



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

26 Aug 2022

Singapore Customs arrests a man and seizes more than 200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested a male Singaporean, aged 35, and seized a total of 261 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation on 23 August 2022.

Case information

During an operation conducted at a car park in the vicinity of Ubi Road 3, Singapore Customs officers sighted a man in a Singapore-registered car which was loaded with brown boxes in its passenger compartment. Officers moved in and uncovered 258 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the car. The man was placed under arrest. A follow-up search at the man's residence led to a seizure of another three cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and 10 empty computer casings that were used as cover loads for the duty-unpaid cigarettes.

Investigations revealed that the man was allegedly engaged by an unknown person via a social messaging platform to accept delivery of the computer casings at his residence, retrieve duty-unpaid cigarettes from the computer casings, and then pack and deliver the duty-unpaid cigarettes to different locations in Singapore.

All the duty-unpaid cigarettes, computer casings and the vehicle were seized. The total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$22,280 and \$1,770 respectively. Court proceedings 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 duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs

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ANNEX



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the car.



Empty computer casings found in the man's residence.



261 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and 10 computer casings seized in the operation.