

Five importers fined \$28,000 in total for illegal import of food products

Five importers were fined a total of \$28,000 by the Court today for illegally importing food products. Chang Cheng Mee Wah Food Ind Pte Ltd and Chin Sam Chiap Pte Ltd were fined \$14,900 and \$5,600 respectively for illegally importing fresh fruits and vegetables and processed food. Q N Q Enterprise Pte Ltd, Q N S Wholesale Pte Ltd and TNT Vegetables Importer & Exporter Pte Ltd were fined \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$2,500 respectively for illegally importing fresh vegetables.

2 In September to November 2019 and 8 January 2020, officers from Singapore Food Agency (SFA) detected about 2,565kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh fruits and vegetables and about 936kg of undeclared and under-declared processed food in the consignments imported from Malaysia by the above five importers. All the illegal consignments were seized.



About 2,565kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh fruits and vegetables and about 936kg of undeclared and under-declared processed food were detected. (Photo: SFA)

3 In Singapore, food imports must meet SFA's requirements and food safety standards. Food can only be imported by licensed importers, and every consignment must be declared and accompanied with a valid import permit. Illegally imported vegetables are of unknown sources and can pose a food safety risk (e.g. if unregulated or high level of pesticides are used). The long-term ingestion of excessive pesticide residues through the consumption of vegetables that have been subjected to pesticide abuse could lead to adverse health effects.

4 Offenders who illegally import fresh fruits and vegetables shall be liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years. Offenders who illegally import processed food shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and in the case of a subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

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