



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

12 November 2025

THREE MEN ARRESTED AND OVER 1,540 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED

Singapore, 12 November 2025 – Singapore Customs has seized more than 1,540 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and arrested three male Chinese nationals, aged between 38 and 44, in two enforcement operations conducted on 4 November 2025 at Joo Koon Circle and Bendemeer Road. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$167,125.

2 During the first operation at Joo Koon Circle, our Customs officers observed a man transferring a black rubbish bag from an industrial unit to a van. Checks uncovered 768 cartons and 12 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes inside the unit and the vehicle. Two men, aged 38 and 44, were arrested, and the cigarettes and van were seized.

3 In a follow-up operation at Bendemeer Road, our officers intercepted a 41-year-old man alighting from a truck. A search of the vehicle revealed more than 768 cartons and 10 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. Follow-up checks at his residence at Moulmein Rise uncovered another four cartons and five packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The truck and all cigarettes were seized.

4 Preliminary investigations indicate that the 38-year-old suspect was allegedly engaged to repack the duty-unpaid cigarettes supplied by the 41-year-old man, while the

44-year-old suspect was allegedly responsible for delivering the contraband to customers. Court proceedings are ongoing for the 38- and 44-year-old men, while investigations are ongoing for the 41-year-old suspect.

5 "The decisive actions of our officers on the ground bear testament to Singapore Customs' ongoing efforts to detect and deter tax evasion. With our unwavering and vigilant enforcement, we will pursue and prosecute those who break the law without hesitation. We call on the public to join our efforts by reporting any suspicious activities they witness," said a Singapore Customs spokesperson.

6 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.

7 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 operations

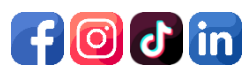
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About Singapore Customs

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 van and within the industrial unit at Joo Koon Circle.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the truck at Bendemeer Road.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found at the 41-year-old man's Moulmein Rise residence.



The three arrested men and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.