADE IN GOODS

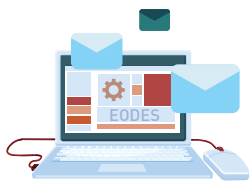
Improvements in the Rules of Origin (ROO) allow more petrochemical exports from Singapore to qualify for preferential treatment. Petrochemical products account for approximately a quarter of Singapore's total exports to China. These will take effect on 1 Jan 2020.

Products include:




ELECTRONIC ORIGIN DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM (EODES)

Traders will no longer need to submit the Certificate of Origin in hardcopy to China. This system will be implemented from November 2019.



CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND TRADE FACILITATION

Increased efficiency and predictability for traders in the areas of Release of Goods, Advance Rulings and Express Shipments.

 Exceed commitments in the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement.



INVESTMENT

Enhanced investment protection standards with a more robust Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism and compensation clause for Singapore investors. Singapore companies will also benefit from any preferential treatment China accords to other foreign investors in its future agreements.



TRADE IN SERVICES

Maritime – Singapore shipping and ship management companies will be able to take on majority ownership or form wholly-owned foreign enterprises in Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin, and Fujian Free Trade Zones (FTZ).



Construction – Singapore companies with presence in Shanghai FTZ and the three G-to-G projects will be exempted from China's foreign investment ratio requirement when undertaking joint construction projects in Shanghai, Suzhou, Tianjin and Chongqing.



Legal – Singapore law firms that have established their representative offices in Shanghai FTZ will be permitted to form a commercial association with Chinese law firms in the Shanghai FTZ and offer legal services to clients in China regardless of location.



NEW CHAPTERS



COMPETITION

Adherence to the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and procedural fairness in competition law enforcement.



ENVIRONMENT

Commitment to promote environment protection and sustainable development.



E-COMMERCE

Commitment to promote online consumer protection and personal information protection.

Full upgraded CSFTA text will be available on www.enterprisesg.gov.sg.