

**93,380  
contraband  
cases  
detected**



**350 illegal  
immigrants and  
1690 overstayers  
arrested**



# ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT 2014

Here are some statistics and facts on the Immigration Offender situation and Contraband Cases detected for the Year 2014. Read on to find out the meaning behind each figure!



**250 persons were arrested for  
harbouring immigration  
offenders and 69 persons  
arrested for employing them.**

**True love...seriously?**

**170 persons were convicted for  
Marriage of Convenience in 2014**



# ICA Annual Statistics Report

2014

## OVERVIEW OF IMMIGRATION OFFENDER SITUATION

The total number of Immigration Offenders (IO) arrested by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) in 2014 decreased by 19% compared to 2013.

Immigration Offender Situation			
Year	Illegal immigrants	Overstayers	Total no. of immigration offenders arrested
2014	350	1,690	2,040
2013	600	1,930	2,530
2012	690	1,890	2,580

2. The number of illegal immigrants arrested dropped about 42% from 600 to 350 in 2014 and the number of overstayers arrested dropped about 12% from 1,930 to 1,690 last year.

## Immigration offenders pose potential law and order problems for our society and we must take a tough stance against them



Inland enforcement operations in Geylang in May 2014 (Top) and August 2014 (Bottom)  
(Photo Source: ICA)



IOs arrested in a joint operation with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) in December 2014 (Photo Source : ICA)



3. Despite the improved situation, we need to remain vigilant to keep our borders secure. IOs pose potential law and order problems for our society and we must take a tough stance against them. ICA adopts a multi-pronged approach in tackling the IO situation through deterrent laws, enforcing stringent border checks, and conducting inland enforcement.

4. Everyone has a role to play in ensuring the safety and security of Singapore. Singaporeans should not employ or harbour IOs. Without the prospect of illegal employment or shelter, these IOs will not find Singapore an attractive destination.

## INCREASE IN HARBOURERS ARRESTED; DROP IN EMPLOYERS ARRESTED

### Overview of Harbours and Employment of IO Situation

Year	Harbourers	Employers	Total
2014	250	69	319
2013	233	97	330
2012	77	41	118

5. The number of harbourers arrested in 2014 has increased slightly by 7% to 250 while the number of employers arrested for hiring IOs has dipped about 29% compared to 2013.

## The ICA urges the public not to employ or harbour immigration offenders

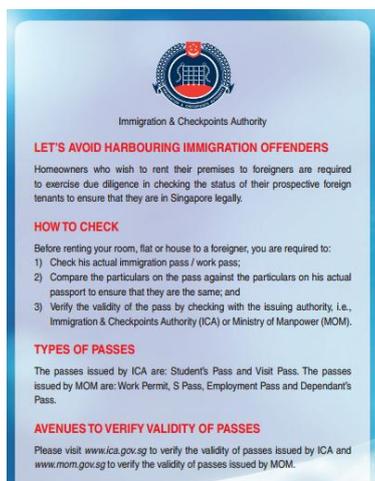


Volunteer (in green) reaching out to foreign workers on immigration regulations

### Our Strategic and Community Partners

6. While ICA takes the lead in the enforcement of all immigration-related offences, we also work closely with other enforcement agencies such as Police and the Ministry of Manpower to crack down on harbouring/ illegal employment. We have also developed strong partnerships with community groups and our pool of volunteers who help to enhance awareness of such offences.

7. In 2014, ICA produced a simplified Homeowners' Guide in the four official languages which was distributed to over a million households. Homeowners are reminded to exercise due diligence in checking the status of their prospective foreign tenants to ensure that their status in Singapore is legal.



# OVERVIEW OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING SITUATION

## DROP IN CONTRABAND SMUGGLING CASES DETECTED

Overview of Contraband Smuggling Detection Situation	
Year	Total number of cases detected
2014	93,380
2013	99,700
2012	80,200

8. The total number of contraband cases detected at our checkpoints dropped by 6% from 99,700 in 2013 to 93,380 in 2014. ICA would like to remind travellers to check with the relevant authorities if the items that they intend to bring into Singapore require permits/ licence or are dutiable items.

### Methods of Concealment

9. Online purchases have become increasingly popular in Singapore. However, some buyers exploit the convenience of online purchase to buy prohibited/controlled items and dutiable items online and have them sent via post in order to evade detection. ICA does not condone such smuggling attempts. All cases detected will be referred to the relevant agencies for investigations. Those found guilty will face stiff penalties.

10. We will continue to conduct security checks on passengers and vehicles at the checkpoints to prevent attempts to smuggle in undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives and other contraband items.



Drugs found in hollowed book  
(Photo Source: CNB)

### Drugs sent via postal service seized

On 4 December 2014, ICA officers at the Parcel Post Section found a suspicious parcel which had arrived from a neighbouring country and was declared to contain books. The parcel was checked and drugs (suspected to be ketamine and ecstasy) were in a lock-safe box disguised as a book.

### **Contraband cigarettes seized**

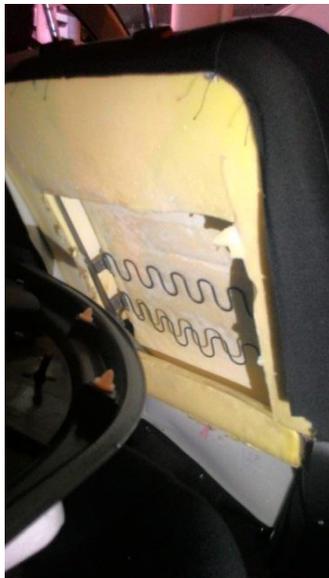
On 8 October 2014, ICA officers stopped a Malaysia-registered lorry for routine checks upon arrival at the Tuas Checkpoint. The lorry was declared to be transporting consignments of garment and thermal paper. Officers conducted a thorough search and uncovered 5,000 cartons of contraband cigarettes.



Contraband cigarettes uncovered  
(Photo Source: ICA)

### **More than 6kg of drugs seized within 24 hours**

On 18 December 2014, more than 5kg of cannabis and 400g of heroin were seized at the Woodlands and Tuas Checkpoints respectively from two Malaysia-registered cars. The seized drugs had an estimated street value of more than S\$227,000.



Drugs seized at back portion of driver's seat at Woodlands Checkpoint  
(Photo Source: CNB)



Drugs seized at Tuas Checkpoint  
(Photo Source: CNB)

<b>ENFORCEMENT AGAINST MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE</b>	<b>Number of persons convicted for MOC offences</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>170</b>
	<b>2013</b>	<b>284</b>

11. For 2014, 170 persons were convicted for marriages of convenience (MOC). This figure has dropped by 40% as compared to the previous year.

12. ICA takes a tough stance and prosecutes errant couples and middlemen trying to circumvent our system by engaging in marriages of convenience to obtain immigration facilities in Singapore.

13. The penalties for the offence are a fine not exceeding S\$10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, or both. Their immigration facilities such as visas, visit passes, long term passes, permanent residence will also be revoked upon conviction. These stiff penalties will serve as a strong deterrent against marriages of convenience. Members of public may report any suspected case of MOC to ICA at 1800-391-6150.

**# END #**

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