

SINGAPORE – LIST OF MFN EXEMPTIONS

For the 9th Package of Commitments under ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services

Sector or sub sector	Description of measure indicating its inconsistency with Article II	Countries to which the measure applies	Intended duration	Conditions creating the need for the exemption
<p>All Sectors: Presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unskilled and semi-skilled natural persons - skilled persons (include craftsmen skilled in a particular trade, but exclude specialists/professional personnel at management level) 	Preference for workers from traditional sources of supply	Traditional sources	<p>Indefinite</p> <p>Singapore will periodically review this in the light of domestic and national policy considerations</p>	Due to land constraints and the fundamental need for social cohesion among the multi-racial population, the Government needs to regulate the flow of foreign workers, both skilled and unskilled, to ensure that Singapore is not overpopulated and foreigners who could potentially disrupt social order are not admitted
All sectors: Investment Guarantee Agreements (IGAs)	Investment guarantee, i.e. obligations to protect foreign investments from unforeseen contingencies such as nationalisation, war, etc. are accorded only to co-signatories of Investment Guarantee Agreements	All countries.	<p>Indefinite</p> <p>Singapore will periodically review this in the light of international developments</p>	Currently, many countries' obligations to protect foreign investments from unforeseen contingencies are governed by the provisions established under bilateral investment guarantee agreements. The agreements also help to provide the economic and political guarantees for the promotion of bilateral relations

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All Sectors: Commonwealth Tax Credit Scheme	Section 48 of the Income Tax Act provides for the granting of relief against Singapore tax payable on income derived from a Commonwealth country	Commonwealth countries which grant reciprocal relief	Indefinite Singapore will periodically review this in the light of international developments	This is part of Singapore's cooperation among Commonwealth members
Legal Services	All measures pertaining to the provision of legal services in Singapore	All countries	Indefinite Singapore will keep the possibility of removing this exemption under review	The exemption is necessary as the establishment of foreign law firms in Singapore is based on case-by-case approval
Broadcasting Broadcasting is defined to include: - Free-to-air broadcasting - Cable and pay television - Direct broadcast by satellite - Tele text - All broadcasting services listed in Services Sectoral Classification list, MTN.GNS/W/120	The Ministry of Information, Communications & The Arts, Singapore accords preferential broadcast and transmission rights to selected countries with which it has signed bilateral agreements	All countries.	Singapore will keep the possibility of removing this exemption under review	To promote social, economic and cultural relations

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Computer reservation systems	Market access and national treatment are based on reciprocity in mutual concessions, but not necessarily in the same areas, as established under bilateral Air Services Agreements	All countries.	Indefinite Singapore will periodically review this in the light of international developments	Currently, the conditions and level of market access granted in air transport services are primarily governed by other multilateral agreements and/or bilateral air services agreements. In addition, the “Annex on Air Transport Services” contained in the GATS currently has only limited application to measures affecting the air transport services sector.
Maritime Transport Services: - Storage and warehousing - Freight forwarding - Inland trucking - Container station and depot services	The undertaking of the commitments to bind the current level of market access and treatment to services and services supplier, in the 4 sub sectors will be through the conclusion of bilateral shipping agreements	All countries.	Indefinite Singapore will periodically review this in the light of international developments	Some of Singapore’s trading partners do not accord Singapore companies satisfactory access to maritime transport services in their territories

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FINANCIAL SERVICES¹ Banking and other financial services	Under a currency inter-changeability agreement between Singapore and Brunei, the currency-issuing authorities of Singapore and Brunei would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accept from banks, notes and coins issued by the other issuing authority, at par and without charge and to exchange such notes and coins into the currency of the country concerned; and - arrange for repatriation at the expense of the respective currency issuing authority, the notes and coins issued by the other currency issuing authority and to receive at par the equivalent in any agreed currency. 	Brunei	Indefinite, until either country terminates the agreement	The currency inter-changeability agreement was entered into in 1967 arising from special historical and economic ties between Singapore and Brunei

¹ Supplementary information provided for transparency

The Stock Exchange of Singapore (SES) and the Singapore International Monetary (SIMEX) have established trading linkages with the exchanges of some countries to facilitate the trading of securities and futures. The establishment of trading linkages is a commercial decisions of the SES and SIMEX