

SM FRESH PTE LTD AND DIRECTOR FINED \$6,000 EACH FOR ILLEGAL IMPORT OF FRESH VEGETABLES

SM Fresh Pte Ltd, an importer of food products, was fined \$6,000 by the Court today for illegally importing fresh vegetables for sale. Its director Chua Boon Lai was also fined \$6,000 for failing to prevent the offence from being committed.

2 In June 2020, Singapore Food Agency (SFA) officers detected 375kg of undeclared and under-declared fresh vegetables in the consignments imported from Malaysia by the importer. All 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.

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