

**SINGAPORE – AUSTRALIA (GOODS)**  
**Summary Fact Sheet**  
**December 2007**

**Table 1: Background Information**

Parties	Singapore, Australia	
Date of signature	17 February 2003	
Date of entry into force	28 July 2003	
Transition period for full implementation	none	
Date of full implementation	28 July 2003	
Website addresses or points of contact	Australia: <a href="http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/australia_singapore_agreement.html">http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/australia_singapore_agreement.html</a> Singapore: <a href="http://www.iesingapore.gov.sg/wps/portal/FTA">http://www.iesingapore.gov.sg/wps/portal/FTA</a>	
List of related GATT/WTO documents	WT/REG158/N/1 WT/REG158/1 WT/REG158/2 WT/REG158/3 WT/REG158/M/1,2 WT/REG158/5-6	Notification (goods aspects) Agreement Terms of Reference Standard Format (goods aspects) Summary Records Questions and Replies

**Table 2: Internal trade liberalization provisions**

Import duties and charges	All customs duties on goods originating in the territory of the other Party that meet the requirements for “originating goods” have been removed under the SAFTA (excluding excise duties and goods and services tax consistent with a Party’s WTO obligations (Article 2.1.(a)(i)). This provision is contained in Articles 2.3 and defined in Article 2.1 of the SAFTA.
Export duties and charges	Export duties shall not be imposed on the goods listed in Annex 1 (Article 2.5).
Non-tariff measures	Neither Party is to adopt nor maintain any non-tariff measure on the importation or exportation of any goods destined for the territory of the other Party except in accordance with its WTO rights and obligations. Each Party shall ensure the transparency of its non-tariff measures and that they are not prepared, adopted or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to trade between the Parties. (Article 2.6)
Sector-specific rules	No
Product exclusions	No

**Table 3: Common External Tariff**

Provisions	Not applicable
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**Table 4: General trade-related provisions**

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
Rules of Origin	Chapter 3, Annex 2	The minimum requirements for goods partly manufactured in a Party to be considered to originate in the Free Trade Area are that the last process of manufacture should have occurred in Australia or Singapore; and the allowable cost to manufacture the goods is not less than 30 percent for goods listed in Annex 2D (with revised codes pursuant to HS 2007 transposition), or 50 percent for all other goods. Details regarding the calculation of the allowable cost are provided in Chapter 3. All non-manufactured raw products wholly obtained in Australia and Singapore are considered to originate in the Free Trade Area. “Non-manufactured raw products” are defined in Article 3.1.(q)(i) and Article 3.1.(q)(ii), for the purposes of determining local origin.
Standards-related measures	Chapter 5	Parties undertook to build on the Australia – Singapore Mutual Recognition Agreement on Conformity Assessment The MRA

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		established a framework for the acceptance by the Parties of the results of assessments undertaken by one party to demonstrate conformity with the other Party's mandatory requirements relating to a range of sectors. Chapter 5 provides for the development of arrangements for the acceptance of the equivalence of mandatory requirements through sectoral annexes. The sectoral annexes concluded to date cover food and horticultural products.
SPS measures	Article 5.6	Parties can adopt measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment, in accordance with its international rights and obligations, and commits the Parties to endeavour to develop a work programme and mechanisms for co-operative activities in the areas of technical assistance and capacity building to address plant, animal and public health and food safety issues of mutual interest. Refer also to box on "Standards-related measures" above.
Safeguard mechanisms (intra-trade)	Article 2.9	Parties are prohibited from taking any safeguard measure within the meaning of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards against the goods of the other Party from the date of entry into force of this Agreement.
Balance of Payments	Article 2.11	In the case of serious balance of payments and external financial difficulties, either party may, in accordance with the GATT 1994 and the Understanding of the Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the GATT 1994, adopt restrictive import measures.
Anti-dumping and countervailing measures	Article 2.8.1, 2.8.2 and 2.7.2	<p>Parties reaffirm their commitment to the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994. Article 2.8.2 provides the timeframe for determining volumes shall normally be at least 12 months, and in the event of a decision to impose an anti-dumping duty pursuant to Article 9.1 of the WTO Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994, the "lesser duty" rule shall normally apply.</p> <p>Once a Party has accepted a properly documented application from an industry in that Party for the initiation of an anti-dumping investigation in respect of goods from the other Party, the first Party shall immediately inform the other Party;</p> <p>Where a Party considers that, in accordance with Article 5 of the WTO Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994, there is sufficient evidence to justify the initiation of an antidumping investigation, it shall give written notice to the other Party and shall act in accordance with Article 17.2 of that Agreement concerning consultations.</p> <p>Parties reaffirm their commitment to abide by the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.</p>
Subsidies and state aid	Article 2.7	Parties are prohibited from the use of export subsidies on all goods, including agricultural goods, and reaffirm their commitment to abide by the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
Customs-related procedures	Chapter 4	Both Parties shall periodically review their customs procedures to facilitate bilateral trade. Article 4.3 commits the Parties to conform, where possible and to the extent permitted by their respective domestic laws, rules and regulations, to the standards and recommended practices of the World Customs Organization. Article 4.4.2 provides that the Parties shall work towards having electronic means for its customs reporting requirements as soon as practicable. Article 4.5.1 commits the Parties to facilitate the clearance of low-risks goods and focus on high-risk goods. Under Article 4.6, the Parties agree to share information on best practices in relation to

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
		customs procedures, including the application of risk management techniques.
IPR	Chapter 13	This chapter covers <i>inter alia</i> adherence to international instruments, measures to prevent the export of goods that infringe copyright or trade marks (in accordance with each party's laws, rules, regulations, directives or policies), cooperation on the enforcement of intellectual property rights, and cooperation on education and the exchange of information on the protection, management and exploitation of intellectual property rights.
Government procurement	Chapter 6	Prescribes for government procurement obligations in goods and services for government entities listed in Annex 3A (Australia) and 3B (Singapore) and their successors, but excluding those subsequently commercialized or privatized. National Treatment obligations, technical specifications, principles and procedures to be applied to tendering, protection of intellectual property in the tender process and the resulting contracts, the use of electronic commerce in the procurement process, and enhanced transparency through the publication of information relating to government procurement. Under Article 6.15, notwithstanding the Government Procurement Chapter in the Agreement, Australia is free to promote employment and training opportunities for its indigenous people in regions where significant indigenous populations exist so long as these do not constitute arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade, and Article 6.16 allows both parties to promote industry development including measures to assist small and medium enterprises to gain access to the government procurement market.
Competition	Chapter 12	Chapter 12 aims at the promotion of fair competition and the curtailment of anti-competitive practices. The Parties have committed to ensuring that anti-competitive business practices are addressed and that government-owned enterprises are not given any competitive advantage in their commercial activities simply because they are government-owned. The enforcement policy of the Parties' national authorities shall be non-discriminatory and shall provide for procedural fairness. There are also provisions dealing with exemptions, consultation and review and transparency in the chapter
Investment	Chapter 8	This Chapter covers articles on definitions, scope of application, national treatment, transparency, reservations, transitional provision on regional government measures, modifications or addition of reservations, additional commitments, expropriation and nationalisation, compensation for losses, transfers, restrictions to safeguard balance of payments, subrogation, settlement of disputes between a Party and an investor of the other Party, review of commitments, review of subsidies, government procurement, denial of benefits, general exceptions, security exceptions and disclosure of confidential information.
General exceptions	Articles 2.12-2.13, 6.14, 7.18-7.19, 8.19-8.20, 9.5, 10.15 and 14.9	Exceptions, based on the standard WTO exceptions in GATT Article XX and XXI, and GATS Article XIV and XIVbis, i.e. measures to <i>inter alia</i> protect public morals, human, animal or plant life or health, imports or exports of gold or silver, necessary to secure compliance with FTA consistent laws or regulations including on customs enforcement and prevention of deceptive practices, protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value, conservation of exhaustible natural resources and the protection of intellectual and commercial property.
Accession	Article 17.4	Enables Australia and Singapore to agree to the association of any other State or separate customs territory

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Dispute resolution	Chapter 16	Sets out the procedures for the dispute settlement under the Agreement.
Relation with other trade agreements	Article 17.5	In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and any other agreement to which both Parties are parties, the Parties shall immediately consult with each other with a view to finding a mutually satisfactory solution in accordance with customary public international law.
Institutional provisions	Articles 17.2 and 17.3	No intergovernmental or supranational institutions were created to operate the Agreement. However, Article 17.2 requires that each Party designate a contact point to facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter covered by SAFTA. Article 17.3 provides for Ministers in charge of trade negotiations of the Parties to meet within a year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and then biennially or otherwise as appropriate to review this Agreement.

**Table 5a: Trade data (Australia's imports from Singapore)  
Australian dollars '000**

	2001	2002	2003	per cent change
Total	3,965,654	4,293,314	4,435,413	3.3
Top 20 imports	2,958,913	3,189,800	3,475,541	9.0
Top 20 imports as a percentage of total	74.6	74.3	78.4	

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

**Table 5b: Trade data (Singapore's imports from Australia)  
Singapore dollars '000**

	2001	2002	2003	per cent change
Total	4,305,591	3,863,245	3,805,070	-1.5
Top 20 imports	2,895,372	2,552,010	2,763,026	8.3
Top 20 imports as a percentage of total	67.2	66.1	72.6	

Source: IE Singapore (Statlink)

SAFTA eliminated all tariffs from entry into force; thus the Agreement covers all trade in goods between Australia and Singapore.