



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

20 May 2026

TWO MEN ARRESTED AND OVER 9,200 CANS AND BOTTLES OF CONCEALED DUTY-UNPAID ALCOHOL SEIZED

Singapore, 20 May 2026 – Singapore Customs (“Customs”) arrested two men and seized more than 9,200 cans and bottles of duty-unpaid beer and liquor in an enforcement operation that uncovered sophisticated concealment methods involving non-alcoholic beverage packaging.

2 In the operation on 5 May 2026 at an industrial building along Bedok North Avenue 4, Customs officers observed a man moving a pallet of goods out of a unit. Checks revealed 13 pallets containing duty-unpaid beer and liquor concealed among cartons and packaging labelled as non-alcoholic drinks.

3 A total of 2,460 cans and 6,468 bottles of beer, as well as 320 bottles of liquor, were seized. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$19,791.

4 A 25-year-old Malaysian and a 38-year-old Chinese national were arrested onsite. Investigations are ongoing. Three other individuals — a 30-year-old Malaysian woman, a 34-year-old Vietnamese man, and a 41-year-old male Singapore Permanent Resident - are assisting with investigations.

5 Our preliminary investigations revealed that these duty-unpaid beer and liquor were smuggled into Singapore via containers using elaborate concealment methods designed to evade detection. The bottled beer was wrapped with labels for a

non-alcoholic beverage and packed in boxes for the non-alcoholic beverages. The cans of beer, meanwhile, were packed in cartons labelled as non-alcoholic drinks. These cartons contained both cans of beer and non-alcoholic beverages. To further avoid detection, the cans of beer were strategically placed in the centre of the carton boxes.

6 Prior to distribution to local customers, the non-alcoholic beverage wrappers would be removed and the beers repacked into carton boxes for alcoholic beverages.

7 “The deliberate concealment of duty-unpaid alcohol among legitimate goods reflects the lengths smugglers will go to evade taxes and detection. Singapore Customs will continue to act firmly against such illicit activities and pursue offenders without hesitation. We urge the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to us,” said a Singapore Customs spokesperson.

8 Under the Customs Act and the GST Act, buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing in duty-unpaid goods are serious offences. Offenders can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years.

9 Singapore Customs remains committed to enforcing strict compliance with customs regulations and protecting revenue. Members of public with information on smuggling activities or duty or GST evasion can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photographs of the operation

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About Singapore Customs

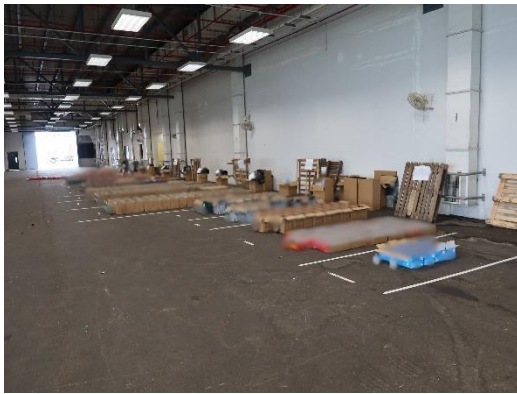
Singapore Customs protects revenue and facilitates trade for Singapore’s economic growth while continuously striving to be a world-leading customs authority. As a partner of the Ministry of Finance, we ensure compliance with customs and tax regulations, safeguard the nation’s financial interests, and 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.

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Annex A



Pallets of duty-unpaid liquor found within the premises.



Duty-unpaid bottles of beer were wrapped with labels for a non-alcoholic beverage, and packed in boxes for non-alcoholic beverages.



Duty-unpaid cans of beer packed in boxes for non-alcoholic beverages.