



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
10 OCTOBER 2018**

HSA SUSPENDS TOBACCO RETAIL LICENCES OF SIX RETAILERS WHO SOLD TOBACCO TO MINORS

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has suspended the tobacco retail licences of six errant tobacco retailers who sold cigarettes to under-18 minors. They were caught via HSA's ground surveillance and enforcement activities to deter the illegal sale of tobacco products to under-18 minors. These suspensions took effect between July and September 2018 and will last for six months from the date of the tobacco retail licence suspensions. The affected outlets are not allowed to sell tobacco products until February to April 2019. (Please refer to Annex A for the list of retailers and photos.)

Retail Licences Suspended

2 The retail outlets who had their tobacco retail licences suspended are:

Name of Retail Outlet	Address
7-Eleven	639 Punggol Drive
7-Eleven	319A Anchorvale Drive
Big Retail Supermarkets	764 Choa Chu Kang North 5
Gui Bin Minimart	296A Bukit Batok Street 22
Ibrahim Trading	411 Commonwealth Avenue West
SM Mart	38 Teban Gardens Road

Retailers Cite Various Reasons for Not Checking Age

3 The sellers did not ask for any identification to check the buyers' age. They had claimed that they were busy or that the minors looked older than they were. One of the sellers was also caught selling tobacco to a minor, aged 17, who was acquiring the product for another minor aged 14. Sellers take the risk of contravening the laws if they assess age by mere physical appearance of the buyer.

Reminder to Retailers

4 HSA takes a stern view of 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.

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 check the age of

those who wish to buy tobacco products. The minimum legal age to use, possess or buy tobacco products will be raised to 19 years with effect from 1 January 2019, 20 years with effect from 1 January 2020 and 21 years with effect from 1 January 2021.

6 Under the current Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, anyone caught selling tobacco products to persons below the age of 18 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-18 minors 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 date, 79 tobacco retail licences were suspended and 11 were revoked by HSA.

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

Reminder to Members of the Public

8 HSA would also like to remind the public not to supply any tobacco products to under-18 minors. Anyone caught buying or acquiring any tobacco product for a person below the age of 18 years is liable, on conviction in Court, to a maximum fine of up to \$2,500 for the first offence and up to \$5,000 for the second or subsequent offence. Similarly, anyone caught giving or furnishing any tobacco product to a person below the age of 18 is liable, on conviction in Court, to a maximum fine of up to \$500 for the first offence and up to \$1,000 for the second or subsequent offence. From 2015 to date, 18 individuals have been caught for such offences.

9 HSA encourages members of the public who have information on the illegal sale or supply of tobacco products to under-18 minors to call the Tobacco Regulation Branch at Tel: 66842036 or 66842037 during office hours.

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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.

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Table 1 – List of Errant Tobacco Retailers

S/N	Name of Retail Outlet	Address of Retail Outlet	Punishment for retailer
1	7-Eleven	Block 639 Punggol Drive, #01-02, Singapore 820639	(Six-month suspension) 4 August 2018 to 3 February 2019
2	SM Mart	Block 38 Teban Gardens Road, #01-324A, Singapore 600038	(Six-month suspension) 18 August 2018 to 17 February 2019
3	Ibrahim Trading	Block 411 Commonwealth Ave West, #01-3075, Singapore 120411	(Six-month suspension) 22 August 2018 to 21 February 2019
4	Gui Bin Minimart	Block 296A Bukit Batok Street 22, #01-66, Skyline II @Bukit Batok, Singapore 651296	(Six-month suspension) 27 September 2018 to 26 March 2019
5	Big Retail Supermarkets	Block 764 Choa Chu Kang North 5, #01-275, Singapore 680764	(Six-month suspension) 29 September 2018 to 28 March 2019
6	7-Eleven	Block 319A Anchorvale Drive, #01-78, Singapore 541319	(Six-month suspension) 3 October 2018 to 2 April 2019

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



7-Eleven at 639 Punggol Drive



SM Mart



Ibrahim Trading



Gui Bin Minimart



Big Retail Supermarkets



7-Eleven at 319A Anchorvale Drive