



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

MOTORIST WITH TAMPERED FUEL GAUGE FINED AND JAILED TWO WEEKS

On 5 August 2008, Abu Khalid Bin Md Jadi, a 52-year-old Singaporean pleaded guilty to two charges – for not having the minimum amount of motor spirit in his vehicle’s fuel tank when attempting to leave Singapore on 31 July 2008 and for giving false information to the officer inspecting his fuel gauge of his vehicle. For the 1st charge, he was sentenced to \$500 fine or in default one week’s jail. For the 2nd charge, he was sentenced to two weeks’ imprisonment.

2 On 31 July 2008, at about 10.45 am, Abu Khalid Bin Md Jadi drove his car to Woodlands Checkpoint. At the checkpoint, when asked whether he had three-quarter tank of fuel in his car’s fuel tank, Abu Khalid declared that his fuel tank was almost full. After conducting a thorough check, a remote control switch was found hanging from the wiper lever of his car. When being questioned, Abu Khalid claimed that the remote control was malfunctioned and could not give any reason for its purpose. The ICA officer then activated the remote control and saw the fuel indicator dropped to “E”, indicating an empty fuel tank. Only then did Abu Khalid admit that the remote control was for the purpose of tampering his vehicle’s fuel gauge reading. The case was then referred to Singapore Customs for follow-up. The car was inspected and it was confirmed that its fuel gauge had been tampered with and the amount of fuel in the fuel tank was less than one quarter full. In the course of investigations, Abu Khalid admitted that he was aware of the three-quarter tank rule and installed the fuel gauge tampering device in his vehicle in August 2007 for RM150.

3 Abu Khalid was arrested and charged in court on 31 July 2008. For the 1st charge of not having the minimum amount of motor spirit in his vehicle’s fuel tank when attempting to leave Singapore, he was sentenced to a fine of \$500 or in default one week’s jail. For the 2nd charge of giving false information which is an offence under Section 129(1)(c) of the Customs Act, he was sentenced to two weeks’ imprisonment.

4 Tampering with the fuel gauge of the vehicle so that it gives a false reading that the amount of fuel in the fuel tank is three-quarters full is a serious offence. It shows a deliberate intent to cheat the authorities. In the last two years, three persons had been charged in court for tampering with their car fuel gauges. All three were convicted and were sentenced to both fines and imprisonment.

End of Release

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