

## **Frequently Asked Questions of**

### **Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme**

#### **About ITFS**

##### **1. What is ITFS?**

With the implementation of the Road Cargo System (ROCARS), Hong Kong Customs introduces the Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (ITFS) to offer facilitation to Air – Land / Sea – Land transshipment cargoes by simplified clearance process. With the electronic transshipment consignment information and application of Electronic Lock (E-Lock) and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, Hong Kong Customs can monitor the movement of the transshipment cargoes and the vehicles conveying such cargoes.

##### **2. What kinds of goods are covered by ITFS?**

The following items can be transshipped under ITFS:

1. general goods which are not controlled by any license or permit;
2. dutiable commodities with permits;
3. controlled chemicals with permits; and
4. cargoes under Transshipment Cargo Exemption Scheme.

##### **3. What are the benefits in joining ITFS?**

The aim of ITFS is to offer facilitation to intermodal transshipment cargoes by simplifying the customs clearance process. If not conveyed under the ITFS, transshipment cargoes may be subject to inspection by the Hong Kong Customs respectively at both points of entry and exit.

If the transshipment cargoes are conveyed under the ITFS, it will normally be subject to one inspection at either the point of entry or exit.

**4. Is it compulsory to join ITFS?**

No. Participation in ITFS is on a voluntary basis.

**5. What is the relationship between ROCARS and ITFS?**

Registered Shippers or Agents should lodge advanced land cargo information to Hong Kong Customs via ROCARS. By means of interface with other systems used by Hong Kong Customs, officers can share collected data for effective risk profiling and provide facilitation to transshipment cargoes.

**6. When was ITFS implemented?**

ITFS was rolled out in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010.

**7. Can transshipment consignments under ITFS be unloaded during the trip?**

No. ITFS is only applicable to intermodal transshipment consignments. ITFS consignments should be transported to the Hong Kong International Airport, land boundary control points, Kwai Chung Customhouse or River Trade Terminal for export once being imported into Hong Kong.

## **Registration**

### **8. How can I join ITFS?**

Interested parties are required to register with the department under ROCARS and ITFS. The registered vehicles should be equipped with E-lock and GPS monitoring system provided by accredited suppliers and inspection by the Hong Kong Customs is compulsory.

### **9. What are the registration procedures?**

For registration details of ROCARS and ITFS, please refer to ROCARS homepage ([www.rocars.gov.hk](http://www.rocars.gov.hk)).

## **Equipment**

### **10. How to use the E-lock and GPS required under ITFS?**

ITFS vehicles and its cargoes are monitored by application of E-lock and GPS technology. E-lock will be applied to the vehicles and auto-locked at the point of entry to prevent illegal interference to the contents of the ITFS vehicles and GPS will be used to monitor the routing of the vehicles in Hong Kong. In case no irregularity is detected, the E-lock will be auto-unlocked at the point of exit. Otherwise, the auto-unlock function of E-lock will be deactivated and only officers of the Hong Kong Customs can open the E-lock by a handheld device for further clearance.

**11.Can I use the existing e-lock cum GPS equipment?**

Currently, there are 3 accredited suppliers of the E-lock cum GPS equipment. Participants of ITFS can choose from these vendors according to their own wills.

**12.How can I approach the eligible providers for E-lock cum GPS?**

Details of the eligible e-lock cum GPS equipment suppliers can be accessed in ROCARS homepage ([www.rocars.gov.hk](http://www.rocars.gov.hk)).

**13.Is there any charge for ITFS?**

No charge will be collected by C&ED. However, service charge may be incurred from the usage of E-lock cum GPS equipment.

**14.Can I change the provider of e-lock cum GPS?**

Yes. Users have the right to choose any accredited e-lock and GPS suppliers. Upon the change of equipment, users shall provide C&ED with the updated registration details. Testing and inspection on the equipment and vehicle will be required.

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