



**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
19 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**HSA CHARGES CASE OF SMUGGLING PROHIBITED
TOBACCO PRODUCTS INTO SINGAPORE**

On 19 September 2025, the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has charged a 38-year-old man, Gobi Thayanithi, in court for attempting to smuggle chewing tobacco, which is prohibited in Singapore.

2 On 18 September 2025, HSA was alerted by officers from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, who noticed anomalies in the scanned images of a Malaysia-registered lorry driven by Gobi at Woodlands Checkpoint and referred it for enhanced checks. At further checks, officers uncovered chewing tobacco hidden in the cabin compartment. During a search of his vehicle, a total of 3,450 sachets of chewing tobacco was found.

3 The case was adjourned to 7 October 2025.

4 HSA takes a serious view of such offences. Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, any person convicted of an import, distribution, sale or offer for sale offence for smokeless tobacco is liable to a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or to imprisonment for up to six months or to both, for the first offence and a fine not exceeding \$20,000, or to imprisonment for up to 12 months or to both, for subsequent offences.

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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.