



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
16 APRIL 2019

HSA SUSPENDS LICENCES OF FOUR RETAILERS FOR SELLING TOBACCO TO UNDER-AGED PERSONS

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has suspended the tobacco retail licences of four errant tobacco retailers who sold cigarettes to persons under the Minimum Legal Age (MLA) of 19 years. They were caught via HSA's ground surveillance and enforcement activities to deter the illegal sale of tobacco products to under-aged persons. (Please refer to Annex A for the list of retailers and photos.)

Retail Licences Suspended

2 HSA suspended the retail licences of four outlets after the operators were caught selling to under-aged persons for the first time. The outlets are:

Name of Retail Outlet	Address
Ajmir Store	70 Woodlands Avenue 7
1588 Le Pte Ltd	158B Rivervale Crescent
7-Eleven	68 Geylang Bahru
NH Mart Pte Ltd	620 Hougang Avenue 8

3 The offences were detected between January and March this year. The affected outlets are not allowed to sell tobacco products during the six-month suspension period.

Reminder to Retailers

4 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.

5 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. The MLA to use, possess or buy tobacco products has been **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.

6 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 **under-aged 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 March 2019, 87 tobacco retail licences were suspended and 13 were revoked by HSA.

7 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.

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

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

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SINGAPORE
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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 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.

HSA SUSPENDED LICENCES OF FOUR RETAILERS FOR SELLING TOBACCO TO UNDER-AGED PERSONS

Table 1 – List of Errant Tobacco Retailers

<u>Licences Suspended</u>			
S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Suspension period (6 months)
1	Ajmir Store	70 Woodlands Avenue 7, #02-K1, Admiralty MRT Station, Singapore 738344	From 20 January 2019 to 19 July 2019
2	1588 Le Pte Ltd	158B Rivervale Crescent, #01-695, Singapore 542158	From 6 February 2019 to 5 August 2019
3	7-Eleven	68 Geylang Bahru, #01-3233, Singapore 330068	From 13 March 2019 to 12 September 2019
4	NH Mart Pte Ltd	620 Hougang Avenue 8 #01-262 Singapore 530620	From 10 April 2019 to 9 October 2019

Photographs of the 4 Errant Tobacco Retailers (as listed in Table 1)



Ajmir Store at 70 Woodlands Avenue 7



1588 Le Pte Ltd at 158B Rivervale Crescent



7-Eleven at 68 Geylang Bahru



NH Mart Pte Ltd at 620 Hougang Avenue 8