



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

11 October 2024

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS ARRESTED FOUR AND SEIZED 257 BOTTLES OF DUTY-UNPAID LIQUOR AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS

Singapore, 11 October 2024 – As part of the ongoing efforts to disrupt and deter the supply and demand of duty-unpaid liquor (DUL) in Singapore, Singapore Customs conducted enforcement operations at several locations against peddlers and buyers of DUL on 8 October 2024.

2 Two male Chinese nationals and one female Malaysian, aged between 42 and 63, were arrested for delivering DUL. Another male Singaporean, aged 45, was arrested for storing DUL in his residence. Investigations are ongoing.

3 257 bottles with a total estimated volume of 668.5 litres of DUL, one truck and two distillery machines were seized during the operations. The total estimated duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$35,932.

Case Highlights

CASE 1

4 During the operation, a Singaporean male, aged 45, was arrested for storing DUL at his residence in Loyang. A total of 19 bottles of DUL (samsoo or *Baijiu*) were seized, which included 18 bottles containing 500ml each and one bottle holding an estimated 250ml of liquor. The liquor was allegedly intended for sale.

CASE 2

5 A male Chinese national, aged 47, was arrested for delivering two bottles of DUL (samsoo or *Baijiu*) at the lift lobby of an HDB block in the vicinity of Jurong West. Officers conducted a follow-up search at his residence in Macpherson and seized two additional bottles of DUL (samsoo or *Baijiu*).

CASE 3

6 A male Chinese national, aged 42, was arrested for delivering DUL at the loading/unloading bay of an HDB block in the vicinity of Jurong West. A total of 129 bottles containing two litres of DUL each (samsoo or *Baijiu* with ALC of 56%) were found in the back as well as under the front passenger seat of a truck used for the delivery. All the DUL and the truck were seized.

CASE 4

7 A female Malaysian, aged 63, was also arrested for delivering DUL near the rubbish chute of an HDB block in the vicinity of Jurong West. A follow-up search by officers at her residence in Woodlands led to the discovery of more DUL manufactured from a home brewery setup within the unit. A total of 105 bottles of DUL and two distillery machines used to brew the DUL were seized. 73 are five-litre bottles and 32 are estimated 500ml bottles of home brewed DUL.

8 Deputy Head, Suppression and Community Engagement Branch, Mr Eric Chan (陈志明, 反走私与社区参与处副处长), said, "Singapore Customs takes proactive steps to combat the smuggling of duty-unpaid liquor. Enforcement actions like today's, for instance, disrupt the supply chain by targeting the smuggling networks and illicit sellers. As their methods evolve, we also remain vigilant and adaptable. We are actively monitoring and acting against the peddling and buying of duty-unpaid liquor on platforms like WeChat and Telegram. While the price difference or the allure of quick profits might tempt buyers and sellers, the penalties are severe and simply not worth the risk!"

9 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 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to two 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

Annex B: Statistics

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About Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We regulate the export of strategic goods and implement Singapore's commitments to some international trade regulations such as the United Nations Security Council Sanctions.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations in our mission and operations. With the use of data analytics, digitalisation of processes and various technologies, we continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing the intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

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Annex A



Cartons of duty-unpaid liquor found in the bonded truck at Jurong West.



DUL seized from a residence in Changi.



Five-litre bottles of DUL seized from a Chinese national in Jurong West.





DUL and distillery machines seized from a home brewery in Woodlands

Annex B

	Jan-Jun 2024
Total number of duty-unpaid liquor offenders	869

	Jan-Jun 2024
Quantity of duty-unpaid liquor seized ('000L)	10.02