

Director of two companies fined for illegal operation of unlicensed cold stores

Lian Huat Market Pte Ltd, an online grocer, and Heng Hup Huat Foodstuffs Trading Pte Ltd, a trader of food products, were fined \$13,000 and \$3,000 respectively by the Court on 9 March 2022, Wednesday, for the operation of unlicensed cold stores. The managing director for both companies, Teh Eng Kwang, was fined a total of \$14,000 for failing to exercise due diligence to prevent the offences from being committed.

2 In July 2021, officers from the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) found various processed meat and seafood products stored in chest freezers at Lian Huat Market Pte Ltd's premises. About 375kg of processed meat and seafood products were seized. In the same month, SFA officers also conducted an inspection of Heng Hup Huat Foodstuffs Trading Pte Ltd's premises and uncovered storage of chilled and frozen meat and fish products onsite. About 1670 kg of meat and seafood products were seized. Both companies do not have cold store licences.



*Meat and seafood products stored in unlicensed cold store by Lian Huat Market Pte Ltd
(Photo: Singapore Food Agency)*



Meat and seafood products stored in unlicensed cold store by Heng Hup Huat Foodstuffs Trading Pte Ltd (Photo: Singapore Food Agency)

3 Illegal storage of meat and seafood at unlicensed facilities pose a food safety risk. Under the Sale of Food Act and the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act, cold stores for meat and seafood products can only be operated with a valid licence. These licensed premises are also routinely inspected by SFA.

4 If found to be possessing any meat or seafood products which has been kept in unlicensed cold stores for the purpose of selling or supplying, offenders shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years.

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