



Singapore Customs Media Release

Crushed and Burned

\$2.5m worth of illegal cigarettes go up in smoke

Ever wondered what happens to all the contraband cigarettes seized by Singapore Customs?

2 The stash is kept under tight security in a secured warehouse. After the illegal cigarettes are forfeited by the court, they will be transported to the Tuas South Incineration Plant where they are compacted and burned – under the watchful eyes of Singapore Customs officers.

3 This morning (10 November 2011), about 5.5 tonnes of illegal cigarettes were reduced to ash. The 5,500,000 sticks of contraband cigarettes were worth almost \$2.5m.

4 In the first nine months of this year, 49 tonnes (or 49,180,000 sticks) of contraband cigarettes were incinerated. Over the same period last year, 76 tonnes (or 76,010,000 sticks) of cigarettes were destroyed.

5 These contraband cigarettes were seized during enforcement operations conducted regularly by Singapore Customs as well as other enforcement agencies.

6 Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with contraband cigarettes are serious offences. Those found guilty will be severely dealt with. Repeat offenders can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded and/or jailed for up to six years. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited. For possessing a packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes, buyers may face a composition sum of \$500 or prosecution in court.

7 Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST should contact the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

ISSUED BY: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

新加坡关税局

KASTAM SINGAPURA

சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

DATE: 10 November 2011

APPENDIX



Seized contraband cigarettes are kept under tight security in a secured warehouse. After the cigarettes are forfeited by the court, they will be transported to the Tuas South Incineration Plant where they are compacted and burned.





Contraband cigarettes being loaded onto the dump truck.



At the Tuas South Incineration Plant, the contraband cigarettes are off-loaded from the dump truck into the crusher pit where they are crushed before being incinerated.