



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

8 November 2018

Two men arrested and 1,200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized

Singapore Customs and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) conducted a joint operation on 30 October 2018 to monitor a Singapore-registered lorry suspected to be delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes into Singapore via Jurong Port Main Gate.

At about 12.30pm that day, ICA officers at Jurong Port Main Gate directed the lorry, which was carrying a consignment declared as octagon metal frames and mirrors, for checks. The ICA officers noticed anomalies in the scanned images of the consignment and alerted Singapore Customs.

Singapore Customs officers followed up with a raid of a self-storage facility in Kallang Sector and saw a man receiving the consignment and moving the goods into the building.

A while later, the same man was seen pushing a trolley loaded with what appeared to be boxes wrapped in black trash bags to the loading bay of the building. A second man who had arrived at the building in a white van earlier, was then seen loading the boxes on the trolley into the white van. Suspecting that the boxes contained duty-unpaid cigarettes, Singapore Customs officers moved in for a check. They found 100 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes on the trolley and another 250 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van. Upon further questioning, the first man led the officers to two units in the self-storage facility where another 850 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found. The two men were arrested.

The duty-unpaid cigarettes and the white van were also seized. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$120,410 and \$8,740 respectively.

Court proceedings against the first man are ongoing, while investigations are ongoing for the second man. Both men are Singaporean.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences under the Customs Act and the GST Act. Offenders can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

Our borders are our first line of defence in safeguarding Singapore's security. The security checks are critical to our nation's security. The ICA will continue to conduct security checks on passengers and vehicles at the checkpoints to prevent attempts to smuggle undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives and other contraband. The same methods of concealment used by contraband smugglers may be used by terrorists to smuggle arms and explosives to carry out attacks in Singapore.

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ANNEX



During the raid of a self-storage facility in Kallang Sector, Singapore Customs officers saw a man pushing a trolley loaded with what appeared to be boxes wrapped in black trash bags to the loading bay of the building.
(Photo: Singapore Customs)



A second man who had arrived at the building in a white van earlier, was then seen loading the boxes on the trolley into the white van. A total of 100 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found on the trolley and another 250 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the van. (Photo: Singapore Customs)



Upon further questioning, the first man led the officers to two units in the self-storage facility where another 850 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found.
(Photos: Singapore Customs)



A total of 1,200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the operation.
(Photo: Singapore Customs)

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