



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
28 NOVEMBER 2012

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

Between July and November 2012, the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has revoked the licence of 1 errant tobacco retailer and suspended the licences of 9 other tobacco retailers for selling tobacco to underage youth. In total, over the period of January to November 2012, 3 tobacco licences have been revoked and 22 tobacco licences have been suspended.

Retailer's licence revoked

2 Eng Kee Chye Huat (operating under outlet name "Huat Hong Holding Pte Ltd"), a tobacco retail outlet at Marsiling Lane, will no longer be allowed to sell tobacco products from 28 November 2012 as its licence has been revoked. The operator of the outlet was caught by HSA inspectors for blatantly selling cigarettes to a 16 year old youth *in school uniform* on 6 January 2012. Besides having its licence revoked, the errant seller of the above outlet was also convicted in Court and fined \$2,000.

Retailers' licences suspended

3 HSA has also suspended 9 other tobacco retail outlets for 6 months, in July, August and November 2012, for selling tobacco products to underage youth. The sellers who were working in these retail outlets and were found guilty of the offence were also individually convicted and fined (Please refer to Annex A for details). These actions are part of HSA's routine surveillance and enforcement activities to curb the illegal sale of tobacco products to underage youth.

Messages to retailers and the public

4 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 underage youth in school uniform or those below 12 years of age, the tobacco retail licence will

immediately be revoked, even for the first offence.

5 HSA also takes a serious view of underage youth smoking. Anyone below the age of 18 who is caught for using, buying or having in his possession tobacco products is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$300. We will continue to enforce these prohibitions stringently, so as to curb access and use of tobacco by underage youth.

6 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/Suspended_Licences.html.

7 HSA also encourages members of the public who have information on the illegal sales of tobacco products to underage youth 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.

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

Table 1 – List of Errant Tobacco Retailers

S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Date of offence	Court actions against seller	Punishment for retailers
1	Eng Kee Chye Huat (operating under Huat Hong Holding Pte Ltd)	19 Marsiling Lane #01-315	6-Jan-12	Fine of \$2,000	Revocation of licence (From 28 Nov 12 onwards)
2	HTS Pte Ltd (operating in the Hola' food court)	248 Simei Street 3 #01-100	1-Jun-11	As above	6 months suspension (23 Jul 12 to 22 Jan 13)
3	Kwee Kee Hiong Joss Sticks	820 Tampines Street 81 #01-508	6-Dec-11	As above	As above
4	Shivasakthi Super Store	391 Yishun Avenue 6 #01-K1	27-Jan-12	As above	As above
5	Ageetha Trading	150 Yishun Street 11 #01-K1	6-Mar-12	As above	As above
6	Sin Siang Medical & Departmental Store	63 Kallang Bahru #01-435	19-Mar-12	Fine of \$1,800	As above

S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Date of offence	Court actions against seller	Punishment for retailers
7	Soon-Heng Nan Da Mini Mart	907 Jurong West Street 91 #01-197	26-Mar-12	Fine of \$2,000	As above
8	SPH Buzz Pte Ltd	900 Serangoon Road #B1-03 Boon Keng MRT Station	18-Jan-12	Fine of \$2,000	6 months suspension (27 Aug 12 to 26 Feb 13)
9	834 Eating House	834 Woodlands Street 83 #01-89	12-Apr-12	As above	As above
10	Rajmahal Trading Pte Ltd	274 Yishun Street 22 #01-K1	11-Apr-12	As above	6 months suspension (28 Nov 12 to 27 May 13)

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



Eng Kee Chye Huat
(operating under Huat Hong Holding Pte Ltd)

HTS Pte Ltd
(operating in the Hola' food court)

Kwee Kee Hong Joss Sticks

Shivasakthi Super Store

Ageetha Trading



Sin Siang Medical & Departmental Store

Soon-Heng Nan Da Mini Mart

SPH Buzz Pte Ltd

834 Eating House

Rajmahal Trading Pte Ltd