



**SINGAPORE  
CUSTOMS**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

28 March 2025

### **SINGAPOREAN WOMAN FINED \$18,000 FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF GST UPON ARRIVAL**

**Singapore, 28 March 2025** – A 27-year-old Singaporean woman was sentenced by the State Courts on 27 March 2025 to a fine of \$18,000 for the fraudulent evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST). Investigations by Singapore Customs (“Customs”) revealed that she had knowingly failed to declare and pay GST at Changi Airport for goods acquired during an overseas trip.

2 In May 2024, the offender travelled to Europe for a holiday with her family and boyfriend. During the holiday, she purchased branded bags, wallets, shoes and watches. She also received a diamond ring from her boyfriend who bought it during the trip. Upon returning to Singapore, she exited the arrival hall via the Green Channel at Changi Airport without declaring these items, despite knowing that her overseas purchases exceeded her GST import relief<sup>1</sup> entitlement. Additionally, she later shared details of her overseas purchases on social media, including methods to evade GST payment.

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<sup>1</sup> For qualifying bona fide travellers who were away from Singapore for 48 hours or more, the value of goods granted GST import relief is up to \$500.

<https://www.customs.gov.sg/individuals/going-through-customs/arrivals/duty-free-concession-and-gst-relief/>

3 Following investigations, Customs arrested and charged the offender with one count of fraudulent evasion of GST. The total value of her 17 undeclared items amounted to \$25,350.92 after deducting her GST relief. The GST evaded was \$2,281.58, which has since been recovered.

4 It is the responsibility of all arriving travellers to make accurate and complete declaration of the dutiable and taxable items in their possession for duty and GST payment. Evading duties and/or GST at checkpoints is a serious offence that cannot be condoned. This revenue belongs to Singapore, and its collection is essential to maintaining a level playing field for local businesses that pay these taxes. Travellers can declare and pay conveniently either in-person at checkpoints or digitally through the [Customs@SG web application](#). Under the Customs Act, any person found guilty of fraudulent evasion of GST will be liable to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of tax evaded and/or be jailed for up to two years.

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

## **Annex A: Photographs**

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### **About Singapore Customs**

Singapore Customs protects revenue and facilitates trade for Singapore's economic growth while continuously striving to be a world-leading customs authority. As a partner of the Ministry of Finance, we ensure compliance with customs and tax regulations, safeguard the nation's financial interests, and combat illicit trade activities. We also enable seamless trade by simplifying customs processes, building global trade connectivity, and maintaining Singapore's position as a trusted global trading hub. Guided by our values of integrity, commitment, courage, responsiveness and teamwork, we strive for excellence with a professional and innovative team. Together, we ensure revenue and enable trade, fostering a thriving Singapore economy.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)

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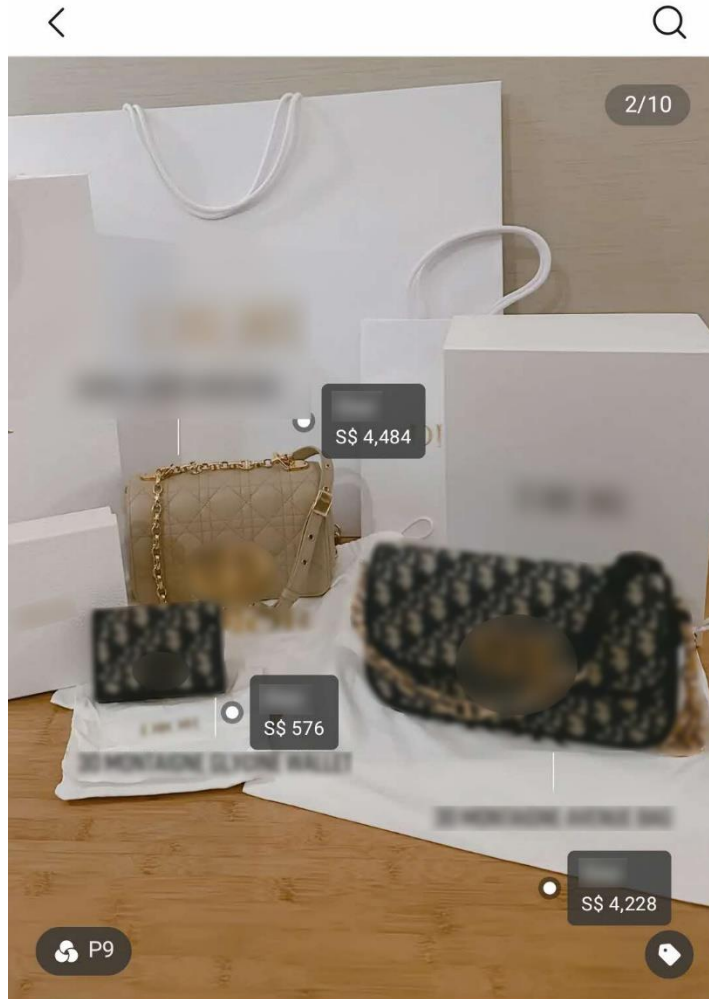
# Annex A

**Top Tips To Getting Your Luxury Goods Past Customs**  
Black Bags

**121 Facets Diamond Ring**  
Nice to meet you

**How I Avoid 9% GST @ SG Customs 😊**  
Hi [redacted]! A fellow [redacted] previously asked me how did I manage to get my luxury goods past SG customs WITHOUT paying the 9% GST, and I decided to share my

**MY \$9500 ENGAGEMENT RING 🥰**  
My boyfriend got me my engagement ring recently from [redacted] during our recent trip to [redacted]



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**💎 MASSIVE \$18,000 LUXURY HAUL?! 😱**

Recently came back from Europe and decided to share my massive luxury haul 💎 5 bags and 2 wallets 😊

Prior to the trip, I wasn't really eyeing anything in

Social media posts by the Singaporean woman.