



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

MEDIA RELEASE

3 Jun 2021

Singapore Customs seizes 53.2kg of duty-unpaid “Ang Hoon”

Singapore Customs officers arrested two Chinese nationals, a 48-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman, and seized 53.2 kg of duty-unpaid “Ang Hoon” (tobacco used to make hand-rolled cigarettes) in an operation on 31 May 2021.

Detection on 31 May 2021

A freight forwarding company handling importation of Less than Container Load¹ (LCL) containers detected discrepancies in one of such consignments in a LCL container. The company found two boxes containing duty-unpaid “Ang Hoon” packed in plastic packaging labelled as ‘tea leaves’ instead of plastic cases as stated in the consignment note and alerted Singapore Customs.

Following up on the information, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation in the vicinity of Lorong Chuan and checked a man who had collected the consignment. The consignment containing duty-unpaid “Ang Hoon” was found at the staircase landing at his place of residence. Singapore Customs officers also found rolling papers, filters, and a cigarette rolling kit in a follow-up search in his residence.

The man was arrested, and a woman, who was allegedly the intended recipient of the consignment, was also subsequently arrested. Court proceedings are ongoing against both individuals.

The operation resulted in a seizure of 53.2kg of duty-unpaid “Ang Hoon”. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$17,500 and \$1,310 respectively.

¹ Less than Container Load containers have multiple shipments belonging to different consignees packed in the same container, and freight forwarding companies in Singapore would unstuff the containers for the consignments to be delivered or collected by individual consignees.

Call to forwarding companies to be alert to illicit activities

“We urge freight forwarding companies to be vigilant against suspicious consignments and to alert the authorities to prevent their services from being exploited for illicit activities,” said Head of Intelligence Branch Mr. Yee Kwan Yew. ([新加坡关税局情报处处长余均耀]).

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession 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.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-233-0000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

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Singapore Customs

3 Jun 2021

Annex



Duty-unpaid “Ang Hoon” packed in plastic packaging labelled as “tea leaves”.



Rolling papers and filters found in the man’s place of residence.



53.2kg of duty-unpaid “Ang Hoon” seized during the operation.