

Importer fined \$6,000 for illegal import of fresh vegetables

Harborlift Fresh Food Pte Ltd was fined \$6,000 by the Court today for the illegal import of fresh vegetables.

2 In November 2017, officers from the former Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA)¹ detected six types of undeclared vegetables (amounting to 1,219kg), and two types of under-declared vegetables (amounting to 750kg) in the consignments of vegetables imported from Malaysia by Harborlift Fresh Food Pte Ltd. Another two types of vegetables (181 kg), which the importer had been suspended from importing from Malaysia, were discovered in the same consignment. All of the illegal consignments were seized and destroyed.

3 Illegally imported food products are from unknown sources and pose a food safety risk. In Singapore, food imports must meet the Singapore Food Agency (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. Offenders who illegally import food will be liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

Issued by the Singapore Food Agency

29 May 2019

¹The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) was formed as a new statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources on 1 April 2019. The SFA brings together food-related functions carried out by the former Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore, the National Environment Agency and the Health Sciences Authority.