



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
16 APRIL 2018**

HSA SUSPENDS LICENCES OF 10 TOBACCO RETAILERS

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has suspended the tobacco retail licences of 10 errant tobacco retailers who sold cigarettes 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.)

Retail Licences Suspended

2 These 10 sellers did not ask for any identification to check the buyers' age. They had claimed that they were busy or that the minors looked older than they were. Sellers take the risk of contravening the laws if they assess age by mere physical appearance of the buyer.

3 All 10 outlets were caught selling cigarettes to under-18 minors for the first time. The outlets are Hao Mart at 505 Canberra Link and 323 Tah Ching Road, M. R. Pasir Ris Minimart at 230 Pasir Ris Street 21, NYK Minimart at 365B Upper Serangoon Road, Noor Supermart at 468 Hougang Avenue 8, Rasul MiniMart at 108 Bedok Reservoir Road, Sai Mart at 144 Teck Whye Lane, MCP Fairmart at 135 Jurong Gateway Road, Chennai Store Pte. Ltd. at 456 Jurong West Street 41 and Luck Seng Coffee Stall at 115 Bukit Merah View.

4 The suspension prohibits the errant retailers from selling tobacco products for six months.

Reminder to Retailers

5 HSA takes a stern approach towards errant retailers and will not hesitate to take prosecution actions against them. Tobacco retail licensees are reminded 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 2015 to date, 68 tobacco retail licences were suspended and 10 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 2015 to date, 18 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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SINGAPORE
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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.

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Table 1 – List of Errant Tobacco Retailers

S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Punishment for retailer
1	Hao Mart	Block 505 Canberra Link, #01-01, Montreal Spring, Singapore 750505	Six-month suspension (7 December 2017 to 6 June 2018)
2	M.R. Pasir Ris Minimart	Block 230 Pasir Ris Street 21, #01-44, Singapore 510230	Six-month suspension (29 December 2017 to 28 June 2018)
3	NYK Minimart	Block 365B Upper Serangoon Road, #01-1066, Singapore 532365	Six-month suspension (20 January 2018 to 19 July 2018)
4	Noor Supermart	Block 468 Hougang Avenue 8, #01-1510, Singapore 530468	Six-month suspension (17 February 2018 to 16 August 2018)
5	Rasul Mini Mart	Block108 Bedok Reservoir Road, #01-K1 Singapore 470108	Six-month suspension (17 February 2018 to 16 August 2018)
6	Sai Mart	Block 144 Teck Whye Lane #01-201, Singapore 680144	Six-month suspension (2 March 2018 to 1 September 2018)
7	MCP Fairmart	Block 135 Jurong Gateway Road, #03-317, Singapore 600135	Six-month suspension (4 March 2018 to 3 September 2018)

8	Chennai Store Pte. Ltd.	Block 456 Jurong West Street 41, #01-728A, Singapore 640456	Six-month suspension (5 March 2018 to 4 September 2018)
9	Hao Mart	Block 323 Tah Ching Road, #01-56, Singapore 610323	Six-month suspension (6 March 2018 to 5 September 2018)
10	Luck Seng Coffee Stall	Block 115 Bukit Merah View, #01-31, Singapore 151115	Six-month suspension (21 March 2018 to 20 September 2018)

Photographs of the 10 Errant Tobacco Retailers (as listed in Table 1)



Hao Mart



M.R. Pasir Ris Minimart



NYK Minimart



Noor Supermart



Rasul Mini Mart



Sai Mart @ Blk 144 Teck Whye Lane



MCP Fairmart



Chennai Store Pte. Ltd



Hao Mart @ Blk 323 Tah Ching Road



Luck Seng Coffee Stall