



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

1 December 2025

MORE THAN 23,700 TRAVELLERS FINED OVER S\$7 MILLION FOR TAX EVASION AT CHECKPOINTS IN FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 2025

Singapore, 1 December 2025 – In the first ten months of 2025, 23,742 travellers were caught across air, land, and sea checkpoints for not declaring dutiable and taxable goods brought into Singapore. The total composition sum (penalty) imposed was S\$7,114,850.

2 In the same period in 2024 and 2023, 13,099 and 7,139 travellers were caught respectively. The total composition sum imposed was S\$3,471,043 in 2024 and S\$2,303,380 in 2023.

3 Singapore Customs (Customs) works with the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) to conduct checks and deter violations across all checkpoints. Of the cases this year, 142 offenders were issued the maximum penalty of S\$5,000 for making incorrect or incomplete declarations to Customs. There were 46 such offenders in 2024 and 51 offenders in 2023.

4 "Evading payment of duties and/or Goods and Services Tax (GST) at the checkpoints is a serious offence. Revenue collected belongs to Singapore and supports fair competition for local enterprises that comply with tax obligations. We will take firm action against all offenders, including imposing the heaviest penalties on those who wilfully violate our laws," said a Singapore Customs spokesperson.

5 Consistent with previous years, Customs continues to observe common violations involving goods across these categories:

- (i) Commercial goods (e.g. renovation materials, carpentry items, machinery parts);
- (ii) Apparel and Accessories (e.g. bags, clothing, mobile phones, watches);
- (iii) Consumer goods (e.g. Health, food and facial/skincare products); and
- (iv) Cigarettes and Alcohol (e.g., duty-unpaid and exceeding duty-free allowance).

6 All goods brought into Singapore by travellers, including foreign visitors and residents, are subject to GST, regardless of any foreign sales or value-added tax paid. Under the Customs Act, any person who is in any way concerned in any fraudulent evasion of, or attempt to fraudulently evade, any customs duty or excise duty shall be guilty of an offence and will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded or jailed for up to two years.

7 The onus therefore lies on every traveller to truthfully and accurately declare and pay the applicable duties and/or GST for all items exceeding their GST import relief entitlements and duty-free allowances. It is convenient and seamless for them to do so - either digitally via the Customs@SG web application, or by using the Customs Declaration Kiosks onsite to avoid the hefty penalties. The Customs@SG Web Application allows travellers to make advance declaration and payment for their dutiable or GST goods up to three days before arrival. For detailed information on GST import relief entitlements and duty-free allowances, please visit our Customs website for the [Singapore Customs Guide for Arriving Travellers](#).

Annex: Case Highlights

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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

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Selected detections where composition sums were imposed between January and October 2025:

Case 1:

On 31 July 2025, an arriving male traveller at the Singapore Cruise Centre was found with 544 pieces of assorted fishing lures intended for commercial purposes. A composition sum of S\$1,130 was imposed.



The fishing lures undeclared by the traveller.

Case 2:

On 9 October 2025, a male traveller at the Woodlands Checkpoint failed to declare 11 bundles of tee shirts he was delivering to companies in Singapore. A composition sum of S\$2,990 was imposed.



The bundles of tee shirts undeclared by the traveller.

Case 3:

On 17 October 2025, a female traveller arriving from Bangkok was directed for further checks after attempting to exit the arrival hall via the Green Channel at Changi Airport. Checks uncovered undeclared new luxury items - including a bag, a wallet and three pieces of jewellery. A maximum composition sum of S\$5,000 was imposed.



The luxury goods undeclared by the traveller.

Case 4:

On 18 October 2025, a female traveller arriving from Malaysia was directed for further checks after attempting to exit the arrival hall via the Green Channel at Changi Airport.

Checks uncovered an undeclared pewter collectible figurine. A composition sum of S\$565 was imposed.



The pewter figurine undeclared by the traveller.

Case 5:

On 23 October 2025, a male traveller arriving from Woodlands Checkpoints was found with several rolls of furniture laminate intended for commercial purposes. A composition sum of S\$250 was imposed.



The rolls of furniture laminate undeclared by the traveller.