

MEDIA RELEASE

Enforcement action taken against 14 food establishments for operating without a valid licence

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has taken enforcement action against 14 food establishments for operating without a valid licence. Enforcement action will be taken against another 5 food establishments for the same offence.

2 SFA has been conducting a targeted operation since February 2023 on food establishments with expired licences, including restaurants, food court and coffeeshop stalls, caterers, and supermarkets. This is to ensure that these food establishments are not operating illegally without a valid licence, which would circumvent SFA's regulatory efforts to ensure food safety. A total of 391 food establishments with expired licences have been inspected. Of these, 19 food establishments were found to have remained operating without a licence.

3 SFA has taken enforcement action against 14 food establishments for operating without a valid licence, and will take action against the remaining 5 food establishments. Those who operate without a licence are liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 and/or a jail term of up to three months.

All food establishments must be licensed

4 All food establishments in Singapore must be licensed in order to operate. Existing licensees are required to renew their licence if they intend to continue operations after their current licences expire.

5 Food safety is a joint responsibility. While SFA puts in place and enforces the regulatory measures, the industry must play their part by adhering to our food regulations. SFA would like to remind food establishments to renew their licence before the expiry date, and to cease operations if their licences expire. We issue three reminders at the two months, four weeks, and two weeks leading up to licence expiry to provide ample time for renewal. Licensees should ensure that the email address

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registered in GoBusiness for their licence is updated, and are encouraged to apply for [payment of licence fees via GIRO](#) to facilitate automatic licence renewal. This will prevent the offence of operating without a licence from being committed.

6 To ensure that food establishments are licensed and adhere to our food safety requirements, SFA conducts checks on food establishments with expired licences regularly. SFA will not hesitate to take enforcement action against food establishments that were found operating without a valid SFA licence at the point of inspection. The operator will be required to apply for a new licence.

7 All food establishments are required to display their licence at their premises. The licence validity period will be shown when the QR code of the licence is scanned. Once a licence expires, the system will show a “Record not found” message when the QR code is scanned. Members of the public who come across any such food establishments should report to SFA via the online feedback form (www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback). As part of the enquiry and gathering of evidence, SFA may engage the feedback provider for more details.

Issued by the Singapore Food Agency

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