



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
PRESS RELEASE  
12 JANUARY 2017**

## **HSA SUSPENDS LICENCES OF EIGHT RETAILERS FOR SELLING TOBACCO TO MINORS**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has suspended the tobacco retail licences of eight errant tobacco retailers who sold tobacco products to minors under 18 years of age. They were caught via HSA's ground surveillance and enforcement activities to deter the illegal sale of tobacco products to under-18 minors. (Please refer to Annex A for the list of retailers and photos.)

2 HSA inspectors have observed that the majority of errant retailers do not ask for any form of identification to check the buyers' age. Retailers take the risk of committing an offence if they assess age by mere physical appearance.

### **Retail Licences Suspended**

3 All eight outlets were caught selling cigarettes to under-18 minors. The outlets are Kwang Guan Huat at 95 Lorong 4 Toa Payoh, Hui Huat Yew Kai Minimart at 26 Jalan Membina, Vel Murugan Trading at 419 Fajar Road, Kai Soon Supermarket at 123 Hougang Avenue 1, Good Price Centre at 18 Bedok South Road, Happy Family Neighbourhood Budget Minimart at 708 Tampines Street 71 and two 7-Eleven outlets located at 245 Pasir Ris Street 21 and 131 Marsiling Rise respectively. The suspension will prohibit the errant retailers from selling tobacco products for six months.

4 One of the outlets – Vel Murugan Trading, has since ceased operations. However, actions will still be taken against the seller.

### **Reminder to Retailers**

5 HSA would like to remind tobacco retail licensees that they are responsible for all transactions of tobacco products taking place at their outlets, as well as the actions of their employees.

6 HSA urges all tobacco retail licensees to educate their employees on the law pertaining to the sale of tobacco products and for sellers to check the age of those who wish to buy tobacco products.

7 Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, anyone caught selling tobacco products to persons below the age of 18 is liable, on conviction in Court, to a maximum fine of up to \$5,000 for the first offence and up to \$10,000 for the second or subsequent offence. In addition, the tobacco retail licence will be

suspended for 6 months for the first offence and revoked for the second offence. However, if any outlet is found selling tobacco products to **under-18 minors in school uniform or those below 12 years of age**, the tobacco retail licence will **be revoked**, even at the first offence. From 2014 to date, 40 tobacco retail licences were suspended and 20 were revoked by HSA.

8 In accordance with the licence application criteria, any person who commits an offence of selling tobacco to a person under 18 years of age will not be eligible to apply for a tobacco retail licence.

9 Members of the public can view the updated List of Suspended / Revoked Tobacco Retailers [here](#).

### **Reminder to Members of the Public**

10 HSA would also like to remind the public not to supply any tobacco products to under-18 minors. Anyone caught buying or acquiring any tobacco product for a person below the age of 18 years is liable, on conviction in Court, to a maximum fine of up to \$2,500 for the first offence and up to \$5,000 for the second or subsequent offence. Similarly, anyone caught giving or furnishing any tobacco product to a person below the age of 18 is liable, on conviction in Court, to a maximum fine of up to \$500 for the first offence and up to \$1,000 for the second or subsequent offence. From 2014 to date, 31 individuals have been caught for such offences.

11 HSA encourages members of the public who have information on the illegal sale of tobacco products to under-18 minors to call the Tobacco Regulation Branch at Tel: 66842036 or 66842037 during office hours.

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### **About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services and Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. As the national blood service, it is responsible for providing a safe and adequate blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit <http://www.hsa.gov.sg/>.

For more updates on public health and safety matters, follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HSAsg](https://www.twitter.com/HSAsg).

### **About HSA's Health Products Regulation Group**

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that drugs, innovative therapeutics, medical devices and health-related products are wisely regulated and meet appropriate safety, quality and efficacy standards. It contributes to the development of biomedical sciences in Singapore by administering a robust, scientific and responsive regulatory framework.

## HSA SUSPENDS LICENCES OF EIGHT RETAILERS FOR SELLING TOBACCO TO MINORS

**Table 1 – List of Errant Tobacco Retailers Caught Selling Tobacco to Under-18 Minors**

S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Suspension period for retailer
1	Kwang Guan Huat	95 Lorong 4 Toa Payoh #01-72 Singapore 310095	6 October 2016 to 5 April 2017
2	Hui Huat Yew Kai Minimart	26 Jalan Membina #01-04 Multi Storey Car Park Singapore 161026	10 October 2016 to 9 April 2017
3	Vel Murugan Trading	Blk 419 Fajar Road, #01-459 Singapore 670419	20 October 2016 to 19 April 2017
4	7-Eleven	Blk 245 Pasir Ris Street 21, #01-83, Singapore 510245	4 Nov 2016 to 3 May 2017
5	Kai Soon Supermarket	Blk 123 Hougang Avenue 1 #01-1430 Singapore 530123	29 Nov 2016 to 28 May 2017
6	Good Price Centre	Blk 18 Bedok South Road #01-59 Singapore 460018	1 Dec 2016 to 31 May 2017

7	Happy Family Neighbourhood Budget Minimart	Blk 708 Tampines Street 71, #01-102, Singapore 520708	28 Dec 2016 to 27 Jun 2017
8	7-Eleven	Blk 131 Marsiling Rise, #01-194, Singapore 730131	30 Dec 2016 to 29 Jun 2017

Photographs of Errant Tobacco Retailers Caught Selling Tobacco to Under-18 Minors (as listed in Table 1)



Kwang Guan Huat



Hui Huat Yew Kai Minimart



7-Eleven (245 Pasir Ris Street)



Kai Soon Supermarket



Good Price Centre



Happy Family Neighbourhood Budget Minimart



7-Eleven (131 Marsiling Rise)