

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Importer fined \$5,500 in total for illegal import of fresh vegetables

An importer, TCM Fruits & Vegetables Pte Ltd, was fined a total of \$5,500 by the Court today for illegally importing fresh vegetables and processed food.

2 In September 2019, officers from Singapore Food Agency (SFA) detected about 64kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh vegetables and about 57kg of under-declared processed food in the consignments imported from Malaysia by the importer. All the illegal consignments were seized.



A total of about 64kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh vegetables and about 57kg of under-declared processed food were detected. (Photo: SFA)

3 In Singapore, food imports must meet SFA's requirements. Food 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

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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 food 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.

**Issued by the Singapore Food Agency**

2 Sep 2020