



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

9 July 2025

MAN ARRESTED AND 1,550 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED

Singapore, 9 July 2025 – A 25-year-old male Singaporean was arrested and 1,550 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized, following an operation by Singapore Customs on 3 July 2025 at Jurong West Street 61 and Bukit Batok Street 25.

2 During the operation, Customs officers intercepted the suspect at Jurong West Street 61. He later led officers to a Singapore-registered van parked at a multi-storey carpark in Bukit Batok Street 25 where 1,550 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were discovered in the cargo compartment of the van. The van and the duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

3 Investigations revealed that the suspect had been allegedly engaged by an unknown individual to collect and deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded is estimated at \$167,893. Court proceedings are ongoing.

4 “This case underscores Singapore Customs’ continuous effort to detect and deter tax evasion, and the importance of vigilance and enforcement. We will continue to act decisively against those who choose to flout the law. We urge the public to play a part by reporting suspicious activities,” said a Singapore Customs spokesperson.

5 Under the Customs Act and the GST Act, buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences. 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.

6 Singapore Customs remains committed to enforcing strict compliance with customs regulations and protecting revenue. Members of public with information on smuggling activities or duty or GST evasion can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photographs of the operation

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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

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Annex A



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van.



Man arrested and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.