

Fresh Choice Avenue Pte Ltd fined \$10,000 for illegal import of fresh and processed vegetables

Fresh Choice Avenue Pte Ltd, an importer of food products, was fined \$10,000 by the Court today for illegally importing fresh fruits and vegetables and processed food for sale.

2 On 2 September 2020, officers from Singapore Food Agency (SFA) detected 349.6kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh fruits and vegetables and 304.5kg of undeclared processed vegetables in the consignments imported from Malaysia by Fresh Choice Avenue Pte Ltd. 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. 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.

Issued by the Singapore Food Agency

1 December 2021