

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected illicit heat-not-burn products (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (August 22) seized about 50 000 suspected illicit heat-not-burn (HNB) products with an estimated market value of about \$140,000 and a duty potential of about \$100,000 at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).

A male passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Quanzhou, Fujian, yesterday night. During Customs clearance, the batch of suspected illicit HNB products was found inside his luggage.

The 27-year-old man was arrested for failing to declare HNB products in excess of the duty-free concession to a Customs officer.

Investigation is ongoing.

Up till July this year, 37 incoming passengers were arrested at HKIA for failing to make a declaration of HNB products in excess of the duty-free concession to Customs officers. About 900 000 suspected illicit HNB products with an estimated market value of about \$2.5 million and duty potential of about \$1.7 million were seized.

Customs reminds members of the public that under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance (DCO), tobacco is a dutiable good to which the DCO applies. Any HNB product containing tobacco in content is also a dutiable good subject to the control of the DCO. Any person who possesses, sells or buys dutiable commodities without a valid license commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for two years.

Members of the public may call Customs' hotline 2815 7711 regarding whether a specific tobacco or smoking product is under the regulation of the DCO. They may also report any suspected violation of the DCO to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

