

Two individuals and a food manufacturer fined for food safety lapses

Two individuals and a food manufacturer were fined in Court for food safety lapses today. Two women, Bui Thi Quyen and Ta Thi Tuyen, were each fined \$27,000 for illegally operating unlicensed cold stores and illegally importing meat and seafood products from Vietnam. Suvai Foods Pte Ltd, a food manufacturer of flour confectionary, was fined \$10,000 for multiple offences committed under the Sale of Food (Non-Retail Food Business) Regulations and the Sale of Food Act.

Two women fined for illegal operation of unlicensed cold stores and illegal import of meat and seafood products

2 On 13 April 2023, Singapore Food Agency (SFA) officers found more than 700kg of meat and seafood products stored in an unlicensed cold store at 62 Senoko Road. The processed and raw food products, which include pork, beef, chicken, fish, and frog, had been illegally imported from unapproved sources and without a valid licence. They were seized by SFA.





More than 700kg of illegal food imports were seized (Photos: SFA)

3 Illegal storage of meat and seafood at unlicensed facilities poses a food safety risk. In Singapore, all cold stores for meat and seafood products must be licensed and are required to meet SFA's requirements and food safety standards. Offenders who store meat and/or seafood products illegally in unlicensed facilities shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and/or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months.

4 Offenders who illegally import meat or seafood products without a valid license shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, and in the case of a subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

Suvai Foods Pte Ltd fined for multiple offences

5 On 21 February 2023, SFA officers conducted an inspection at Suvai Foods Pte Ltd, a manufacturer of flour confectionary (e.g. chapati, dosa and idly batters), located at 1009 Aljunied Avenue 4, #01-36, Singapore 389910. During the inspection, lapses such as severe cockroach infestation in various location throughout the premises, poor maintenance of the premises, as well as the extension of packing area without approval were detected. The cleanliness of the food delivery truck was also not well maintained, and live cockroaches were detected at the rear of the truck.



Left: Poor maintenance (broken floor tiles) within the premises

Right: Cockroaches detected in a food basket

(Photos by: SFA)

6 In the interest of public health, SFA suspended the food business operations of Suvai Foods Pte Ltd from 21 February 2023 to 8 March 2023, and directed the licensee to rectify the lapses and take necessary measures to improve the food safety practices and cleanliness of its premises.

7 The suspension was lifted on 9 March 2023 after the food processing establishment had rectified the lapses and taken necessary measures to improve the food safety practices and the cleanliness of its premises.

8 Food safety is a joint responsibility as food can be contaminated anywhere along the food chain. While SFA continues to be vigilant and works to ensure regulatory measures are in place and properly enforced, the industry and consumers must also play their part.

9 Food establishments should ensure their premises are clean and well-maintained, as well as adhere to proper food hygiene and food safety requirements. SFA will take enforcement action against food operators who do not adhere to food safety regulations. Offenders are liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$100 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

10 Members of the public who come across poor food safety practices in food establishments are advised not to patronise them, and instead provide feedback via our online feedback form (www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback) with details for our follow-up investigations.

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