



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
25 FEBRUARY 2019**

HSA REVOKED LICENCE OF A REPEAT OFFENDER, AND ANOTHER FOR SELLING TOBACCO TO YOUTH IN SCHOOL UNIFORM

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has revoked the licences of two errant tobacco retailers and suspended four others who sold cigarettes to underage persons. They were caught via HSA's ground surveillance and enforcement activities to deter the illegal sale of tobacco products to underage persons. (Please refer to Annex A for the list of retailers and photos.)

Retail Licences Revoked

2 The retail outlet, Fair Inn Food Place located at 806 Woodlands Street 81, was caught selling cigarettes to an underage person for the second time after its licence was first suspended for six months, in January 2016.

3 Excellence Supermarket located at 131 Lorong 1 Toa Payoh had its licence revoked for selling cigarettes to an underage person in school uniform. These two retail outlets will no longer be able to sell tobacco products.

Retail Licences Suspended

4 HSA also suspended the retail licences of four outlets after the operators were caught selling to underage persons for the first time. The outlets are:

Name of Retail Outlet	Address
China Minimart	417 Yishun Avenue 1
Leeds Mart	509 Serangoon North Avenue 4
Shell Select	3535 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6
Good Price Centre	21 Hougang Street 51

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

Reminder to Retailers

6 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. Sellers take the risk of contravening the laws if they assess age by mere physical appearance of the buyer.

7 All tobacco retail licensees are reminded to educate their employees on the law pertaining to the sale of tobacco products and for sellers to verify the age of those who wish to buy tobacco products by calculating the date of birth. The Minimum Legal Age (MLA) to use, possess or buy tobacco products was **raised to 19 years with effect from 1 January 2019**, and it will be raised to 20 years with effect from 1 January 2020 and 21 years with effect from 1 January 2021.

8 Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, anyone caught selling tobacco products to persons below the MLA 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 **underage persons 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 2018, 83 tobacco retail licences were suspended and 13 were revoked by HSA.

9 In accordance with the licence application criteria, any person who commits an offence of selling tobacco to a person under the MLA will not be eligible to apply for a tobacco retail licence.

10 Members of the public can view the updated List of Suspended / Revoked Tobacco Retailers [here](#).

Reminder to Members of the Public

11 HSA would also like to remind the public not to supply any tobacco products to underage persons. Anyone caught buying or acquiring any tobacco product for a person below the MLA 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 MLA 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.

12 HSA encourages members of the public who have information on the illegal sale or supply of tobacco products to underage persons to call the Tobacco Regulation Branch at Tel: 66842036 or 66842037 during office hours.

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

<u>Licences Revoked</u>			
S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Revocation start date
1	Fair Inn Food Place	806 Woodlands Street 81, #01-06, Singapore 730806	From 2 Nov 2018
2	Excellence Supermarket	131 Lorong 1 Toa Payoh #01-02 Singapore 310131	From 19 Dec 2018
<u>Licences Suspended</u>			
S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Suspension period (6 months)
1	China Minimart	417 Yishun Avenue 1, #01-333B, Singapore 760417	From 25 Oct 2018 to 24 Apr 2019
2	Leeds Mart	509 Serangoon North Avenue 4, #01-360, Singapore 550509	From 26 Oct 2018 to 25 Apr 2019
3	Shell Select	3535 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6, Shell Petrol Service, Singapore 569839	From 26 Nov 2018 to 25 May 2019

4	Good Price Centre	21 Hougang Street 51, #01-31, Hougang Green Shopping Mall, Singapore 538719	From 27 Nov 2018 to 26 May 2019
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Photographs of the 6 Errant Tobacco Retailers (as listed in Table 1)



Fair Inn Food Place at 806 Woodlands Street 81



Excellence Supermarket at 131 Lorong 1 Toa Payoh



China Minimart at 417 Yishun Avenue 1



Leeds Mart at 509 Serangoon North Avenue 4



Shell Select at 3535 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6



Good Price Centre at 21 Hougang Street 51