

20 food stall licensees warned for non-compliance to mask/spit guard requirements for food safety

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has taken enforcement actions against 20 food stall licensees for non-compliance to mask/spit guard wearing requirements for food safety.

SFA conducted a targeted operation from 26 to 30 September 2022 on 40 coffeeshops and food courts, where a total of 349 stalls were inspected. During the inspections, most of the food handlers were found to be compliant with the mask/spit guard requirements. Written warnings were issued to 20* food stall licensees for failing to ensure that their food handler(s) comply with mask/spit guard wearing requirements. These licensees will face enforcement fines if they fail to comply with these requirements again.

Licensees found to be in breach of the licensing condition under Section 99(15) of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 (“EHPA”), Section 46(12) of the Sale of Food Act 1973 (“SOFA”) or Section 12(1) Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 (“WMFA”) shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, and liable to have their licence suspended or cancelled.



Food handler not wearing mask properly
(Photo: SFA)



SFA's enforcement officer engaging stall licensee
(Photo: SFA)

Since Apr 2020, Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has made it a requirement for all food handlers to wear masks or other forms of physical barriers. With the easing of Covid-19 mask-wearing requirements regulations announced on 24 Aug 2022, mask wearing requirements for food handlers continue to apply as food can still be contaminated by food handlers through coughing and sneezing (i.e., substances expelled from mouth or nose) onto food during the preparation and handling process. More information on the Wearing of Mask or Spit Guards by Food Handlers is available at www.sfa.gov.sg/maskorspitguardrequirements.

SFA had engaged the food industry to inform and clarify on the requirements, along with sending reminders and issuance of posters for licensees to display within their premises to remind staff on the mask/spit guard wearing requirements. Licensees have been reminded to ensure that all food handlers involved in RTE food preparation comply with the mask/spit guard requirement as stipulated under the licensing conditions and that enforcement actions will be taken against those who fail to comply with the mask/spit guard requirements.

Members of the public who come across any potential violations should report to SFA via the online feedback form (www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback). As part of the enquiry and gathering of evidence, SFA may engage the feedback provider for more details. SFA will not hesitate to take enforcement action against errant licensees if we have obtained sufficient evidence.

**Includes one food stall licensee who was found to be non-compliant prior to the targeted operations.*

Issued by SFA
7 October 2022