



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

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Two handbag retailers fined for fraudulent evasion of GST

Two handbag retailers were sentenced by the State Courts on 15 April 2015 for the fraudulent evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Tang Wai Chuen Adrian, 42, and Ong Siew Hong, 60, were fined \$95,000 and \$42,000 respectively. They had under-declared the value of their imported goods in fake invoices submitted to Singapore Customs.

Between January 2013 and June 2014, Tang had imported 3,390 branded handbags – from the United States (US), Italy and Malaysia – on 80 occasions. The under-declaration of the import values of the goods resulted in a shortfall of about \$55,606 in GST payment. Tang, the owner of MBE Trading & Services, pleaded guilty to 10 charges. Another 70 charges were taken into consideration in the sentencing.

In the other case, Ong, director of Be Bonita Fashion and Apparels Pte Ltd, was caught for submitting fake invoices with the import declarations to Singapore Customs. Investigations revealed that between May 2013 and November 2014, she had imported 2,024 branded handbags and 1,505 pieces of accessories – such as wristlets, phone cases, children toys and travel adapters – on 13 occasions. The total amount of GST evaded exceeded \$7,360. Ong pleaded guilty to four charges. Another nine charges were taken into consideration in the sentencing.

“It is the responsibility of importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of declarations submitted to Singapore Customs,” said Mr Yeo Sew Meng, Assistant

Director-General (Intelligence & Investigation), Singapore Customs [新加坡关税局助理局长(情报与调查)杨秀明].

“Evasion and under-declaration of GST are serious offences under the Customs Act. All cases of revenue evasion and violations of Customs regulations are investigated. Anyone found involved in abetting the fraudulent evasion of duty and GST will be dealt with severely,” said Mr Yeo.

Under the Customs Act, 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, offenders are also required to make good the duty and GST under-paid.

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

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ANNEX



Some of the branded handbags imported by Tang for which GST had been under-declared.



Branded handbags and accessories seized from Ong's company premises.

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