

Two companies and a director fined for illegal import of fresh and processed produce, and operating an unlicensed cold store

Two companies were fined in Court today for illegally importing produce and operating an unlicensed cold store respectively:

- (i) Sino You International Pte Ltd was fined \$6,500 for illegally importing fresh and processed produce for sale. Its Director, Zhang Bao Yin, was also fined \$6,500 for failing to prevent the offence from being committed.
- (ii) Deep Sea Gourmet Pte Ltd was fined \$3,000 for operating an unlicensed cold store.

Sino You International Pte Ltd

2 In February 2023, officers from Singapore Food Agency (SFA) detected more than 2.6 tonnes of undeclared and under-declared fresh and processed produce in the consignments imported from China by the importer. The produce include oranges, red and green chillies, chives and peeled garlic. All illegal consignments were seized.



Consignments of fresh produce seized (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. Offenders who illegally import processed fruits and vegetables 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.

Deep Sea Gourmet Pte Ltd

5 On 17 January 2024, officers from SFA inspected the premises of Deep Sea Gourmet Pte Ltd and found assorted frozen seafood products, such as shrimps, crabmeat and abalone, stored in three freezers. The premise is not licensed as a cold store. Approximately 390kg of frozen seafood products were seized.



*Frozen seafood products stored in unlicensed cold store by Deep Sea Gourmet Pte Ltd
(Photos by SFA)*

6 Illegal storage of meat and seafood at unlicensed facilities poses food safety risks. Under the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act, cold stores for meat and seafood products can only be operated with a valid licence. SFA routinely inspects these licensed premises to ensure compliance. Offenders who store meat and/or fish products illegally shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to both.

Issued by the Singapore Food Agency
8 May 2024