

Importer fined \$5,000 for illegal import of vegetables

SM Vegetables Pte Ltd was fined \$5,000 by the Court today for illegally importing fresh vegetables for sale.

2 In July 2020, officers from Singapore Food Agency (SFA) detected 180kg of undeclared fresh vegetables in the consignments imported from Malaysia by the importer. All the illegal consignments were seized.



A total of 180kg of undeclared fresh vegetables was detected. (Photo: SFA)

3 In Singapore, food imports must meet SFA's requirements. Food 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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