

Hong Kong Customs combats unfair trade practices at medicine shop

Hong Kong Customs today (December 20) arrested a salesman of a medicine shop suspected of applying a false trade description in the course of selling dried fish maw, in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TD0).

Customs earlier received information alleging that a salesperson of a medicine shop in Tsim Sha Tsui claimed that the unit price of dried fish maw was calculated per catty. After the dried fish maw was sliced, the salesperson revealed that it was priced per tael.

After an in-depth investigation, Customs officers today arrested a 30-year-old salesman of the medicine shop concerned.

An investigation is ongoing, and the arrested man was held for inquiry.

Customs has long been concerned about visitors being misled to make purchases by unfair trade practices and has established a Quick Response Team to handle urgent complaints lodged by short-haul visitors. The complaints will be promptly referred to investigators to handle with priority.

Customs reminded traders to comply with the requirements of the TD0 and consumers to purchase products from reputable shops. Consumers should also be cautious about the unit price and ask for more information, including the total price of the goods selected, before making a purchase decision.

Under the TD0, any person who in the course of any trade or business applies a false trade description to any goods commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected violations of the TD0 to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).