



HSA TAKES ACTION ON WOMAN FILMED VAPING ON MRT TRAIN

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has identified a 24-year-old woman who was filmed vaping on an MRT train in a social media video posted on 13 March 2025.

2 On 24 March 2025, HSA raided the woman's residence, where one e-vaporiser and three e-vaporiser pods were found. HSA has tested that the e-vaporiser pods contain etomidate, a potent medicinal ingredient. The woman is currently assisting HSA in further investigations.

3 Etomidate is a medicinal ingredient used in clinical practice as an anaesthetic agent. It should only be administered under medical supervision. Adverse effects of etomidate include nausea and vomiting, uncontrollable movement or spasm of muscles, changes to breathing and blood pressure, seizures and psychosis as well as physical dependence.

4 HSA takes a serious view of the possession and use of e-vaporisers and will take stern action against offenders. This incident, in which the woman openly vaped on an MRT train, was a flagrant violation of the law.

Penalties for such offences in Singapore

5 The purchase, possession and use of e-vaporisers are prohibited in Singapore under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act. This includes purchases made through the Internet and from overseas. Offenders can be fined up to \$2,000.

6 Those found possessing or using pods containing etomidate are also liable upon conviction to a maximum penalty of imprisonment for up to 2 years and/or fine up to \$10,000 under the Poisons Act.

Consumer advisory

7 Information about the harms of e-vaporisers is available on the HealthHub [website](#). Information pertaining to prohibited tobacco products in Singapore is available on the HSA [website](#). Smokers who need help with quitting can call the Health Promotion Board's tollfree Quitline at 1800-438-2000.

8 Members of the public who have information on the illegal import, distribution, sale or offer for sale of e-vaporisers can contact the Tobacco Regulation Branch at

Tel: 6684 2036 or 6684 2037 during office hours (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday).

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
SINGAPORE
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About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services and Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. As the national blood service, it is responsible for providing a safe and adequate blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit <http://www.hsa.gov.sg/>.

For more updates on public health and safety matters, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HSAsg.

About HSA's Health Products Regulation Group

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that drugs, innovative therapeutics, medical devices and health-related products are wisely regulated and meet appropriate safety, quality and efficacy standards. It contributes to the development of biomedical sciences in Singapore by administering a robust, scientific and responsive regulatory framework.

ANNEX

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Screen capture of social media video where woman was filmed vaping on train





Photo credit: Health Sciences Authority