

## **Nine importers fined \$24,200 in total for illegal import of food products**

Nine importers<sup>1</sup> were fined a total of \$23,000 by the Court today for the illegal import of fresh vegetables. Two<sup>2</sup> of these importers were fined an additional \$600 each for illegally importing processed food for sale.

2 From March to August 2019, officers from Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and the former Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA)<sup>3</sup> detected 2848kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh vegetables and 340kg of undeclared processed food in the consignments of vegetables imported by the above nine importers. The illegal consignments were seized.



A total of 2848kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh vegetables was detected. (Photo: SFA)

3 Illegally imported food products are of 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 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**

23 October 2019

<sup>1</sup> Xin Import & Export Pte Ltd, Kee Chye Chua (licensee of Liang Hup Hin Chuan Kee), Ong Eng Seng (licensee of Ong Eng Seng Trading), SM Fresh Pte Ltd, Ong Shyh Chang (licensee of Century Vegetable), Goh Yew Teck, Jeffery (licensee of Hup Aik Vegetables Supplier), C T Fresh Pte Ltd, SM Vegetables Pte Ltd and Song Lin (Singapore) Pte Ltd

<sup>2</sup> Ong Shyh Chang and Goh Yew Teck, Jeffrey

<sup>3</sup>The 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.