



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE**

2 February 2009

HSA SUSPENDS LICENCE OF RECALCITRANT TOBACCO RETAILERS

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has suspended the licence of a tobacco retailer, M/s Cheers Holdings (2004) Pte Ltd at 10 Choa Chu Kang Ave 4, #01-20, Choa Chu Kang MRT Station for six months from 1 February to 31 July 2009. This is the first retailer which has their tobacco licence suspended in 2009.

2 An employee was caught selling tobacco products to a person below the age of 18 on 10 December 2008. This is the second time an employee of this outlet has been caught committing a similar offence.

3 As the employees of this retail outlet have repeatedly committed the offence of selling tobacco products to underaged persons, HSA has suspended its licence for six months.

4 HSA reminds all tobacco retailers that it is an offence under the Smoking (Control of Advertisements and Sale of Tobacco) Act to sell tobacco products to persons below the age of 18. The 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. The tobacco retail licences are also liable for suspension or revocation should the licensees and/or their employees repeat the offence.

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

6 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.

7 HSA also encourages members of the public who have information on the illegal sale of tobacco products to call the hotline of the Tobacco Regulation Unit at Tel: 62138930 or 62138931 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, 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.

- **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.