



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

12 December 2023

3,749 CARTONS AND 3,628 PACKETS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED AT TUAS AND MARINE PARADE

Singapore, 12 December 2023 – In our ongoing efforts to suppress illegal cigarette activities, Singapore Customs conducted two operations in Tuas Link 3 and Marine Parade Central on 6 December and 7 December 2023 respectively.

2 In the operation conducted at Tuas Link 3, our officers conducted checks on a truck in an industrial unit. They uncovered a total of 1,509 cartons and 3,628 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The truck driver, a 31-year-old male Chinese national, was arrested.

3 In the second operation at Marine Parade Central, our officers uncovered 2,240 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes packed in brown carton boxes in a van. A 32-year-old male Singaporean, who was the van driver, was arrested.

4 Along with the duty-unpaid cigarettes, both vehicles involved were also seized during the operations. Investigations revealed that unknown persons allegedly engaged both men to collect and deliver the duty-unpaid cigarettes.

5 The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$440,127. We have initiated court proceedings against the Chinese national. Investigations are ongoing for the Singaporean.

6 Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences under the Customs Act and the GST Act. Offenders can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty, and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years. Vehicles used in committing such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

7 Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can provide information to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photos of the operations

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About Singapore Customs

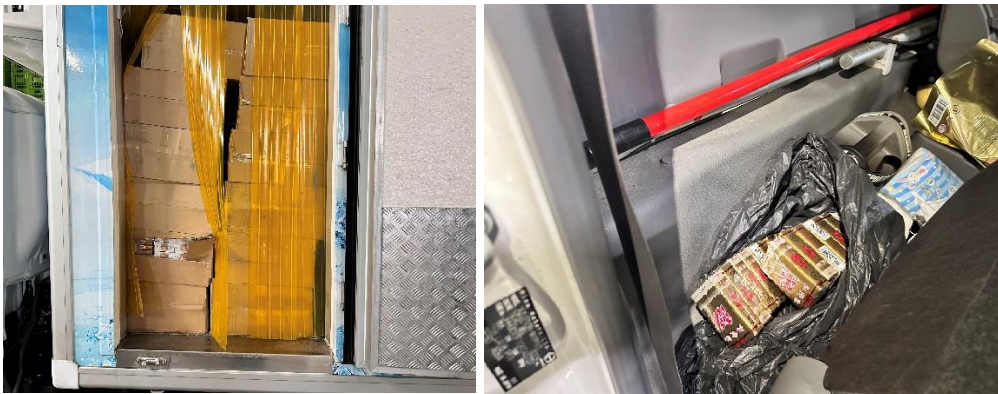
Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We regulate the export of strategic goods and implement Singapore's commitments to some international trade regulations such as the United Nations Security Council Sanctions.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations in our mission and operations. With the use of data analytics, digitalisation of processes and various technologies, we continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing the intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

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ANNEX A



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the truck at Tuas Link 3



The man arrested at Tuas Link 3 and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van at Marine Parade Central



The man arrested at Marine Parade Central and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized