

Qing Ye Trading Pte Ltd and its director fined \$5,000 respectively for illegal import of fresh produce

Qing Ye Trading Pte Ltd was fined \$5,000 by the Court today for illegally importing fresh produce for sale. Its director Kang Soon Poh was also fined \$5,000 for failing to prevent the offence from being committed.

2 On 25 August 2022, a truck carrying food produce consigned to Qing Ye Trading Pte Ltd was stopped and referred for checks during a joint operation conducted by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) at the Woodlands Checkpoint. The truck was then referred to SFA for follow-up inspection.

3 SFA found that the company illegally imported approximately 216kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh fruits and vegetables. All illegal consignments were seized.



Some of the illegally imported produce include romaine lettuce, Japanese cucumber, and leek. (Photo: SFA)



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4 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.

5 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.

6 Safeguarding Singapore's borders remains a top priority for ICA. ICA will continue to conduct security checks to detect and deter illegal importation attempts so as to keep Singapore safe. SFA will continue to safeguard food safety through our integrate food safety system, which includes strict import regulations and enforcement, and work closely with border control agencies to deter illegal import across our borders.

Issued by the Singapore Food Agency and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority

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