

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Suspension of sale and distribution of cockles, seafood and meat products from an unlicensed cockle processing premises and cold store in Woodlands - 1040 kg of cockles and 6160kg of seafood/meat products seized**

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is investigating a case of illegal cockle processing, and illegal storage of meat and seafood products.

2 On 25 August 2021, SFA officers found illegal cockle processing operations at a premises in Woodlands Loop. The premises was also illegally used as a cold store for meat and seafood products. SFA seized 1040 kg of illegally processed cockles and 6160kg of seafood and meat products.

3 SFA has issued a direction to suspend the processing, sale and distribution of cockles, seafood and meat products from the operator. Enforcement action will also be taken against the operator of the unlicensed premises for illegal food processing and illegal storage of meat and seafood products.

4 All food operators are reminded to obtain a proper and valid food business licence to supply food to other businesses. Food processing and storage of meat and seafood items in unlicensed premises pose a food safety risk. Under the Sale of Food Act and the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act, food processing facilities and cold stores for meat and seafood products can only be operated with a valid licence. Offenders who conduct seafood processing and/or storage of meat and seafood items in unlicensed premises are liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both.

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*Illegal cockle processing in an unlicensed premises. (Photo: SFA)*



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*Over 6,000kg of illegally stored seafood and meat products were seized at the Woodlands Loop premises. (Photo: SFA)*

**Issued by the Singapore Food Agency**

27 August 2021