

Hong Kong Customs seizes about 9 million suspected illicit cigarettes (with photo)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs today (August 14) seized about 9 million suspected illicit cigarettes with an estimated market value of about \$25 million and a duty potential of about \$17 million at the Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound.

Through intelligence analysis, Customs officers today selected for inspection a seaborne transshipment container, declared as carrying shopping carts, arriving from Vietnam and heading for Chile via Hong Kong. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected illicit cigarettes inside the container.

Investigation is ongoing.

Customs will continue its intelligence analysis and risk assessment for interception at source to combat illicit cigarette activities.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Members of the public may report any suspected illicit cigarette activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

