



## SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

### EVERY CIGARETTE STICK TO BEAR “SDPC” MARKING FROM 1 JANUARY 2009

With effect from 1 January 2009, all duty-paid cigarettes sold in Singapore will be legally required to be marked with the letters “SDPC” (which stands for *Singapore Duty-Paid Cigarettes*). This new marking requirement is an additional enforcement measure to reinforce Singapore Customs’ intensified island-wide operations to curb the peddling and possession of contraband cigarettes.

#### **SDPC-marked Cigarettes from 1 January 2009**

2 From 1 January 2009 onwards, every stick of cigarette imported into or manufactured in Singapore for local sale are required to be marked “SDPC”. A sample image of a SDPC-marked cigarette is attached in Annex A. The SDPC marking on every stick of duty-paid cigarettes sold in Singapore is a measure to visibly differentiate duty-paid cigarettes from contraband cigarettes. There is no change to the requirement stipulated by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) for all cigarette packets sold in Singapore to bear the graphic health warning labels.

3 Following the implementation of this marking regulation on 1 January 2009, all unmarked cigarettes sold in Singapore will be deemed illegal. Therefore, anyone caught selling, buying, or having in possession cigarettes without the SDPC marking will be committing an offence under the Customs and GST Acts.

4 Mr Fong Yong Kian, Director-General of Customs, said, “The availability of cheap duty-unpaid cigarettes will hamper our national effort to discourage smoking. Singapore Customs is committed to keep illegal cigarettes off the streets. To further strengthen our enforcement efforts, from 1 January next year, every stick of duty-paid

cigarette sold in Singapore will be marked with the letters “SPDC”. The marking will serve as deterrence against the peddling and buying of contraband cigarettes and help our officers in the enforcement efforts.”

### **Public Advisory on SDPC-marked Cigarettes**

5           Come 1 January 2009 when the new marking requirement is in force, members of the public are advised against buying or smoking unmarked cigarettes. All unmarked cigarettes will be deemed to be duty-unpaid and illegal. Under the Customs and GST Acts, smoking and possession of duty-unpaid cigarettes is an offence. For every packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes, the offender can be fined \$500. The public is advised to think twice before lighting up contraband cigarettes, as smoking duty-unpaid cigarettes is an offence that comes with severe penalties.

6           Arriving travellers and returning Singaporeans who have brought in cigarettes from overseas for their own consumption are advised to keep their receipts as proof of payment of duty and GST when checked by Customs officers.

7           Members of the public can visit the Singapore Customs website [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg) for more information on the cigarette marking regulation. Singapore Customs will also be launching a publicity and community outreach campaign to raise awareness and garner public support and commitment to stay away from duty-unpaid cigarettes to complement enforcement efforts.

### **Stiff Penalties for Customs Offences**

8           Singapore Customs warns that buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with contraband cigarettes are serious offences under the Customs and GST Acts. Stiff penalties are imposed for such offences. On conviction, offenders can be jailed as well as fined. The vehicles used in the commission of such offence are also liable to be forfeited. The public are strongly advised not to buy duty-unpaid cigarettes. Members of the public with information on smuggling activities

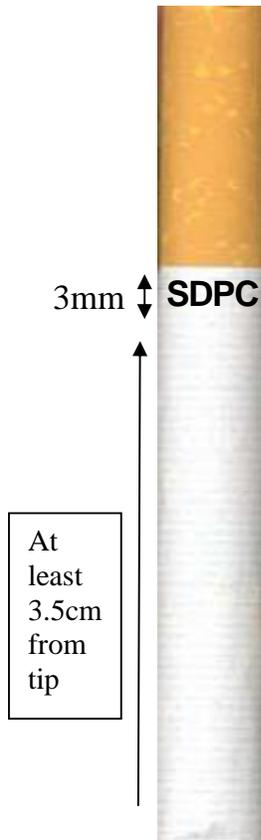
or evasion of Customs duty or GST should contact the Singapore Customs Hotline at 1800-2330000 or email to [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg).

End of Release

**ISSUED BY: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS (新加坡关税局) (KASTAM SINGAPURA)**

**DATE: 10 September 2008**

## MARKING ON CIGARETTE STICK



### Specifications of Marking

Marking: "SDPC" – Singapore duty paid cigarettes

Size: 3.0mm

Font: Arial black

Colour: Black or such other colour as the Director-General may approve

Printing: Ring of text "SDPC" round the rod

Position: At least 3.5 cm from the burning tip