



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
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HSA REVOKES LICENCE OF RETAILER CAUGHT SELLING TOBACCO TO STUDENTS

Public cautioned not to buy or supply tobacco products for youths under-18

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has revoked the licence of 1 errant tobacco retailer and suspended the licences of 2 other tobacco retailers for selling tobacco products to youths under 18 years of age.

Retailer's licence revoked

2 Lam Chang, a tobacco retail outlet at Bedok North Avenue 2, will no longer be allowed to sell tobacco products from 1 May 2013 as its licence has been revoked. An employee of the outlet was caught by HSA inspectors for blatantly selling cigarettes to two youths under-18 within a span of 5 minutes on the same day. The first sale was to a 15 year old student and the second sale was to a 13 year old student ***in school uniform***. Besides having its licence revoked, the errant seller of the above outlet has also been convicted in Court and fined \$2,000.

Retailers' licences suspended

3 HSA has also suspended 2 other tobacco retail outlets – Fair Price Underground Super Store at Hougang Street 52 and Nirmala Provision at Bukit Batok East Avenue 4 – for 6 months each for selling tobacco products to youths under-18. The sellers, who were both employees of the suspended outlets, were convicted in Court and fined for their respective offences.

4 The revocation and suspensions of licences followed HSA's routine surveillance and enforcement activities to curb the illegal sale of tobacco products to youths under-18. Please refer to **Annex A** for details of the fines.

Message to retailers

5 HSA reminds tobacco retailers that they are responsible for all transactions of tobacco products taking place at their outlets, as well as for the actions of their employees. 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 also 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 youths under-18 in school uniform or those below 12 years of age, the tobacco retail licence will be revoked, even at the first offence.

Message to the public – Supply of tobacco product to under-18 youth

6 HSA has also observed cases where members of the public or older friends help youths under-18 purchase tobacco products. HSA urges and reminds the public not to supply any tobacco product to youths under-18. 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 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.

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

8 HSA also encourages members of the public who have information on the illegal supply of tobacco products to youths under-18 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.

▪ **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.

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

S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Date of offence	Court actions against seller	Punishment for retailers
1	Lam Chang	515 Bedok North Avenue 2 #01-189	2-Aug-12	Fine of \$2,000	Revocation of licence (From 1 May 2013 onwards)
2	Fair Price Underground Super Store	539 Hougang Street 52 #B1-48	21-Aug-12	Fine of \$1,600	6 months suspension (1 May 13 to 31 Oct 13)
3	Nirmala Provision	257 Bukit Batok East Avenue 4 #01-K1	24-Aug-12	Fine of \$2,000	6 months suspension (1 May 13 to 31 Oct 13)

Photographs of Errant Tobacco Retailers Caught Selling Tobacco to Underage Youths (as listed in Table 1)



Lam Chang

Fairprice Underground Super Store

Nirmala Provision