

стать заметным игроком в исламских финансах с акцентом на экологию — своеобразным хабом для таких инвестиций. Если подойти к этому делу с умом, выгода будет не только для государства, но и для обычных людей: появятся новые рабочие места, улучшится экология, вырастет уровень жизни, и, главное — всё это будет происходить в соответствии с нашими ценностями.

Таким образом, зелёные сукуки — это шанс соединить духовность с прогрессом. И если Узбекистан его использует, выиграют и экономика, и природа, и каждый из нас.

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## AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR INSTITUTION OF SINGAPORE

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**Abstract:** The essence of Authorized economic operator is widely used by countries. It is one of the best tool to secure countries trade policy and beneficial for local business sector to run of their process. In Singapore however, it is used as Secure Trade Partnership term to regulate, save different operation in national policy. There are diverse opportunities for companies, which is certificated with it, it helps to not waste their time on ongoing procedures in Custom, and facilitate their process. Well-qualified economic operators always bring benefits to countries economic diplomacy with their adequate knowledge and experiences. Singapore is good example for improvement this area in Uzbekistan as it has experience and strategies.

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**Keywords:** Authorized Economic Operator, Secure Trade Partnership (STP), Singapore economy, World Custom Organization (WCO), trade policy, import-export, logistic companies.

International trade is one of the key drivers of global economic growth. In today’s globalized world, cargo supply chains are highly interconnected, complex and involve multiple players. The ever-increasing complexity of the global supply chain also means more vulnerability to threats such as thefts, pilferages and terrorist attacks. It would be most unfortunate should the global trading system be disrupted by a single act of crime or terror anywhere along the supply chain. Total supply chain security can only be achieved if every player along the entire supply chain, right from the point of origin to the point of final destination, takes responsibility in securing his part of the supply chain. To fulfil this objective, many countries have implemented or are implementing their national supply chain security initiatives. As a key player in the global supply chain, Singapore has implemented the Secure Trade Partnership (STP) programme in partnership with our businesses to help raise the overall level of supply chain security standards in Singapore. The STP will ensure that we are not just an efficient and connected port, but also a safe and secure trading hub.<sup>161</sup>

To achieve a secure supply chain, it is important to keep illicit trade at bay. Singapore Customs works closely with local enforcement agencies and international counterparts to enforce against different forms of illicit trade, which include: Duty and tax evasion, Intellectual Property Rights infringement, Smuggling of wildlife and their parts and derivatives protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna or Flora (CITES), Money-laundering and terrorism-financing, Violation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions. In countering illicit trade, a whole-of-government and layered approach is adopted.<sup>162</sup>

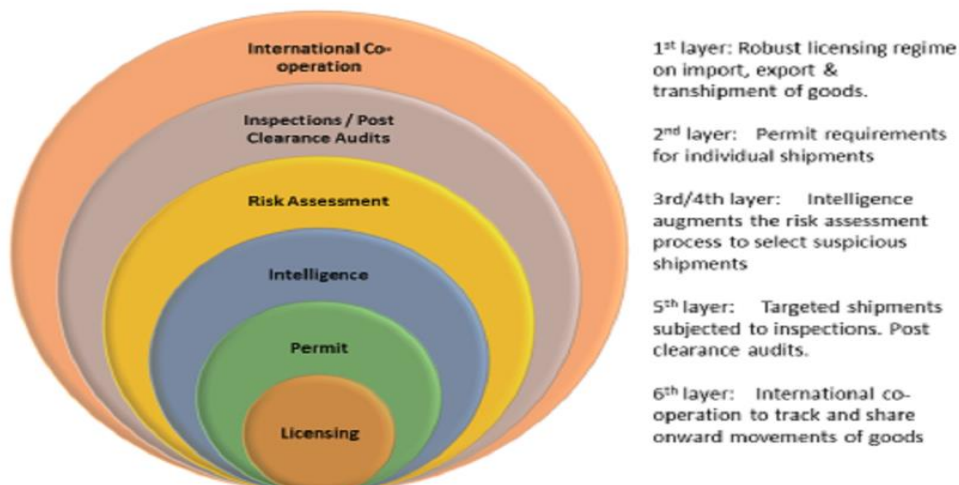
The **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)** program is a key element of customs facilitation aimed at enhancing international supply chain security and facilitating trade. Both Singapore and Uzbekistan have implemented AEO programs to streamline customs procedures, ensure compliance, and enhance trade security. However, their programs have distinct features based on their respective economic environments, regulatory frameworks, and trade practices.

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<sup>161</sup> Secure trade partnership “Handbook”. Singapore customs. Handbook on Secure Trade Partnership (STP) (Dec 2024). [https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/STP\\_Handbook\\_Dec\\_2024\\_.pdf](https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/STP_Handbook_Dec_2024_.pdf)

<sup>162</sup> Singapore customs ensuring revenue, enabling trade. Secure trade partnership <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/customs-schemes-licences-framework/secure-trade-partnership-stp/>

## Layered Enforcement Approach



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Launched on 25 May 2007, the STP is a voluntary certification program administered by Singapore Customs to help companies adopt robust security measures to enhance the security of the global supply chain. **The AEO program in Singapore is part of the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and aligns with the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards** The STP Guidelines and Criteria spells out the requirements which companies in the supply chain should adopt to enhance the security of their operations and supply chains. Companies meeting such requirements will be certified as STP companies by Singapore Customs. The STP is consistent with the World Customs Organisation (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade, adopted in June 2005.

### Secure Trade Partnership (STP)

The STP is a voluntary certification programme consistent with the World Customs Organisation (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade.

The programme encourages companies to adopt robust security measures using a risk-based approach in their trading operations to improve global supply chain security. By participating in the programme, a company demonstrates commitment and willingness in keeping the supply chain secure.

This programme is open to all supply chain stakeholders directly involved in the international movement of goods, including importers, exporters, manufacturers, freight forwarders, warehouse operators, transporters and terminal operators. It

<sup>163</sup> Singapore customs ensuring revenue, enabling trade. Trade security system  
<https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/trade-security-in-singapore/>

allows flexibility and customisation of security measures based on the company’s business model and its role in the international supply chain.

By participating in the STP, companies will be demonstrating their commitment to adopt and implement appropriate security measures and their willingness to assume responsibility for keeping their supply chains secure. Companies that decide to apply for certification under the STP will first need to self-assess against the STP Guidelines and Criteria to ensure that their internal policies, processes and procedures are robust. Singapore Customs administers a validation and certification process to certify companies that wish to participate in the STP. Under the STP Guidelines and Criteria, companies are required to have security management systems, conduct risk assessments of their business operations, and implement the security measures that address the 8 elements under the STP Program:

- a) Premises security and access controls;
- b) Personnel security;
- c) Business partner security;
- d) Cargo security;
- e) Conveyance security;
- f) Information and Information Technology (IT) security;
- g) Incident management and investigations;
- h) Crisis management and incident recovery.

A company that is certified under the STP will be recognized as a trusted partner of Singapore Customs and will partner Singapore Customs to enhance the security of the global supply chain.<sup>164</sup>

Companies that have adopted and implemented robust security measures will benefit from increased visibility of goods in the supply chain, reduction in pilferages and greater efficiency in their supply chain management. In addition, companies certified under the STP will be recognized as trusted partners of Singapore Customs and enjoy the following benefits:

- a) Cargo less likely to be inspected domestically)
- Recognition as a low risk company i.e. enhanced branding;
- c) Recognized as a Known Consignor under the Regulated Air Cargo Agent Regime (RCAR); and
- d) Reduced inspection or expedited clearance should the STP-Plus certification be recognized by overseas countries through Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

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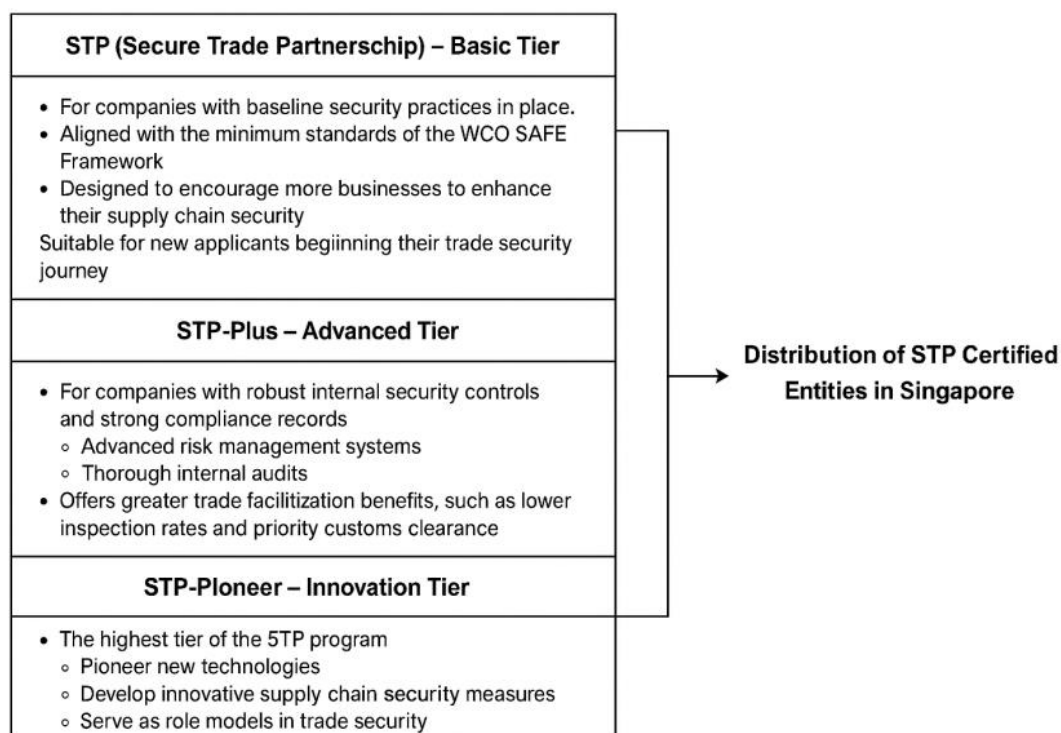
<sup>164</sup> Secure trade partnership “Handbook”. Singapore customs. Handbook on Secure Trade Partnership (STP) (Dec 2024). [https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/STP\\_Handbook\\_Dec\\_2024\\_.pdf](https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/STP_Handbook_Dec_2024_.pdf)

In **Singapore**, the **Secure Trade Partnership (STP)** program — which is the country's version of the **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)** — is structured into **three types (tiers)**, based on the level of security standards and practices a company adopts.<sup>165</sup>

1. **STP (Secure Trade Partnership) – Basic Tier** For companies with baseline security practices in place. Aligned with the minimum standards of the WCO SAFE Framework. Designed to encourage more businesses to enhance their supply chain security. Suitable for new applicants beginning their trade security journey.

2. **STP-Plus – Advanced Tier** For companies with robust internal security controls and strong compliance records. Recognized as trusted trade partners by Singapore Customs. Requires: Advanced risk management systems. Thorough internal audits. Continuous improvement culture. Offers greater trade facilitation benefits, such as lower inspection rates and priority customs clearance.

3. **STP-Pioneer – Innovation Tier**. The highest tier of the STP program. For companies that: Pioneer new technologies. Develop innovative supply chain security measures. Serve as role models in trade security. Requires exceptionally strong commitment to supply chain security and innovation. May involve pilot projects or close collaboration with customs authorities.



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<sup>165</sup> Secure trade partnership “Handbook”. Singapore customs. Handbook on Secure Trade Partnership (STP) (Dec 2024). [https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/STP\\_Handbook\\_Dec\\_2024\\_.pdf](https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/STP_Handbook_Dec_2024_.pdf)

<sup>166</sup> Singapore customs ensuring revenue, enabling trade. Secure trade partnership <https://www.customs.gov.sg/businesses/customs-schemes-licences-framework/secure-trade-partnership-stp/>



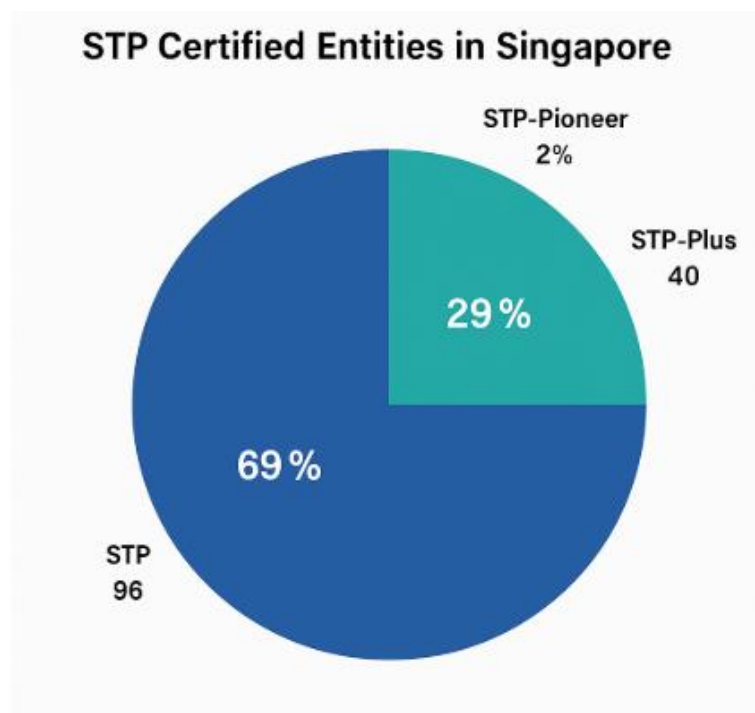


## SECURE TRADE PARTNERSHIP

As at 20 Feb 2025

1.	"K" Line Logistics (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.
2.	A.Hartrodt (S) Logistics Pte Ltd
3.	AB Vista Asia Pte Ltd
4.	ABV Logistics Pte Ltd
5.	Air Market Logistics (S) Pte. Ltd.
6.	Airtropolis Express (S) Pte Ltd
7.	Apex Logistics International (S) Pte. Ltd.
8.	Aramex International Logistics Private Ltd.
9.	Arista Networks Singapore Pte Ltd
10.	Arkema Pte Ltd

Here is the companies, which are registered in Secure Trade Partnership, in general in Singapore based on 2023 139 companies are already attain to that certificate:<sup>167</sup>



<sup>167</sup> Singapore customs ensuring revenue, enabling trade. Secure trade partnership-2023

The number of Companies which are certificated with Secure Trade Partnership accounted 69%, while STP-pioneer and STP-Plus encountered 2% and 29% respectively.

In 2025 there is a considerable increase in the number of companies which goes up to 145 <sup>168</sup>

Types of companies that are certified under Singapore's Secure Trade Partnership (STP) program:

- Logistics and Freight Forwarding Companies

These companies manage transportation, storage, and handling of goods for import/export. They play a key role in supply chain operations.

- Manufacturers and Exporters

Companies involved in the production and export of goods across different sectors, such as electronics, chemicals, and machinery.

- Wholesalers and Importers

Companies that handle the import of raw materials and distribute finished goods both locally and internationally.

- Customs Brokers and Consultancy Firms

These companies assist with clearing goods through customs, ensuring compliance with international trade regulations.

- Warehousing and Distribution Firms

Companies providing secure storage and distribution services for goods before they are shipped or sold.

- Port and Terminal Operators

Companies managing the operations at ports and terminals, ensuring efficient handling and movement of goods through Singapore's ports.

- Technology and Innovation Companies

Firms involved in implementing cutting-edge technologies like blockchain, IoT, and cybersecurity solutions in supply chain management.

- Retail and E-commerce Firms





Companies operating in retail and online e-commerce that require secure and efficient international shipping processes.

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<sup>168</sup> Singapore customs ensuring revenue, enabling trade. Secure trade partnership-2025  
[https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/businesses/SLMB/STP\\_Certified\\_Companies\\_20\\_Feb\\_2025.pdf](https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/businesses/SLMB/STP_Certified_Companies_20_Feb_2025.pdf)

These companies are distributed across different STP tiers (Basic, STP-Plus, and STP-Pioneer), which indicate their level of security and compliance with customs regulations.<sup>169</sup>

#### 145 STP-certified companies in Singapore (as of 20 Feb 2025) by type of trade:

Company Type	Number of Companies
 Logistics	56
 Technology/Manufacturing	15
 Chemicals/Pharma	4
 Warehousing	4
 Import/Export/Trading	3
 Marine/Oil	3
 Retail/Luxury	2
 Uncategorized	58

Distribution of STP-Certified Companies in Singapore by Trade Type (2025)

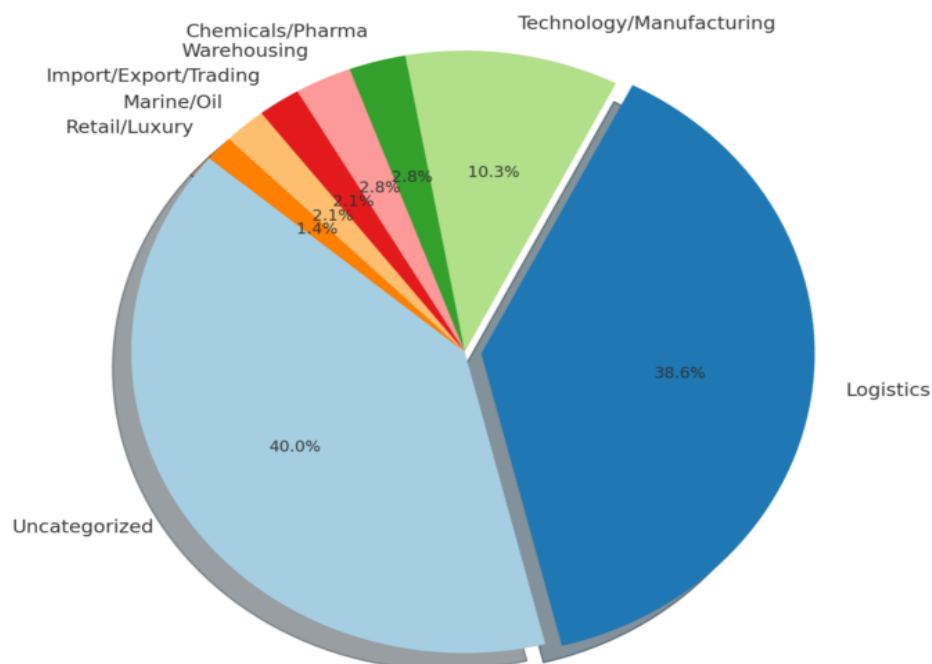


Chart shows STP-certified company distribution by sector, based on name-based classification (Feb 2025).

<sup>169</sup> The port for our nation. // Journal of commerce <https://www.joc.com/>



In 2025 there is a considerable increase in the number of companies which goes up to 145<sup>170</sup>

### **Conclusion:**

The Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program in Uzbekistan and the Secure Trade Partnership (STP) program in Singapore share common objectives of enhancing trade security, improving customs compliance, and facilitating faster, smoother trade. Both programs aim to streamline customs processes, reduce inspection times, and provide businesses with greater ease of doing business in international trade. However, Singapore's STP program is a more established and mature system, as it is founded earlier benefiting from a long history of integration into global trade networks, and is highly sophisticated in its approach to customs and trade facilitation. The AEO program in Uzbekistan, while still in its developmental phase, aligns with international best practices and aims to modernize Uzbekistan's customs operations. One of the important case of Authorized economic operator in Uzbekistan, it is not so effective tool for small-medium enterprises as there are some strict rules about their production quantity. Although it is quite useful for big industries, small-medium enterprises shouldn't be stayed out of concentration. It shouldn't only be beneficial for huge industries, but also all sector of business.

The key differences between the two programs are rooted in the level of maturity and the extent of integration with global trade systems. Singapore's STP program is tightly connected to its Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and international customs frameworks, providing businesses with significant advantages in terms of streamlined global trade. On the other hand, Uzbekistan's AEO program is newer and still evolving, and while it offers similar benefits, its reach and integration with global customs standards are less advanced compared to Singapore.

### **Suggestions for Uzbekistan:**

- Uzbekistan should focus on further strengthening its AEO program by deepening ties with international customs organizations, such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), and expanding its network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). This would enhance Uzbekistan's trade relations and improve the effectiveness of its AEO certification in the global market.
- Uzbekistan could look to Singapore's STP program as a model for developing a more sophisticated and streamlined certification process. By adopting more advanced risk management and compliance verification technologies, Uzbekistan could reduce the time and cost associated with certification, while enhancing the program's credibility.

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<sup>170</sup> Singapore customs ensuring revenue, enabling trade. Secure trade partnership-2025  
[https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/businesses/SLMB/STP\\_Certified\\_Companies\\_20\\_Feb\\_2025.pdf](https://www.customs.gov.sg/files/businesses/SLMB/STP_Certified_Companies_20_Feb_2025.pdf)

- It is important for Uzbekistan to engage more actively with the business community to raise awareness about the benefits of the AEO program. Providing businesses with clear guidelines, educational resources, and case studies from successful countries like Singapore could encourage more companies to adopt the program.
- Singapore’s STP program benefits from a strong partnership between customs authorities and the private sector. Uzbekistan should aim to create a similar collaboration, ensuring that the needs and challenges of businesses are addressed through regular consultations and feedback mechanisms.
- Investing in technology to improve customs automation and data sharing between businesses and authorities could significantly enhance the effectiveness of Uzbekistan’s AEO program. By leveraging technologies such as blockchain and digital customs platforms, Uzbekistan can better monitor compliance and ensure a more transparent and efficient trade process.

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