

*For immediate release*

**PRICE CONTROL ACT LETTER OF DEMAND ISSUED TO RETAILER  
3 STARS**

1. A letter of demand pursuant to Section 11 of the Price Control Act has been issued to the retailer 3 Stars on Monday, 10 February 2020. This follows public complaints of 3 Stars outlets taking advantage of the Novel Coronavirus situation to engage in profiteering practices.
2. The company is required to submit explanations and full documentations explaining the basis of their selling prices for the sale of masks, including their cost price and profit margins.
3. The company is to respond to the Price Controller's queries by Wednesday, 12 February 2020. Failure to comply can result in penalties of a fine of up to \$10,000 for the first offence, and up to \$20,000 for the second and subsequent offences.
4. Profiteering is a highly irresponsible and damaging act. We urge all retailers to practise corporate social responsibility and not take advantage of the increased demand to raise prices unreasonably.
5. MTI had earlier issued five letters - one letter of demand to Deen Express and four requests for information to e-commerce platforms Lazada, Carousell, Qoo10 and Shopee. Deen Express has since replied to unreservedly apologise for their pricing strategy and undertaken to immediately correct its pricing practices. The e-commerce platforms have provided the requested information and are working with MTI to address any profiteering practices on the platforms.
6. The Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) and the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS) are also closely monitoring the situation and will investigate any unfair and anti-competitive practices. Consumers can report any errant sellers to CASE at 6100 0315.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
11 FEBRUARY 2020**

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