

### Importer fined \$3,600 in total for illegal import of food products

Sunrise Vegetable Pte Ltd was fined a total of \$3,600 by the Court today for illegally importing fresh fruits and vegetables and processed food. The importer was also fined an additional \$2,000 for unauthorised disposal of the detained vegetable consignment while laboratory results were pending.

2 In November 2019, officers from Singapore Food Agency (SFA) detected 299kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh fruits and vegetables and 96.2kg of undeclared processed food in the consignments imported from Malaysia by the importer. All the illegal consignments were seized.



*299kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh fruits and vegetables and 96.2kg of undeclared and under-declared processed food were detected. (Photo: SFA)*

3 SFA also conducted routine samplings in which the consignments were subjected to the hold-and-test regime. We subsequently found that the importer had carried out unauthorised disposal of the detained vegetable consignment while laboratory results were pending.

4 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.

5 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.

**Issued by the Singapore Food Agency**

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