



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE**

25 NOVEMBER 2009

HSA SUSPENDS LICENCE OF RECALCITRANT TOBACCO RETAILER

From 23 November 2009 to 23 May 2010, Mr Cheau Biau Teck, the owner of M/s Cheau Provision Store at Block 238, Serangoon Avenue 2, #01-K1 will be prohibited from selling tobacco products.

2 His licence to retail tobacco products was suspended by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) following his prosecution in Court and fine of \$2,500 for indirectly selling tobacco products to a person below the age of 18 years. This is the second time the licensee of this outlet has been caught selling to an underage youth.

3 Mr Cheau admitted that he had sold a packet of cigarettes to an adult despite knowing that the cigarettes were purchased on the behalf of an underage youth. This is also an offence under the Smoking (Control of Advertisements and Sale of Tobacco) Act.

4 HSA reminds all tobacco retailers that it is an offence to sell tobacco products to persons below the age of 18, whether directly or with the help of an adult. This offence is punishable with a maximum fine of up to \$5,000 for the first conviction and up to \$10,000 for the second or subsequent conviction. Their tobacco retail licences are also liable for suspension or revocation should the licensees and/or their employees repeat the offence.

5 It is also an offence for anyone to buy tobacco for an underage youth. Offenders are liable with a maximum fine of up to \$2,500 for the first conviction and up to \$5,000 for the second or subsequent conviction.

6 HSA will continue to enforce this prohibition stringently so as to discourage and prevent the illegal sale of tobacco products to underage youths.

7 Members of the public can view the List of Suspended Tobacco Retailers at: http://www.hsa.gov.sg/publish/hsaportal/en/health_products_regulation/tobacco.html.

8 HSA also encourages members of the public who have information on the sales of tobacco products to underage youth, to call the Tobacco Regulation Unit hotline at Tel: 62138930 or 62138931 during office hours or email to hsa_info@hsa.gov.sg.

▪ **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, 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. It operates the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, securing the nation's blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit www.hsa.gov.sg.

▪ **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.