

Company fined \$10,000 for possession and keeping of meat products intended for sale in an unlicensed cold store

Halnaz Frozen Goods Pte Ltd was fined \$10,000 by the court for possessing an assortment of meat products intended for sale, which had been kept in an unlicensed cold store. A separate charge of operating an unlicensed cold store was taken into consideration.

2 In June 2017, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) received feedback on alleged illegal processing of raw meat. During our investigations, AVA officers found that Halnaz Frozen Goods Pte Ltd had rented a unit to store meat intended for sale. The company did not have a licence from AVA to operate a cold store for storing meat. About 670kg of assorted meat were found in the chest freezers located within the unit, which were subsequently seized and destroyed.



Caption: AVA seized and destroyed about 670kg of assorted meat found in chest freezers (Photo: AVA)

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3 Operators of cold stores for the storage of meat and fish are required to obtain a licence from AVA, as proper cold chain management and handling of products is required to ensure food safety. Offenders who possess meat or fish products which have been kept in unlicensed cold stores for sale or supply, are liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 and/or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction, offenders can be fined up to \$100,000 and/or imprisoned for a term not exceeding 3 years. Offenders found operating an unlicensed cold store shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

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