



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

MAN CHARGED FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF DUTY & GST ON IMPORT OF JAPANESE CARS

Singapore Customs (SC) today arrested a Singaporean man for fraudulent evasion of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) by submitting customs declarations that showed incorrect values for the import of motor cars from Japan.

2 Mr Sia Chee Han (aged 54) faces 90 charges for fraudulent evasion of excise duty and GST involving the import of 146 units of Japanese cars of various makes. The under-declaration had resulted in the short payment of duty and GST amounting to \$147,112. The offence took place between August and November 2007.

3 Sia will be charged in court on 8 September 2009.

4 As the lead agency on trade facilitation and revenue enforcement matters, SC will take to task any traders which flout customs regulations to defraud the State or to gain an unfair advantage over other traders. SC's enforcement actions are targeted at all malpractices that contravene the Customs Act, whether committed by parallel importers or the authorised distributors.

5 Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of the importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the values and other related costs declared to SC. Under-declaration of the value is a serious offence as it will result in short payment of duty and import GST payable to SC. All cases of revenue evasion and violations of customs regulations are investigated, and action will be taken against the errant importers or any persons concerned in abetting the fraudulent evasion of duty and GST. Any person who is guilty of fraudulent evasion of duties or GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded or imprisonment, or both. In addition to the penalties meted out by the court, the offenders are also required to make good the duty and GST short-paid to the government.

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