

Consumer Advisory for Group-Buy Activities

While group-buy activities are private arrangements among members of the public, consumers buying food products through such arrangements are advised to be aware of the risks and to observe the following good practices to manage food safety risks.

1. Buying Food Through a Group-Buy Organiser

- i. Be aware of deals that appear too good to be true, especially those which are offered at a significantly lower price
- ii. When in doubt, ask the group-buy organiser for more information, such as the expiry date and source of the food products, before making a purchase
- iii. Food bought from overseas sources should only be imported by SFA-licensed traders who should comply with SFA's food safety regulations and import processes

2. Self-Collection / Distribution of Food Products

- i. Arrangements should be made with the group-buy organiser to ensure prompt collection of food products, especially for perishable foods
- ii. If you anticipate a delay in collection, request for the group-buy organiser to store the food in appropriate conditions, such as in a chiller (for ready-to-eat food) or freezer (for frozen food)
- iii. Upon collection, check that the food products are in the appropriate condition:
 - a. Chilled products remain in chilled form
 - b. Frozen products have not thawed
 - c. Canned food products are not dented, bloated or rusty
 - d. Food packaging is not torn, leaking, opened, or infested with insects
 - e. Food has not turned mouldy or rancid
 - f. Eggs are not cracked
 - g. Bottled drinks are properly sealed
 - h. Food products are not past their expiry date
- iv. Seek clarification from the group-buy organiser if the food products are not received in the appropriate condition
- v. Consume ready-to-eat food as soon as possible
- vi. Promptly store the food in proper condition upon collection, such as in your fridge if it is chilled, and a freezer, for frozen food products

Food Safety is a Joint Responsibility

All parties – the government, the food industry, and the consumers – have a role to play in ensuring food safety. Food can be contaminated anywhere along the food chain and the assurance of food safety requires the combined effort of all stakeholders.

Consumers should exercise discretion when choosing to buy food products via group-buy, and are advised to adhere to the food safety practices outlined in this document to minimise food safety risks. Consumers should also equip themselves with basic knowledge of food safety to protect their well-being and that of their families. They can obtain information on good food safety practices [here](#).

As group-buys are considered private arrangements among members of the public, any dispute should be resolved between the parties to the arrangement.

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