



ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

GUIDE ON DUTY FREE SHOP

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INTRODUCTION

1. This industry guide is prepared to assist businesses in understanding matters with regards to GST treatment on Duty Free Shop (DFS).

Overview of Goods and Services Tax (GST)

2. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a multi-stage tax on domestic consumption. GST is charged on all taxable supplies of goods and services in Malaysia except those specifically exempted. GST is also charged on importation of goods and services into Malaysia.

3. Payment of tax is made in stages by the intermediaries in the production and distribution process. Although the tax would be paid throughout the production and distribution chain, only the value added at each stage is taxed thus avoiding double taxation.

4. In Malaysia, a person who is registered under the Goods and Services Tax Act 20XX is known as a “registered person”. A registered person is required to charge GST (output tax) on his taxable supply of goods and services made to his customers. He is allowed to claim back any GST incurred on his purchases (input tax) which are inputs to his business. Therefore, the tax itself is not a cost to the intermediaries and does not appear as an expense item in their financial statements.

GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE INDUSTRY

5. Duty Free Shop (DFS) in Malaysia is licensed under Section 65D of Customs Act 1967. DFS typically operates at international airports, seaports, downtown and at borders. DFS is set up for the purpose of promoting the tourism industry in Malaysia, especially to foreign tourists. Foreign tourists as well as eligible local tourists are able to purchase goods free of duty and GST at any DFS.

TYPES OF DUTY FREE SHOP

6. Basically, there are several types of DFS operating in Malaysia, as follows:

(a) DFS Located At Airports

They are normally located at the “air side” of the airport terminal building. They are meant to cater for plane crew and air passengers.

(b) DFS Located At Seaports

Like at the airports, there are DFS at the various seaports in Malaysia, for example at Port Klang, Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Pasir Gudang Ferry Terminal, Tanjung Belungkor Ferry Terminal located in Johor Bahru.

(c) DFS Located At Borders

These are DFS located at certain border checkpoints, like Padang Besar and Bukit Kayu Hitam, to supply duty free goods to tourists.

(d) DFS Located Within The Country

There are also DFS within the country, like Rantau Panjang and Pengkalan Kubor located within Principal Customs Area but situated near Customs checkpoints.

GOODS THAT CAN BE SUPPLIED IN A DFS FREE OF DUTY AND GST

7. Under the Customs Act 1967 and Customs Regulations 1977, not all goods are allowed to be sold free of duty in a DFS. In other words, only certain categories of goods are allowed to be sold or supplied free of duty. Those goods that are allowed to be sold free of duty and GST include the following:

- (a) Foods products
- (b) Chocolate ,Confectionery
- (c) Liquor, Cigarettes, Tobacco
- (d) Leather product
- (e) Toilet preparation
- (f) Textiles, wearing apparel, Clothing Accessories
- (g) Footwear, Headgear

- (h) Tableware, Glassware (ceramic, porcelain, glass)
- (i) Jewellery
- (j) Articles of base metal
- (k) Typewriter, calculating machine
- (l) Domestic Electrical Appliances
- (m) Telephone set
- (n) Audio, Video media
- (o) Television Receivers, Video Cassette Recorders, Radio
Broadcast Receivers
- (p) Toys, Games
- (q) Cigarette Lighter, Ball Pen (plastic)
- (r) Sports goods

8. Goods on which import duty or excise duty has been paid are not allowed to be supplied in DFS. However, certain categories of manufactured goods in Malaysia such as food, beverages and gifts are allowed to be sold in DFS subject to conditions imposed by the Director General.

9. Duty Free Shops are not allowed to supply goods that are not listed as duty free goods.

GOODS SUPPLIED TO OR CONSUMED IN A DFS

10. GST payment on eligible goods that are imported is suspended when imported by a DFS operator. Such importation has to be declared in the prescribed form (Customs no. 8).

11. GST payment on goods acquired by a DFS operator from a bonded warehouse is also suspended. The declaration on the movement of goods from a bonded warehouse to a DFS must be made in Customs No.8 form.

12. GST payment on supply of goods from an excise warehouse to a DFS is suspended as well. Declaration on the movement of goods from such premise to a DFS must be made in Excise no.8 form.

13. Goods supplied by local manufacturers (including from FIZ and LMW companies) to a DFS are treated as local supplies. However, the DFS operator can claim the GST charged by the local manufacturers as his input tax credit.

14. Goods supplied to a DFS to be consumed or used in the DFS such as computers or office equipment is subject to GST at standard rate.

SERVICES SUPPLIED TO OR CONSUMED IN A DFS

15. All services supplied to or consumed in a DFS are subjected to GST. For example, supply of telecommunication to be consumed by a DFS operator. The DFS operator can claim GST paid on such services as his input tax credit.

GOODS SUPPLIED BY A DFS OPERATOR

16. Goods supplied by a DFS operator is given relief under Goods and Services Tax (Relief) Order 201X.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES OF A DFS OPERATOR

17. Duty free shop operators are responsible to keep full and true records of all supplies made and purchases acquired. DFS operator responsibilities also include the following:

(a) Bank Guarantee

Must furnish a bank guarantee or bond to cover the duty and/GST payable on the goods supplied at his DFS;

(b) Stock Record

Must maintain and keep stock records, sale record, daily sale record, monthly return and sales invoices;

(c) Return/audit report

DFS operator is required to submit monthly report to the RMC on his sale, acquisition and stock keep. Besides that, he has to submit an annual certified audit report to the RMC.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Goods Supplied to or Consumed in a Duty Free Shop

Q1: Are goods consumed in DFS such as water and electricity subject to GST?

A1: Yes, goods consumed in DFS like utilities are subject to GST at standard rate.

Services Supplied to or Consumed in a Duty Free Shop

Q2: What is the treatment of GST on freight for transporting goods to my DFS?

A2: Freight for the transportation of goods to DFS is subject to GST.

Q3: Must I also pay GST on insurance for transportation of goods to my DFS?

A3: Yes, insurance on transportation is also subject to GST.

Q4: Are services consumed in DFS such as security services subject to GST?

A4: Yes, services consumed in DFS like security services is subject to GST.

The treatment of GST on goods supplied in DFS

Q5: Are goods sold in DFS located at seaport or airport subject to GST?

A5: DFS located at airports and seaports are allowed to sell goods to ship crew and passengers. Foreign passengers or bona fide tourists and ship crew are allowed to purchase goods at such DFS free of duty and GST.

Q6: Are Malaysians normally residing in Malaysia but returning from overseas eligible to purchase goods without duty and GST from DFS?

A6: Only Malaysians returning from overseas after an absence from Malaysia not less than 72 hours are allowed to purchase duty free goods at DFS without duty and GST for certain quantities. The excess is subject to GST. Such eligible Malaysians must provide proof of their overseas stay.

Q7: I operate a downtown “Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS)” outlet. What is the GST treatment on goods supplied by me in the outlet?

A7: Goods sold at TRS outlets are subject to GST at standard rate. Any foreign tourist leaving Malaysia can claim GST paid on goods purchased at TRS outlet provided they fulfilled the conditions imposed under the TRS. For further details, please refer to *Guide on TRS*.

Q8: What is the GST treatment on goods sold in DFS located at borders, like Bukit Kayu Hitam, Kedah?

A8: All goods sold at border DFS are free of GST. However, if such goods are brought into Malaysia, GST would be imposed at the checkpoint by the customs.

Q9: What is the GST treatment on goods purchased by ineligible persons at airport and seaport DFS?

A9: Ineligible persons who purchased goods would have to pay GST on such purchases at the customs checkpoint.

Responsibilities and Liabilities of a DFS Operator

Q10: As a DFS operator, do I need to register for GST?

A10: As a DFS operator you must register as a GST registered person if your taxable turnover has exceeded the prescribed threshold. Sale of duty free goods is regarded as taxable supply.

Q11. How do I register as a GST registered person?

A11. You are required to fill in an application form to be submitted together with supporting documents such as your DFS license, your form 24, and 49 of the company Act. Copies of your I/C or passport, location plan. For further details please refer to *Guide on Registration*.

Q12: If I operate several DFS in Malaysia, can I register all the DFS under one single GST registration?

A12: Yes, you can register as one single entity. However, you may also choose to register your DFS separately under branch registration. Refer to *Guide on Registration*.

Q13: What happens if goods are damaged or lost in the DFS?

A13: Proper documentation, such as survey report describing the cause of damage and quantity involved must be furnished to the DG immediately. However, GST is chargeable on the damaged goods unless remission of tax is obtained from the DG.

FEEDBACK OR COMMENTS

18. Any feedback or comments will be greatly appreciated. Please email your feedbacks or comments to either Mohd Hisham B. Mohd Nor (m_hisham.nor@customs.gov.my) or Aminul Izmeer B. Mohd Sohaimi (izmeer.msohaimi@customs.gov.my).

FURTHER INFORMATION

19. Further information can be obtained from:

- (a) GST Website : www.gst.customs.gov.my
- (b) Customs Call Centre :
 - Tel : 03- 7806 7200/ 1-300-888-500
 - Fax : 03- 7806 7599
 - E-mail : ccc@customs.gov.my