

For immediate release

OUTCOME OF INSPECTIONS OF 3 STARS' PREMISES UNDER THE PRICE CONTROL ACT

1. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) issued a letter of demand pursuant to Section 11 of the Price Control Act to the retailer 3 Stars on 10 February 2020, following public complaints of 3 Stars profiteering from the sales of face masks. Inspections of multiple 3 Stars' premises were subsequently carried out on 17 February 2020 after initial responses to the letter of demand were incomplete.
2. 3 Stars has cooperated with the inspections at its company headquarters, warehouse, and multiple outlets. Through the inspections and interviews with the owners and its staff, 3 Stars has provided the information required, including records and invoices showing significant increases in the cost price of face masks from their overseas suppliers. They have apologised and reduced the price of masks, as well as undertaken to take greater care in their pricing practices.
3. In view of 3 Stars' apology and reduction in prices for masks, and the fact that the source prices of face masks have risen significantly globally, no further action will be taken at this time. MTI will continue to monitor 3 Stars' pricing practices and reserves the right to take further action under the Price Control Act if warranted.
4. We remind all businesses to exercise corporate social responsibility and not take advantage of the COVID-19 situation. Consumers can report errant sellers to CASE at 6100 0315 and submit feedback via https://www.case.org.sg/complaint_onlinecomplaint.aspx.

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

For media queries, please contact:

Carista Wee
Assistant Director
Corporate Communications Division
Tel: 6332 7505
Email: carista_wee@mti.gov.sg