At times, we may need to import chemicals or research samples from overseas for our research works. It is important to understand the import requirements to avoid any legal violations with the respective governing agencies (Competent Authority). Note that the penalties for violating the requirements may involve fine, imprisonment, canes and even death sentence upon conviction.

**Examples of Competent Authority (CA) In-Charge of Importing in Singapore**

1. **Animals Related and Samples**
   - National Parks Board (Nparks)/Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS)

2. **Biological Related Agents or Samples**
   - Ministry of Health (MOH), Biosafety Branch (BSB)
     - a. National Environment Agency (NEA) for hazardous substances (Chemical Control and Management Dept)
     - b. Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) for flammable materials and substances
     - c. Singapore Police Force (SPF) for arms and explosives (includes explosive precursors)

3. **Chemicals**
   - Radiation Protection and Nuclear Science Division (RPNSD) under the National Environment Agency (NEA)

4. **Drugs**
   - Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB)

5. **Health or Medical Products**
   - Health Sciences Authority (HSA)

6. **Radioactive Materials and Radiation Related Equipment**
   - Radiation Protection and Nuclear Science Division (RPNSD) under the National Environment Agency (NEA)
IMPORTING OF CONTROLLED ITEMS/MATERIALS

How should I go about if I intend to import chemical or radiation related items directly into Singapore?

1. Where possible, see if it is possible to obtain the items via local purchase

2. If importing from overseas is the only route, go to the Singapore Customs website:

   **SINGAPORE CUSTOMS**

   ![HS/CA Product Code Search](image)

   **Controlled & Prohibited Goods for Import**

   Controlled goods require proper authorisation (advance notification, licence or certificate approval) from Competent Authorities (CA) before they may be imported into Singapore. You are advised to check if the goods are controlled using the description of the goods, Harmonized System (HS) code or CA product code via the HS/CA Product Code Search Engine. If the item is subject to control, you may check directly with the respective CAs on their licensing requirements.

   Please refer to the table below for the list of prohibited goods that you are not allowed to bring to Singapore.

   **3.** Understand which Competent Authority (CA) is involved

   **4.** Email the Competent Authority (CA) and enquire on the import requirements

   **5.** Apply for the needful licence with the Competent Authority (CA)

   **6.** Send to Singapore Customs with the reply and/or the licence by the Competent Authority (CA)

   **7.** Ensure all requirements are cleared before activating the import of your item

IMPORTING OF CONTROLLED ITEMS/MATERIALS

The Singapore Customs website (https://www.tradenet.gov.sg/tradenet/portlets/search/searchHSCA/searchInitHSCA.do) can also do a search for the item you intend to import:

EXAMPLE: TO IMPORT MERCURY (ELEMENTAL)

Note: If all the CAs confirmed that they do not regulate the import of the item, please provide the Singapore Customs with written confirmation from the CAs and the Singapore Customs will provide an appropriate advice on the permit application procedure.

Click “CCD” which is the CA in-charge for this case.

Contact info for the CA officers in-charge will appear. Contact the officers to confirm the import requirements.
IMPORTING OF CONTROLLED ITEMS/MATERIALS

For further enquiries, contact Singapore Customs 6355 2000 or via the online form https://form.gov.sg/#/5eb0c6175ef87a00115694cb

Note: Never import any items or materials without checking the requirements as it may end up with serious offences with the regulatory body.