

[Hong Kong Customs seizes about 10.2 million suspected illicit cigarettes \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs today (March 18) seized about 10.2 million suspected illicit cigarettes with an estimated market value of about \$28 million and a duty potential of about \$19 million at the Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers selected a seaborne transshipment container from Cambodia heading for the Philippines via Hong Kong for inspection. The shipment manifest declared that it was a stationery consignment. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected illicit cigarettes in the container.

Investigation is ongoing.

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).

