

Three food products found to be adulterated with substances not allowed for use in food

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has detected three food products that have been adulterated with banned and/or medicinal substances that are not allowed in food. The three products are:

Product Name	Banned and/or medicinal substances detected*
Lemo A Detox Slimming Sachets	Sibutramine
Lemo S Detox Slimming Sachets	
Lemo D Detox Slimming Sachets	Sennosides

*Information on these substances can be found in Annex

2 All three products are sold on various local e-commerce platforms and marketed as weight loss products with claims of fat burner, effective weight loss, appetite suppressant, detoxify, control hunger, help digestion, and acceleration of metabolism. SFA has worked with these online e-commerce platforms to remove the listings of the products and issued warnings to the respective sellers to stop selling the products with immediate effect.

3 Details of the products are as follows:

<p>Product Name: Lemo A Detox Slimming Sachets</p> <p>Country of Origin: Malaysia</p>	
<p>Product Name: Lemo S Detox Slimming Sachets</p> <p>Country of Origin: Malaysia</p>	



4 SFA will not hesitate to take stern enforcement actions against anyone who sells and supplies unsafe food products that has been adulterated with banned and/or medicinal substances that are not allowed in food. Under Section 15 of Singapore's Sale of Food Act, the sale of unsafe food is not permitted. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

5 Consumers who have purchased the implicated products should not consume it. Those who have consumed the implicated products and have concerns about their health should seek medical advice.

6 Consumers should also exercise caution and be mindful of the risks associated with consuming food bought online through e-commerce platforms. Consumers are advised not to buy or consume any food if they are doubtful of its source and safety.

7 Members of the public who have any information on the sale and supply of these unsafe food products may write in to SFA at www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback.

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ANNEX

Substance name	Information
Sibutramine	Sibutramine is listed in the Poisons Act (1938). It is a prescription only weight loss medicine banned in Singapore since 2010, due to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke. Other serious health consequences reported with its use include heart problems and central nervous system disorders (e.g. psychosis and hallucinations). Seizures have also been reported with sibutramine.
Sennosides	Sennosides is used for the relief of constipation and has not been assessed to be safe for use in food products. Common side effects of Sennosides may include abdominal pain, spasms, diarrhoea, and low potassium levels in the blood leading to muscle weakness and/or cramps. Prolonged use of Sennosides may lead to a lazy bowel (bowel muscles become too relaxed leading to less frequent bowel emptying, which may lead to long-term constipation) and dehydration.