

**Topstar Trading Pte Ltd and its Director fined \$5000 each
for illegal import of fresh vegetables**

Topstar Trading Pte Ltd, an importer of vegetables and processed food products, was fined \$5000 by the Court today for illegally importing fresh vegetables for sale. Its Director, Tiong Lee Chian, was also fined \$5000 for failing to prevent the offence from being committed.

2 On 23 March 2021, officers from the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) detected approximately 250kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh vegetables in the consignments imported from Malaysia by the importer. All the illegal consignments were seized.



Image: Illegal consignments seized by SFA (Photo: SFA)

3 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.

4 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.

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