



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

21 March 2025

DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF LICENSED WAREHOUSE FINED FOR DIVERTING LIQUORS DECLARED FOR EXPORT INTO LOCAL MARKET

Singapore, 21 March 2025 – On 19 March 2025, the State Courts convicted two male Singaporeans, Jake Lam (“Lam”), 59, and Teo Ee Meng (张育明) (“Teo”), 50, for their involvement in a fraudulent scheme to divert liquors declared for export into the local market. They were found guilty of fraudulent evasion of duties amounting to about \$249,863 on 15,820 bottles of liquors. Lam was sentenced to a fine of \$1,350,000 while Teo was sentenced to a fine of \$1,050,000.

2 At the time of the offence, Lam was the director of Kingsman Wine & Spirits Pte Ltd (“Kingsman”), a retailer of liquors, and T.W.I. Wine & Spirits Pte Ltd (“TWI”), a licensed warehouse¹ operator. Teo was the warehouse manager of these two companies.

3 Lam and Teo each pleaded guilty to three charges of fraudulent evasion of duties. Another nine charges of fraudulent evasion of duties, 12 charges of fraudulent evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST), and two charges of illegal removal of goods from

¹ Licensed warehouses are premises licensed by Singapore Customs for storage of dutiable goods with the duty and GST suspended pending re-export or removal for local consumption. Duty and GST are payable if the goods are to be removed from the Licensed Warehouse for local consumption.

customs control were taken into consideration for the purposes of sentencing for each of them.

4 In August 2021, Customs officers uncovered discrepancies during an inspection of two containers containing liquors removed from TWI's licensed warehouse. The quantities and types of liquors in the containers were different from what were declared to Customs in the export permits. The missing liquors were later found at TWI's licensed warehouse when Customs officers raided the warehouse. Additionally, liquors which were previously declared to be exported by TWI were also found in Kingsman's premises. Lam and Teo admitted to selling the liquors locally through Kingsman without paying duties and GST, instead of exporting them as declared.

5 Lam was the mastermind behind the scheme, with Teo assisting him in the fraudulent activities. As the warehouse manager of Kingsman and TWI, Teo was responsible for overseeing warehouse stocks and the loading and unloading of containers. Acting on Lam's instructions, Teo would withhold certain quantities of liquors from being loaded into the containers instead of exporting them. The liquors were then moved from TWI's premises to Kingsman's premises for local sale, without Customs' approval and payment of the requisite duties and GST.

6 To cover up the discrepancies, Lam instructed Teo to replace the diverted liquors with beer, which were subject to lower duties, in the export containers. Lam would then instruct a 60-year-old male Singaporean, employed as a permit declarant of TWI and manager of Kingsman, to make false export permit declarations by declaring the liquors retained in Kingsman's premises in export permits. Court proceedings against the 60-year-old man are ongoing.

7 Under the law, those involved in the fraudulent evasion of duties or GST or in the illegal removal of goods from customs control can face fines of up to 20 times the amount evaded and/or imprisonment for up to two years.

8 Members of public with information on smuggling activities or duty or GST evasion are encouraged to report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photos

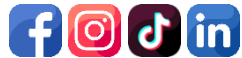
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Annex A



Liquors found on the premises of TWI and Kingsman.