

Hong Kong Customs detects two passenger drug trafficking cases at airport (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs detected two passenger drug trafficking cases at Hong Kong International Airport and seized a total of about 470 grams of suspected liquid cocaine and about 7.5 kilograms of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$8.5 million in total on March 7 and today (March 9).

A 35-year-old male passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia via Manila, Philippines on March 7. During customs clearance, about 4.4kg of suspected cocaine was found concealed inside the cosmetic products, antiperspirants, pens, books and hair clippers in his hand-carried suitcase. About 470g of suspected liquid cocaine was also found concealed inside some cosmetic products in the suitcase. The man was then arrested.

Also, a 48-year-old male passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Brussels, Belgium today. During customs clearance, about 3.1kg of suspected cocaine was found concealed inside the false compartment of his check-in suitcase. He was then arrested.

The 35-year-old arrested man has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. The case will be brought up at Shatin Magistrates' Courts on March 11. Investigation of the case of trafficking in suspected cocaine effected today is still ongoing.

Customs will continue to apply a risk assessment approach and focus on selecting passengers from high-risk regions for clearance to combat transnational drug trafficking activities.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

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



Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (March 9), public hospitals had reported to the Department of Health the admission of 40 patients (17 male and 23 female, aged seven months to 96 years) in the past 24 hours who met the reporting criteria of COVID-19. Appropriate tests have been arranged for the patients.

There are 109 patients under isolation currently. So far, 59 patients with the COVID-19 infection have been discharged upon recovery.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

Hong Kong residents born in 1960 or 1961 should apply for new smart identity cards on or before April 20, 2020, and caring arrangement of identity card replacement with accompanied elderly has been extended to persons with disabilities

The Immigration Department (ImmD) announced today (March 9) that Hong Kong residents born in 1960 or 1961 should apply for a new smart Hong Kong identity card (HKIC) in person at a Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre (SIDCC) (at Annex I) on or before April 20, 2020 (Monday). The SIDCCs will be open from Mondays to Saturdays, from 8am to 10pm (except public holidays).

Furthermore, the caring measure of the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) has been extended to persons with disabilities (PwDs). An eligible applicant for HKIC replacement may bring along up to two PwDs, in addition to two family members or friends aged 65 or above, to replace HKICs together during the same visit to an SIDCC.

PwDs who intend to apply for a new HKIC together with eligible applicants under the aforementioned new measure only need to bring along their existing smart HKIC and provide relevant documentation or information to ImmD as proof of their PwD identity upon HKIC replacement. Examples include the Registration Card for People with Disabilities issued by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, information or documents showing that the applicant is a recipient of Disability Allowance, proof of membership of PwDs service units subvented by the Social Welfare Department, proof of student status of special schools or medical proof (e.g. patient's follow-up record, etc.).

The accompanied PwD must be a holder of the old form of smart HKIC. If his/her HKIC is the one for juveniles (aged 11 to 17) or minors (under the age of 11), it is worth noting the following:

1. HKIC holders who were born in 2005 to 2007 and are under the age of 18 during the Replacement Exercise period (i.e. from 2019 to 2022) must be accompanied by his/her father/mother or legal guardian for HKIC replacement, who should produce the applicant's existing smart HKIC together with relevant documentation as proof of the applicant's PwD

identity. The accompanying father/mother or legal guardian should also produce his/her proof of identity (e.g. HKIC or other valid travel document). If the applicant is accompanied by a legal guardian, the legal guardian should produce documentary proof of the legal guardianship.

2. HKIC holders who were born in 2012 or after and are under the age of 11 during the Replacement Exercise period must be accompanied by his/her father/mother or legal guardian for HKIC replacement, who should produce the applicant's existing smart HKIC, original of the applicant's other proof of identity (e.g. passport or other valid travel document) or the latest school document (bearing the applicant's photo authenticated by the school, e.g. student handbook or school record card), the applicant's recent full-face photo with size of 50 X 40 millimetres (if the applicant is not taller than 90 centimetres) and relevant documentation as proof of the applicant's PwD identity. The accompanying father/mother or legal guardian should also produce his/her proof of identity (e.g. HKIC or other valid travel document). If the applicant is accompanied by a legal guardian, the legal guardian should produce documentary proof of the legal guardianship. Under the existing legislation, Hong Kong residents under the age of 11 are not required to register for an HKIC. Therefore, Hong Kong residents born in 2012 or after are not involved in the Replacement Exercise unless they are HKIC holders in connection with their applications for a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport.
3. HKIC holders who were born in 2008 to 2011 or 2001 to 2004 and will reach the age of 11 or 18 respectively during the Replacement Exercise period are required to apply for a juvenile or adult HKIC at one of the Registration of Persons Offices within 30 days upon attaining the age of 11 or 18 respectively and need not replace their HKIC under the Replacement Exercise.

"The Replacement Exercise covers all Hong Kong residents, who should apply for new smart HKICs in person at SIDCCs during their specified periods, whether they are permanent residents or non-permanent residents taking up employment, investment, residence or study in Hong Kong. Applicants need to bring along their existing smart HKICs when they proceed to the SIDCCs. If eligible Hong Kong residents are absent from Hong Kong during their call-up period, they can apply within 30 days of their return to Hong Kong," an ImmD spokesman added.

Eligible applicants may make appointment bookings via the Internet (www.gov.hk/newicbooking), the ImmD mobile application or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234. To make an appointment booking via the Internet or to download the mobile application, please scan the attached QR codes (at Annex II). The ImmD appeals to applicants to pre-fill the application form when making appointment bookings through the Internet or mobile application in order to enjoy faster service.

For details of the Replacement Exercise, please visit the website www.smartid.gov.hk or call the ImmD's enquiry hotline at 2824 6111.

LegCo committee meetings

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene originally scheduled for tomorrow (March 10) at 2.30pm will be rescheduled to a later date.

Meanwhile, the LegCo House Committee (HC) will hold a special meeting on Friday (March 13) at 2.30pm in Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex to continue the proceedings of the election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of HC for the 2019-2020 session.

The meeting of the LegCo Finance Committee (FC) originally scheduled for Friday at 2.30pm in Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex will be held at 4pm, whereas the FC meeting on Friday at 10am will be held as scheduled.

Application for list of establishments from Central Register of Establishments

The Census and Statistics Department maintains a computerised Central Register of Establishments which contains information relating to some 420 000 active establishments in Hong Kong. Information kept in the Register is updated on a quarterly basis through feedback from various surveys of the department and administrative returns from relevant government departments. Information in respect of the fourth quarter of 2019 of the Register is now updated.

The Register serves mainly as the sampling frame for various economic surveys conducted by the department. In addition, many other government departments and private organisations also make use of the disclosable particulars kept in the Register for their surveys, publicity, business promotion, customer classification and research work. These disclosable particulars cover the name, address, type of business and employment size class of the establishments. They are available to the public in the following two forms.

20% sample listing

A sample listing containing 20% of the records randomly selected from the Register, together with disclosable particulars of the establishments, is available to users. Users may apply for all or part of the records in the 20% sample listing in writing by providing the following information:

- * Particulars of the applicant (including name, position, organisation, address, telephone, fax and email);
- * Details of the project (including name, purpose, expected completion date, and specifications of information required such as industries, employment sizes and districts); and
- * Medium of delivering the information (e.g. photocopy or CD-R and file format such as Visual FoxPro, Excel or text, if applicable).

The application can be faxed to 2827 2296, emailed to cre@censtatd.gov.hk or posted to the Employment Statistics and Central Register of Establishments Section, Census and Statistics Department, 20/F, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

The information can be supplied in the form of CD-R or photocopies at the following rates:

- * CD-R – a charge of about \$1,630 per listing, compiled to the user's requirements (exact amount depending on the complexity of the job concerned);
- * Photocopies – a ready standard listing is available for photocopying (in part if desired). A charge of \$1.30 per page is levied.

Matching operation with specified establishments

Users may apply to conduct matching operations for a list of establishments in their databases and then extract disclosable particulars for the matched establishments from the Register. The matching operation will be done using the application program supplied by the user and conducted on the computing facilities in the department. Both the name and address of establishment will be used as matching keys.

Users may apply for this service item by submitting a proposal of the matching operation to the department. The proposal should cover the intended use of the information derived from the matching operation, the specifications of the establishment database provided by the user, the details of the matching process and the specifications of the output data.

The information can be supplied in the form of CD-R. A charge will be levied at the following rates:

- * a minimum charge of about \$5,100 for the service required (exact amount depending on the complexity of the matching operation conducted); plus
- * \$1 per matched record with information supplied to the user.

Enquiries

Further details about the above service items can be obtained from the Employment Statistics and Central Register of Establishments Section of the department at tel: 2582 4760; fax: 2827 2296; or email: cre@censtatd.gov.hk.