



Singapore Customs Media Release

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS SEIZED LARGEST TRANSSHIPMENT HAUL OF CIGARETTES THIS YEAR

Over 500,000 packets uncovered in joint operation

On 25 April 2011, Singapore Customs seized a container load of 502,500 packets (or 50,250 cartons) of cigarettes in a joint operation conducted between Singapore Customs and the Royal Malaysian Customs. This was the largest transshipment haul seized by Singapore Customs in 2011.

2 The successful joint operation between the two Customs authorities was conducted from 22 to 25 April 2011. The goods in the container were declared in the manifest as hydraulic brakes. Suspecting that the goods could be incorrectly declared and cigarettes were most likely the loot in the container, Singapore Customs made arrangements with the shipping agent to inspect the container. On 25 April 2011, officers detained the container for customs inspection, where 502,500 packets of assorted brands of cigarettes bearing Malaysian health warnings were detected inside the container, instead of hydraulic brakes as declared.

3 Preliminary investigations revealed that the container was on transshipment and was bound for Malaysia. The container was immediately seized. Further investigations are on-going into this case.

4 Under the Customs Act, all goods including goods in transit, other than bona fide sea, air or railway stores, have to be specified in the manifest of the vessel, aircraft or train. If not properly manifested, these goods are deemed to be uncustomed goods and are liable to seizure.

[Please see case photographs in [Appendix I](#).]

**ISSUED BY: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS
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新加坡关税局
சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

DATE: 5 MAY 2011



Cigarettes packed in brown boxes filled the container



**When ever did hydraulic brakes become cigarettes?
A total of 502,500 packets of cigarettes were seized in container arising
from incorrect manifest declaration.**