

PRESS RELEASE

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS SEIZED 1,000 CARTONS OF DUTY UNPAID CIGARETTES AND 18,000 PIECES OF UNCENSORED OPTICAL DISCS

On 7 July 2004 at about 1.45 pm, Customs Special Investigations Branch officers arrested one Indian Malaysian (aged 33, bonded truck driver), one male Chinese Singaporean (aged 22, van driver) and seized 1,000 cartons assorted brands of duty unpaid cigarettes and 18,000 pieces of assorted optical discs from a Malaysian registered truck and Singapore registered van along Tuas Avenue 8.

The Customs duty and GST of the cigarettes were \$58,600.00 and \$3,910.00 respectively. The market value of the cigarettes amounted to \$95,000.00. The GST on the assorted optical discs was \$3,448.50.

Acting on intelligence gathered, a party of Customs officers kept watch at the vicinity of Tuas Avenue 8 for a Malaysian registered bonded truck suspected to be conveying contraband. The suspect truck arrived at 11.40am. The Singapore registered van arrived later at 1.20 pm and parked behind the truck. The men were seen transferring boxes from the truck to the van. At this juncture, officers moved in for a search and found 20 boxes containing 1,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and 20 boxes containing about 18,000 pieces of uncensored optical discs in the bonded truck. The goods were seized and both drivers arrested.

The offenders will be charged in Court on 8 July 2004. Upon conviction, they may be fined up to 20 times the tax evaded or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST may contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

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Singapore Customs
7 July 2004