



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

6 September 2021

Five arrested in enforcement operation with more than 6,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized

Singapore Customs arrested a Malaysian woman, a Malaysian man, and three Singaporean men, aged between 21 and 54, and seized more than 6,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation conducted at an industrial building in Woodlands Industrial Park on 2 September 2021.

Case information

During the operation, Singapore Customs officers observed boxes being transferred into a Singapore-registered box truck at the loading/unloading bay of the industrial building. Suspecting that the boxes contained duty-unpaid cigarettes, officers moved in to check and found 1,120 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the truck. A Malaysian woman and three Singaporean men were arrested.

The arrests led to ensuing checks on a nearby Singapore-registered box truck, where another 4,928 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were uncovered.

The fifth person arrested in the operation is the driver of a Malaysia-registered lorry suspected to be used to deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes to the industrial building. He was arrested at the Tuas Checkpoint when he attempted to leave Singapore.

A total of 6,048 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized, together with the two Singapore-registered box trucks and the Malaysian-registered lorry. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$516,490 and \$41,430 respectively. Investigations are ongoing.

“Singapore Customs will take strong enforcement actions against illegal activities involving duty-unpaid cigarettes,” said Assistant Director-General (Intelligence & Investigation) Yeo Sew Meng [新加坡关税局助理局长(情报与调查)杨秀明]. “We would like to seek the cooperation of owners of industrial premises to be alert and look out for suspicious persons and activities to prevent their premises from being misused,” added Mr Yeo.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession 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 the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000, email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs
6 September 2021

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ANNEX



1,120 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the truck at the loading/unloading bay of an industrial building in Woodlands Industrial Park.



Another 4,928 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in another truck in the vicinity of Woodlands Industrial Park.