

**Sole proprietor of Viet-Sin Grocery fined \$36,000 for the illegal operation of two unlicensed cold stores and illegal import of meat and seafood products**

Teh Kiap Kang, sole proprietor of Viet-Sin Grocery, was fined \$36,000 by the Court today for illegally operating two unlicensed cold stores and for illegally importing meat and seafood products on three occasions.

2 On 26 April 2022, officers from the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) found about 1784kg of meat, processed meat and seafood products stored in an unlicensed cold store at Gambas Crescent. On 15 March 2023, SFA officers found another cold store that was operating without a license at Woodlands Close, which stored about 1240kg of meat, processed meat and seafood products. Both cold stores were operated by Viet-Sin Grocery.

3 On 1 November 2023, SFA officers found about 37kg of assorted meat products in a grocery shop at Woodlands St 31 operated by Viet-Sin Grocery. On all three occasions, the products were imported from Vietnam without a valid import licence and were from unaccredited sources. The products were seized by SFA.



*On 26 April 2022, about 1784kg of illegally imported meat, processed meat and seafood products were seized in an unlicensed cold store at Gambas Crescent. (Photo: SFA)*



*On 15 March 2023, about 1240kg of illegally imported meat, processed meat and seafood products were seized in an unlicensed cold store at Woodlands Close. (Photo: SFA)*



*On 1 November 2023, about 37kg of illegally imported meat products were seized at a grocery shop at Woodlands St 31. (Photo: SFA)*

4 Illegal storage of meat and seafood at unlicensed facilities pose a food safety risk. Under the Sale of Food Act and 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 to hygiene standards and correct temperature settings, among other regulatory requirements.

5 Offenders found to be possessing any meat or seafood products which has been kept in unlicensed cold stores for the purpose of selling or supplying shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years.

6 In Singapore, food imports must meet SFA's requirements. Illegally imported food products of unknown sources can pose a food safety risk. Food can only be imported by licensed importers, and every consignment must be declared and accompanied with a valid import permit. In addition, meat and its products can only be imported from accredited sources in approved countries that comply with our food safety standards and requirements.

7 Offenders who import meat products illegally from unapproved sources or found in possession of meat products for the purpose of selling, which were imported without a valid licence shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 and/or imprisonment of up to two years. In the case of a subsequent conviction, offenders shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 and/or imprisonment of up to three years.

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