

Singapore's view is that advance rulings can be beneficial for both traders and customs authorities. For traders, knowing in advance how customs rules and regulations will be applied minimizes delays and costs. For customs authorities, informing traders of relevant import requirements encourages compliance and minimises complaints and subsequent appeals.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to share an initiative on Advance Ruling at the APEC circuit, which Singapore was a part of.

A survey was conducted on APEC economies' implementation on (a) the time period within which customs authorities issue advance rulings; (b) the period of time such rulings are valid for; and (c) the type of advance rulings issued – such as goods' tariff classification, origin, and valuation.

This transparency exercise revealed a range of practices amongst APEC economies. For example, the average validity of an advance ruling is about three years, and some advance rulings are applicable until revoked.

The results of this exercise may be of interest to Members, and can be found online at the APEC Trade Repository. We would be happy to send the web-link to the Secretariat for circulation to Members after this meeting.

We are interested to further the conversation on the Advance Ruling article in the TFA with Members.

Web-links:

<http://tr.apec.org>

<https://www.apec.org/-/media/Files/Groups/SCCP/aar15APEC-Survey-on-Implementation-of-Article-3-of-the-WTO-Trade-Facilitation-Agreement-as-of-15-May.docx>