



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE**

1 APRIL 2010

HSA SUSPENDS LICENCES OF RECALCITRANT TOBACCO RETAILERS FOR SIX MONTHS

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has suspended the licences of three tobacco retailers in March and April 2010 for repeatedly selling tobacco products to underage persons.

2 On 12 September 2009, HSA's plainclothes inspectors caught an employee working at a 7-Eleven outlet located at 245 Victoria Street, Bugis Village for selling a packet of cigarettes to a person below the age of 18. The employee was compounded for the offence. This is the 2nd time an employee of this outlet has been caught for a similar offence. As such, HSA has suspended the store's retail licence for six months from 1 March 2010 to 31 August 2010.

3 An employee from Fu Chan F&B Pte Ltd was also caught selling a packet of cigarettes to a person below the age of 18 on 22 September 2009 during one of HSA's routine surveillance. As this was the 2nd time the employee had committed an offence for selling tobacco products to an underage person, she was prosecuted and was fined in court. The outlet's licence was suspended for six months from 13 March 2010 to 12 September 2010.

4 M/s Hup Kim located at Blk 191, Lorong 4 Toa Payoh, #01-650 will have their licence suspended for six months from 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010. The licensee was caught red-handed by HSA's plainclothes inspectors for selling a packet of cigarettes to a person below the age of 18 on 8 October 2009. Subsequently, he was prosecuted and was fined in court. This is the 2nd time that the licensee has been caught committing a similar offence. As this retail outlet has repeatedly committed the offence of selling tobacco products to underage persons, HSA has decided to suspend its licence for six months.

5 Details of the three offences are summarized as follows:

Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Date of offence	Period of Suspension
7 Eleven	245 Victoria Street Bugis Village Singapore 188032	12 September 2009	1 March 2010 to 31 August 2010

Fu Chan F&B Pte Ltd	145 Teck Whye Avenue #01-151 Singapore 680145	22 September 2009	13 March 2010 to 12 September 2010
Hup Kim	Blk 191, Lorong 4 Toa Payoh #01-650 Singapore 310191	8 October 2009	1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010

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 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.

7 HSA takes a serious view on smoking by underage persons, and consequently, the illegal sale of tobacco products to such underage persons. We will continue to enforce this prohibition stringently so as to discourage and prevent the illegal sale of tobacco products to underage youths.

8 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/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 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. For more details, visit 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.