

# Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected illicit cigarettes worth about \$29 million (with photo)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs yesterday (January 24) seized about 10.6 million suspected illicit cigarettes in Yuen Long with an estimated market value of about \$29 million and a duty potential of about \$20 million.

During an anti-illicit cigarette operation conducted in Yuen Long yesterday evening, Customs officers seized the batch of suspected illicit cigarettes from a 40-foot-long container at an open space near Fung Kat Heung. A 50-year-old man suspected to be connected with the case was arrested and a lorry suspected to be involved has also been detained.

An investigation is ongoing. Customs will continue to trace the source and the flow of the illicit cigarettes. The likelihood of further arrests is not ruled out.

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.

Under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance, anyone involved in dealing with, possession of, selling or buying illicit cigarettes commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for two 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](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).

