



**SINGAPORE  
CUSTOMS**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

22 May 2025

### **THREE MEN ARRESTED AND MORE THAN 8,600 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED**

**Singapore, 22 May 2025** – Singapore Customs seized a lorry and 8,642 cartons and one packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes and arrested three men following enforcement operations conducted on 9 and 10 May 2025 at Bukit Batok Crescent and Tampines Industrial Crescent. The operations were part of ongoing efforts to detect and deter tax evasion.

2 On 9 May at an industrial building at Bukit Batok Crescent, Customs officers observed a man pushing a trolley loaded with brown boxes towards a parked lorry. Two other men were also seen transferring other boxes into the lorry.

3 When officers moved in to conduct checks, the man who was pushing the trolley fled in a van. He was subsequently apprehended at a carpark in Lorong 25A Geylang. A total of 4,320 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes, along with a consignment of stretch film, were found in the lorry, at the lift lobby of the industrial building, and in one of the units in the building.

4 All the three men were arrested. The man who fled the scene is a 39-year-old Chinese national, while the other two men are a Singapore Permanent Resident aged 25 and a Chinese national aged 33.

5 A subsequent search of the 33-year-old man's residence yielded an additional two cartons and one packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

6 Investigations revealed that the 39-year-old man was allegedly engaged by an unknown individual to deliver boxes of duty-unpaid cigarettes from a warehouse in Tampines Industrial Crescent to Bukit Batok Crescent. The 25-year-old man was believed to have been separately hired to drive the lorry and to assist the 33-year-old man with the delivery of the duty-unpaid cigarettes to customers.

7 A follow-up operation on 10 May at a warehouse in Tampines Industrial Crescent led to the discovery of another 4,320 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed within six pallets – alongside another consignment of stretch film.

8 In total, Singapore Customs seized 8,642 cartons and one packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes, along with a lorry used in the operations. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$936,093. Court proceedings against the three men are ongoing.

9 Singapore Customs reminds the public that 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 committing such offences are also subject to forfeiture.

10 Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photos of the operations

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### **About Singapore Customs**

Singapore Customs protects revenue and facilitates trade for Singapore's economic growth while continuously striving to be a world-leading customs authority. As a partner of the Ministry of Finance, we ensure compliance with customs and tax regulations, safeguard the nation's financial interests, and combat illicit trade activities. We also enable seamless trade by simplifying customs processes, building global trade connectivity, and maintaining Singapore's position as a trusted global trading hub. Guided by our values of integrity, commitment, courage, responsiveness and teamwork, we strive for excellence with a professional and innovative team. Together, we ensure revenue and enable trade, fostering a thriving Singapore economy.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)

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## Annex A



The lorry and duty-unpaid cigarettes found alongside a consignment of stretch film at Bukit Batok Crescent.



Two of the men arrested and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden among stretch film found at Tampines Industrial Crescent.