



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**SINGAPORE, 11 JUN 2003**

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

## **HSA TO LICENSE TOBACCO IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALERS**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Smoking (Control of Advertisements & Sale of Tobacco) (Licensing of Importers, Wholesalers and Retailers) Regulations 2003 will come into operation on 1 July 2003. Under these regulations, all tobacco importers and wholesalers must be licensed by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) before they can import, distribute, wholesale or supply tobacco products. This is an extension of the current retailer-licensing scheme whereby only tobacco retailers are licensed by HSA.

### **DETAILS OF LICENSING**

2 The objective of licensing importers and wholesalers is to better regulate the supply and distribution chain of tobacco products from licensed importers and wholesalers to licensed retailers. Importers and wholesalers will be required to keep records of the import, sale and supply of tobacco products that they deal in. The regulations also allow HSA to require the importers and wholesalers to recall tobacco products from the market should they fail to comply with regulatory requirements (e.g. limits on tar/nicotine contents and health warning label).

3 Under the new regulations, all tobacco products can only be stored at approved premises and can only be supplied to the holder of a retail licence or the holder of an import and wholesale licence. Also, importers and wholesalers must, on request by the Authority, furnish information on the tobacco products that they deal in.

4 Failure to comply with provisions under the Smoking (Control of Advertisements & Sale of Tobacco)(Licensing of Importers, Wholesalers and Retailers) Regulations 2003 will render the offender liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$2000 and/or to imprisonment for a term of up to 12 months.

5 Licence fee for an annual import and wholesale licence is \$2,400 per year.

6 Tobacco importers and wholesalers can purchase copies of the Smoking (Control of Advertisements and Sale of Tobacco) (Licensing of Importers, Wholesalers and Retailers) Regulations 2003 from:

SNP Corporation Ltd (Legal Publications)  
491, River Valley Road  
#01-19/20 Valley Point  
Singapore 248371  
Tel: 67335794  
Fax: 67333671  
Email: legalpub@snpcorp.com  
Website: <http://www.myepb.com/>

## **APPLICATION FORMS AND GUIDELINES**

7 Application forms and guidelines on the application for an import and wholesale licence can be downloaded from the internet at:

[http://www.hsa.gov.sg/hsa/communications/e\\_services\\_eforms.htm](http://www.hsa.gov.sg/hsa/communications/e_services_eforms.htm)

or available at:

Tobacco Regulation Unit  
Centre for Pharmaceutical Administration, HSA  
No 2 Jalan Bukit Merah  
Singapore 169547

8 Applications should reach Tobacco Regulation Unit by 20 June 2003. Applications can be sent by post or by hand.

9 For more information, please contact the Tobacco Regulation Unit at Tel: 63255612/ 63255613 during office hours.

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## **About the Health Sciences Authority**

At the Health Sciences Authority [HSA], we apply medical, pharmaceutical and specialised scientific expertise to safeguard public health and safety in Singapore. As one multidisciplinary agency, we serve as the national regulator of all therapeutic products by providing a seamless yet rigorous regulatory process to the healthcare and biomedical sciences industries. We also run the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, protecting the integrity of the nation's blood supply. As the national reference agency, we exploit specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in order to serve the administration of justice and enhance safety in our community. For more details, visit [www.hsa.gov.sg](http://www.hsa.gov.sg).