

Licensee of Tan and Chng Vegetable Seeds & Enterprise fined \$2,000 for illegal import of fresh vegetables

Tan Kay Huat, licensee and sole proprietor of Tan and Chng Vegetable Seeds & Enterprise, was fined \$2,000 by the Court today for illegally importing fresh vegetables for sale.

2 On 22 March 2022, a Malaysian lorry carrying food produce consigned to the company was inspected at Pasir Panjang Wholesale Centre by Singapore Food Agency (SFA) officers.

3 The officers found that Tan illegally imported 55kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh vegetables from Malaysia such as caixin, spring onion, and sweet potato leaf. All the illegal consignments were seized.



SFA officers detected 55kg of illegally imported fresh vegetables (Photo: SFA)

4 In Singapore, food imports must meet SFA's requirements. Fruits and vegetables 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.

Issued by the Singapore Food Agency

29 September 2022