

Export Procedures and Permits

A step-by-step guide for businesses



Step 01. Determine If Your Goods are Controlled Before Exporting

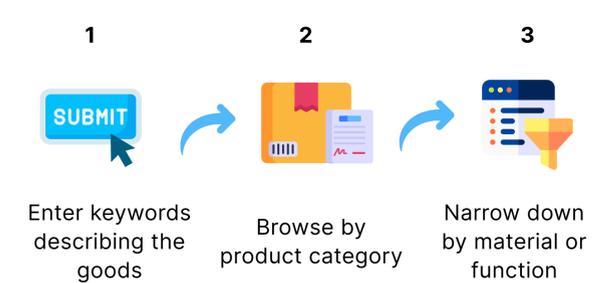
- Identify the goods you plan to export
 - Identify if any Competent Authority is regulating your goods and comply with any additional requirements for the export of such goods
 - Check if destination restrictions apply
 - Check if UNSC sanctions apply
- Some goods require approval before export.



[Check if your goods require an export permit](#) →

Step 03. Search For the HS Code

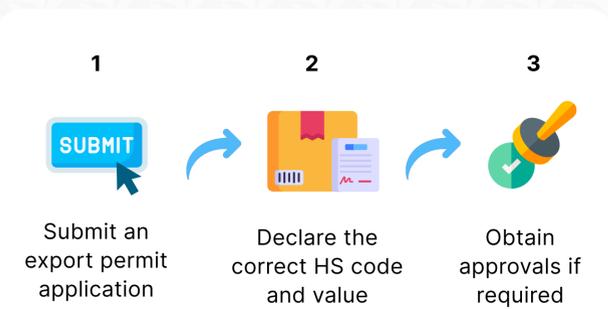
The HS/CA Product Code Checker is available for you to do a quick search for the HS codes, product codes and descriptions of a product within the Singapore Trade Classification, Customs & Excise Duties.



Do not rely on supplier descriptions alone.

[Search for your HS code](#) →

Step 04. Obtain Export Permit Before Your Goods Leave Singapore



Permits must be approved before export.

[Apply for an export permit](#) →

Step 06. Keep Records After Exporting

Keep trade documents for at least 5 years from the permit approval date, and produce them when requested or as required by the permit.



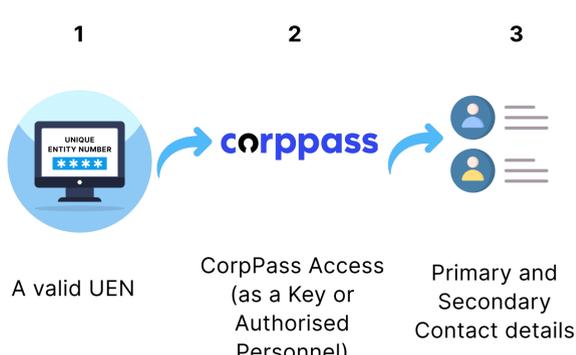
[View document retention requirements](#) →



Visit customs.gov.sg for the latest rules and information. Information accurate as of 2026.

Step 02. Activate Your Customs Account One Time Setup

To activate Customs Account, you must have:



To export goods, you will need:



All businesses must have an active Customs Account before applying for any permit.

[Set up your Customs Account](#) →

Step 05. Before Your Goods Leave Singapore At the Border

- Permit details are checked
- Compliance with export controls is verified
- Goods may be inspected



Clearance depends on accurate declarations and valid permits.

[Prepare documents for export clearance](#) →

Step 07. Common Questions from AskGov

- Q1: Do all goods require an export permit?**
All exports require permits unless otherwise stated in the official customs website.
- Q2: When should I apply for an export permit?**
Export permits must be applied for and approved before goods leave Singapore.
- Q3: What happens if I export goods without a required permit?**
Goods may be detained and enforcement action may be taken.

[Related AskGov questions here](#) →