



31 MAY 2011

HSA SUSPENDS / REVOKES ERRANT TOBACCO RETAILERS CAUGHT SELLING TOBACCO TO UNDERAGE YOUTH

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) will be suspending the licences of 10 tobacco retailers for selling tobacco products to underage youth. In addition, one tobacco retailer's licence will also be revoked as the retail outlet's employee was caught for selling tobacco product to an obviously underage youth in school uniform.

2 As the Authority takes a very serious view of sales of tobacco products to underage youth, all tobacco retailers had earlier been informed that with effect from 1 December 2010, enhanced administrative actions against errant tobacco retailers were revised as below:

- i. 1st offence – six months suspension of tobacco retail licence;
- ii. 2nd offence – revocation of tobacco retail licence.

3 Tobacco retailers have also been advised that should any outlet be found to have sold tobacco products to obviously underage youth in school uniform or those below 12 years of age, the tobacco retail licence will be revoked, even for the 1st offence.

4 A total of 11 errant tobacco sellers were prosecuted and convicted in March 2011 for selling tobacco to underage youth. Following the conviction of these offences, the Authority will proceed to suspend the licences of the respective 10 tobacco retail outlets for six months, with the earliest starting from 1 June 2011.

5 The tobacco retail licence for one outlet (refer to S/n 3 in Table 1 below) will be revoked as the seller had sold a tobacco product to an obviously underage youth who was in a lower secondary school uniform (short-sleeve white shirt and short pants). Details of the 11 offences are summarized as follows:

Table 1

S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Date of offence	Court actions against seller	Punishment for retailers
1	7-Eleven	1189 Upper Serangoon Road, #01-06, Hougang Plaza	14-Dec-10	Fine of \$1,500	6 months suspension (1-Jun-11 to 30-Nov-11)
2	Al Bismi Minimart	Blk 247, Tampines Street 21, #01-K1	4-Jan-11	Fine of \$2,000	As above
3	Tan Bee Hwa	Blk 90, Whampoa Drive, #01-52	13-Jan-11	Fine of \$1,500	Revocation (from 1-Jun-11 onwards)
4	7-Eleven	8 Grange Road, #01-08, Cathay Cineleisure Orchard	5-Dec-10	As above	6 months suspension (1-Jul-11 to 31-Dec-11)
5	PM Haja Store	Blk 23, Marsiling Drive, #01-145	10-Dec-10	As above	As above
6	Pasir Ris 444 Kopi Point Pte Ltd	Blk 444 Pasir Ris Drive 6, #01-102	12-Dec-10	As above	As above
7	Teck Guan Minimart	Blk 523, Hougang Ave 6, #01-123	14-Dec-10	As above	As above
8	Yak Hong Minimart	Blk 515A, Woodlands Drive 14, #01-183	22-Jan-11	Fine of \$2,000	As above
9	Natural Hock Trading	Blk 804, Hougang Central, #01-120	7-Jan-11	Fine of \$1,500	As above
10	Ang Eng Hwa Kiosk	Blk 25 Eunos Crescent #01-3063	10-Jan-11	As above	As above
11	Bedok Reservoir Minimart	Blk 121, Bedok Reservoir Road, #01-94	12-Jan-11	As above	As above

6 HSA reminds all tobacco retailers that they are responsible for all transactions of tobacco products carried out by their outlets as well as for the actions of their employees. It is an offence under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) 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.

7 HSA takes a serious view on the use of tobacco products by underage persons, and consequently, the illegal sale of tobacco products to such underage

persons. We will enforce this prohibition stringently so as to prevent the illegal sale of tobacco products to underage youth.

8 Members of the public can view the List of Suspended / Revoked Tobacco Retailers at:

http://www.hsa.gov.sg/publish/hsaportal/en/health_products_regulation/tobacco/Suspended_Licences.html.

9 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 Branch at Tel: 62138930 or 62138931 during office hours.

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY

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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. For more details, visit <http://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.