



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS PRESS STATEMENT

CONTAINERLOAD OF UNDECLARED CIGARETTES SEIZED BY SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

Singapore Customs seized 52,800 cartons of undeclared cigarettes worth \$5.8 million on 4 August 2005. The excise duty and GST payable on the cigarettes total \$4 million. This is the largest seizure of contraband cigarettes by Singapore Customs to-date this year.

2 Officers from the Customs Special Investigations Branch moved into the Tanjong Pagar Free Trade Zone on 4 August 2005 to intercept a container being shipped from Shekou, China to Port Klang in Malaysia. On unstuffing the container, the officers found 52,800 cartons of undeclared cigarettes, comprising 28,050 cartons of “Ardath” cigarettes (a popular brand in Indonesia) and 24,750 cartons of “Marlboro” cigarettes. The undeclared cigarettes as well as the container were seized.

4 The packets of “Marlboro” cigarettes bore the Singapore Graphic Health warning indicating that the cigarettes were meant for the Singapore market. If the container had not been intercepted by Singapore Customs, the goods would have been repacked into smaller quantities for subsequent smuggling into Singapore via various means. Further investigations are ongoing by the Singapore Customs.

5 Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST may contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

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Singapore Customs
5 Aug 2005