



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

CAR IMPORTER AND EMPLOYEE FINED FOR USING FALSIFIED DOCUMENTS TO IMPORT 27 BMW CARS

A car importer and his employee were sentenced by the court today for using falsified documents to support their declaration of motor vehicle imports.

2 Sole proprietor Soh Kam Wah, 43, was fined \$12,000 (in default eight weeks' imprisonment), for using falsified documents to support the Declaration of Facts for Motor Vehicles (DOF) submitted to Singapore Customs for the import of 27 BMW cars. For abetting the offences, his administrative assistant, Loo Peng Quee Daniel, 27, was also fined \$12,000 (in default eight weeks' imprisonment).

3 Anyone intending to import a vehicle into Singapore is required to submit a DOF to Singapore Customs. Only after the DOF is approved can the importer proceed to obtain the duty/GST payment permit to import the vehicle.

4 Soh and Loo pleaded guilty to eight charges each. They each faced another 30 charges of using falsified documents and abetment in making untrue declarations, which were taken into consideration for the purpose of sentencing. In addition, Soh faced another charge of making an incorrect declaration on the value of an Audi Q5 TFSI Quattro, which resulted in a lower assessed customs value for the car. This was also taken into consideration in the sentencing.

5 In October 2010, Singapore Customs initiated an investigation into the business activities of City Automobile. It found that between July and September 2010, Loo had prepared 18 sets of DOF and supporting documents relating to the import of 27 BMW cars by City Automobile. The DOFs and supporting documents were signed and submitted by Soh to Singapore Customs. Subsequently, Soh and Loo used the approved DOFs to obtain duty/GST payment permits for the BMW cars.

6 Investigations revealed that Soh and Loo had done so despite being aware that the supporting documents relating to the 27 BMW cars had been falsified.

7 In addition to the offences relating to the 27 BMW cars, Soh had failed to declare all the fitted options for the Audi car in a separate DOF submitted to Singapore Customs in December 2009. This resulted in a lower assessed customs value for the car.

8 Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information in the DOFs and supporting documents submitted to Singapore Customs. Any person who is guilty of using falsified documents or making incorrect declarations will on conviction be fined up to \$10,000 or the equivalent of the amount of the tax payable, whichever is higher, or jailed up to 12 months, or both.

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DATE: 23 AUGUST 2011