



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

## MEDIA RELEASE

15 December 2021

### **Singapore Customs arrests man and seizes more than 1,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes**

Singapore Customs arrested a 39-year-old male Chinese National and seized more than 1,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation on 8 December 2021.

#### Case information

During the operation conducted in the vicinity of Gambas Crescent, Singapore Customs officers observed a man collecting a consignment of goods from a warehouse and loading it into a Singapore-registered truck.

Officers moved in to conduct a check and found 1,512 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed inside the consignment of six air-conditioning units. Investigations established that the consignment was imported from China via Less than Container Load<sup>1</sup> (LCL) container. The man was placed under arrest. Officers found another carton and nine packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes during a follow-up search at the man's residence.

The operation led to a seizure of the Singapore-registered truck, and 1,513 cartons and nine packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The total duty and Goods and Services

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<sup>1</sup> Less than Container Load containers have multiple consignments belonging to different consignees packed in the same container. Freight forwarding companies in Singapore would unstuff the containers for the consignments to be delivered or collected by individual consignees.

tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$129,280 and \$10,370 respectively. Court proceedings against the man are ongoing.

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 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 or email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) to report these illegal activities.

**Singapore Customs**

**15 December 2021**

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## ANNEX



Air-conditioning units were moved from a warehouse into the Singapore-registered truck.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes were found concealed inside air-conditioning units.



1,513 cartons and nine packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the operation.