



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

MAN FINED \$95,000 FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF DUTY & GST AND FOR FURNISHING FALSE INFORMATION ON IMPORT OF A PORSCHE CAYMAN MOTOR CAR

On 16 June 2008, Soh Chee Kwang, a 31-year old Singaporean male Chinese, was sentenced by the Court to fines totalling \$95,000 for fraudulent evasion of duty and GST amounting to \$9,622.67, and for furnishing false information to Customs officers on the importation of a brand new Porsche Cayman motor vehicle. Soh pleaded guilty to the charges on 13 June 2008. He was convicted of one count each of fraudulent evasion of duty and GST, and two counts of furnishing information which he knew to be false to Customs officers.

2 On 26 April 2008, Soh submitted a Declaration of Facts to Singapore Customs for the issuance of a Customs permit for import of one unit of Porsche Cayman motor vehicle from Germany into Singapore. Soh had declared to Singapore Customs that the purchase value of the car was Euro 28,000 and submitted supporting documents to substantiate this value. The car was brought into Singapore on 31 May 2008.

3 Singapore Customs' investigations revealed that the supporting documents provided by Soh were falsified. Soh had on two separate occasions on 12 and 13 May 2008 provided falsified documents to substantiate a lower false purchase value for the motor vehicle. Subsequent investigations revealed that the actual invoice value of the car paid for by Soh to the supplier in Germany was Euro 48,710, which is Euro 20,710 higher than the value of Euro 28,000 declared by Soh to Singapore Customs.

4 Soh was arrested on 12 June 2008 and charged in Court for the offences. On 16 June 2008, he was sentenced to \$60,000 fine or in default 4 months' imprisonment and \$25,000 fine or in default 2 months' imprisonment for fraudulent evasion of \$6,776.53 in duty and \$2,846.14 in GST respectively. For the 2 counts of furnishing false information, he was sentenced to a fine of \$5,000 each or in default 4 weeks' imprisonment.

5 Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of the importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the values and other related costs declared to Singapore Customs. Under declaration of the value is a serious offence as it will result in short payment of duty, GST and Additional Registration Fee (ARF). All cases of revenue evasion and violations of customs regulations are investigated and action will be taken against the errant importers. Any person who is guilty of fraudulent evasion of duties or GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duties and GST evaded or in default a jail sentence. Any person who abets the commission of such offence will be similarly punished. It is a serious offence to give false information and furnish false documents to Customs officers. On conviction, offenders can be fined up to \$5,000 or jailed up to 12 months, or both.

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