



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

MAN CHARGED FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF DUTY & GST ON IMPORT OF JAPANESE CARS

Singapore Customs today arrested a Singaporean man for fraudulent evasion of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) by submitting invoices that showed incorrect values for the import of motor cars from Japan.

2 Mr Lauren Sim Guan Heng (aged 44) faces 146 charges for fraudulent evasion of excise duty and GST, and additional 124 charges for making incorrect declarations to Customs officers. All in, 310 units of Japanese cars of various makes were involved and the duty and GST shortpaid totalled \$417,246.09. The offences took place between August 2006 and September 2007.

3 Sim will be charged in court on 30 June 2009.

4 Since November 2008, SC had charged 12 persons in court for the offence of fraudulent evasion of duty and GST. One of them had pleaded guilty and was sentenced to fines totalling \$1.416 million in April 2009. The other cases are still ongoing.

5 As the lead agency on trade facilitation and revenue enforcement matters, SC will take to task any traders which flout customs regulations to defraud the State or to gain an unfair advantage over other traders. SC's enforcement actions are targeted at all malpractices that contravene the Customs Act, whether committed by parallel importers or the authorised distributors.

6 Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of the importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the values and other related costs declared to SC. Under-declaration of the value is a serious offence as it will result in short payment of duty, GST and Additional Registration Fee (ARF). All cases of revenue evasion and violations of customs regulations are investigated, and action will be taken against the errant importers or any persons concerned in abetting the fraudulent evasion of duty and GST. Any person who is guilty of fraudulent evasion of duties or GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded or imprisonment, or both. In addition to the penalties meted out by the court, the offenders are also required to make good the duty and GST short-paid to the government.

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

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