



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

9 September 2025

MAN ARRESTED AND OVER 1,400 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED

Singapore, 9 September 2025 – On 27 August 2025, Singapore Customs arrested a male Indian national, 29, in an enforcement operation at Woodlands Terrace. We seized a total of 1,445 cartons and 16 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes, as well as two trucks. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$156,693.

2 During the operation at the back lane of the industrial estate, our officers observed the man transferring a black trash bag between two Singapore-registered trucks. They conducted checks and in the first truck, found 122 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. 1,323 cartons and 16 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the second truck.

3 Investigations revealed that an unknown person had allegedly engaged the man to transfer part of the duty-unpaid cigarettes from the second truck to the first truck for delivery. Court proceedings are ongoing against the man.

4 “Such firm actions by our officers on the ground underscore Singapore Customs’ continuous effort to detect and deter tax evasion, and the importance of vigilance and enforcement. We will continue to act decisively against those who choose to flout the law. We further urge the public to play a part by reporting suspicious activities,” said a Singapore Customs spokesperson.

5 Under the Customs Act and the GST Act, buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences. 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 committing such offences are also subject to forfeiture.

6 Singapore Customs remains committed to enforcing strict compliance with customs regulations and protecting revenue. Members of public with information on smuggling activities or duty or GST evasion can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photographs of the operation

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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

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Annex A



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the two trucks.



The arrested man and duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.