

## **HSA CHARGES MAN IN LARGEST HAUL OF ALMOST 2,000 ETOMIDATE E-VAPORISER PODS SINCE 1 SEPTEMBER 2025**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has charged a 30-year-old man, Muhamad Khairuddin Bin Abdullah, in court on 22 January 2026 for the alleged trafficking of almost 2,000 etomidate e-vaporiser pods. This is the largest haul of etomidate e-vaporiser pods seized in an operation to date by HSA since etomidate was classified as a Class C controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act on 1 September 2025.

2 On the night of 20 January 2026, the accused was detained by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) while entering Singapore through Woodlands Checkpoint in a rental car with his 63-year-old mother and four-month-old niece. ICA officers discovered 1,989 e-vaporiser pods concealed in two boxes in the car boot. HSA was alerted and conducted a raid at the accused's residence on the same day which yielded three regular e-vaporiser pods. Laboratory testing confirmed that the pods seized at the checkpoint contained etomidate, and investigations are ongoing.

3 The case has been adjourned to 5 March 2026.

4 HSA takes a serious view of e-vaporiser and etomidate trafficking offences. Since the enhanced penalties framework took effect on 1 September 2025, importers, sellers and distributors of etomidate e-vaporisers now face stiffer penalties. These include 3 to 20 years' imprisonment and 5 to 15 strokes of the cane for importers, and 2 to 10 years' imprisonment and 2 to 5 strokes of the cane for sellers and distributors.

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY**  
**SINGAPORE**  
**22 JANUARY 2026**

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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>.

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## **About HSA's Health Products Regulation Group**

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that medicines, 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.

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Photos credit to: Health Sciences Authority