

Two importers fined \$6,000 for illegal import of fresh vegetables

Freshdirect Pte Ltd and 63-year-old Lim Hock Kee (licensee of Hai Lian Enterprises) were fined \$3,000 each by the Court today for importing fresh vegetables that did not conform with requirements in the import permits.

2 In November 2017, officers from the former Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority¹ detected 32kg and 91kg of undeclared fresh vegetables in two consignments of vegetables imported from Malaysia by Freshdirect Pte Ltd and Lim Hock Kee respectively. All the illegal consignments were seized and destroyed.

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 food 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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¹ 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.