



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
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**HSA SUSPENDS LICENCE OF RECALCITRANT TOBACCO
RETAILERS FOR SELLING TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO THE
UNDERAGED**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has suspended the licences of 2 tobacco retailers for 6 months from 1 March 2006 to 31 August 2006.

2 The 1st retailer, Mr Goh Tiow Kee, is the tobacco retail licensee for M/s Hock Sin Leong located at Block 531 Bedok North St 3, #01-706. Mr Goh was convicted in court on 16 February 2006 and was fined \$3,000 for selling a tobacco product to a 17-year-old female on 11 January 2006.

3 Mr Goh was also caught for a similar offence on 11 May 2005 and the offence was compounded for \$2,000.

4 The 2nd retailer, Mr Chin Yo Chan, is the tobacco retail licensee for M/s You Heng Mini Supermarket located at Block 835 Tampines St 83, #01-12. His employee, Mdm Chee Yock Lan, was convicted in court on 16 February 2006 and was fined \$2,500 for selling a tobacco product to a 15-year-old male on 19 January 2006.

5 This is the 2nd time Mdm Chee was caught for committing such an offence. Her previous offence on 6 July 2005 was compounded for \$2,000.

6 HSA reminds all tobacco retailers that 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 years. 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 and subsequent conviction. The tobacco retail licences are also liable for suspension or revocation should the licensees and/or their employees repeat the offence.

7 This prohibition will continue to be enforced stringently to discourage and prevent the illegal sale of tobacco products to underaged youths. As underaged smoking is a social problem that is more effectively addressed through a holistic approach, regulatory enforcement is just one of the Government's multi-pronged approaches to dealing with this problem. In addition to public education, community involvement, provision of smoking cessation services and tobacco taxation, parents and family also play a pivotal role in highlighting the dangers of smoking to their children and young relatives.

8 The cooperation of the public in reporting offences related to underaged smoking is important in national efforts to tackle the challenge of underaged smoking.

Members of the public who have information pertaining to the illegal sale of tobacco products to the underaged are encouraged to contact HSA's Tobacco Regulation Unit at 6866-3502/6866-3504 during office hours.

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About the Health Sciences Authority

At the Health Sciences Authority [HSA], a People Developer and Singapore Innovation-class organisation, 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 operate 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.