



Inspection and Sampling of Imported Food

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Agenda

- Provide an overview of AVA's
 - Import control system
 - Inspection and sampling program for imported food

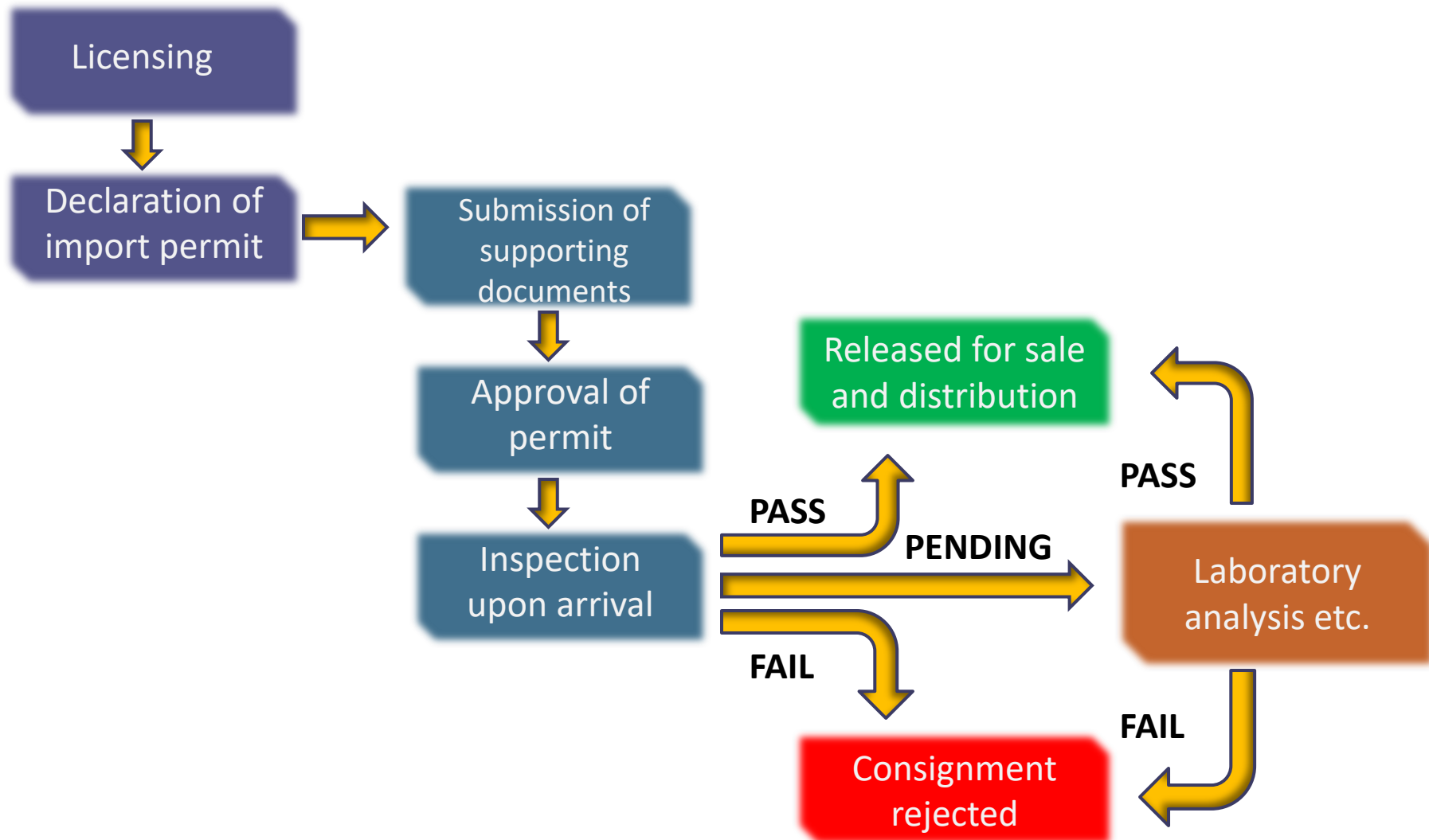
Food Classification

- Meat and meat products (including eggs)
- Seafood and seafood products
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Processed food (not containing meat or seafood)

Background

- Singapore imports more than 90% of its food
- Import and sale is governed by
 - Sale of Food Act
 - Food Regulations
 - Wholesome Meat and Fish Act
 - Control of Plants Act
 - Animal and Birds Act

Overview of import control system



Licensing and registration of importers

- Traders importing/exporting/transshipping food must be registered and licenced by AVA
 - Detailed identity of the importer
 - Allows de-registration of errant or recalcitrant importers of unsafe food
 - Facilitate systematic inspections
 - Facilitate food recalls

Declaration of Cargo Clearance Permits (CCPs)

- Permits declared online through the TradeXchange system
- Information declared
 - Product description
 - Brand name
 - Quantity
 - Country of origin
 - HS and Product codes
 - Establishment code



Declaration of Cargo Clearance Permits (CCPs)

- Submission of supporting documents may be required
 - Health certificate
 - Export certificate
 - Certificates of analysis
 - Certificate of origin
 - Copy of product label
 - Copy of product ingredient panel etc.

Entry Point Inspection

- Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA)
 - Responsible for the border security at land, air and sea checkpoints
- Entry points

Air checkpoints	Land checkpoints	Sea (Coastal/Port) checkpoints
<i>ALPS (Airport Logistics Park of S'pore)</i>	<i>Tuas Checkpoint</i>	<i>Pasir Panjang Scanning Station</i>
<i>Changi Airfreight Centre</i>	<i>Woodlands Checkpoint</i>	<i>Jurong Scanning Station</i>
<i>Parcel Post Section</i>	<i>Woodlands Train Checkpoint</i>	<i>Keppel Distripark</i>



Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA)

- Assist AVA by providing first level checks
 - Physical checks on incoming food cargo
- Prevent illegal import of food
 - Imports without accompanying permit / license
 - Imports wrongly declared in permit
- Discrepancies detected are referred to AVA for follow up



AVA Entry Point Inspections

- AVA also conducts surveillance inspections at land checkpoints
 - Supplement ICA checks
 - Deter importers who may smuggle undeclared food for sale



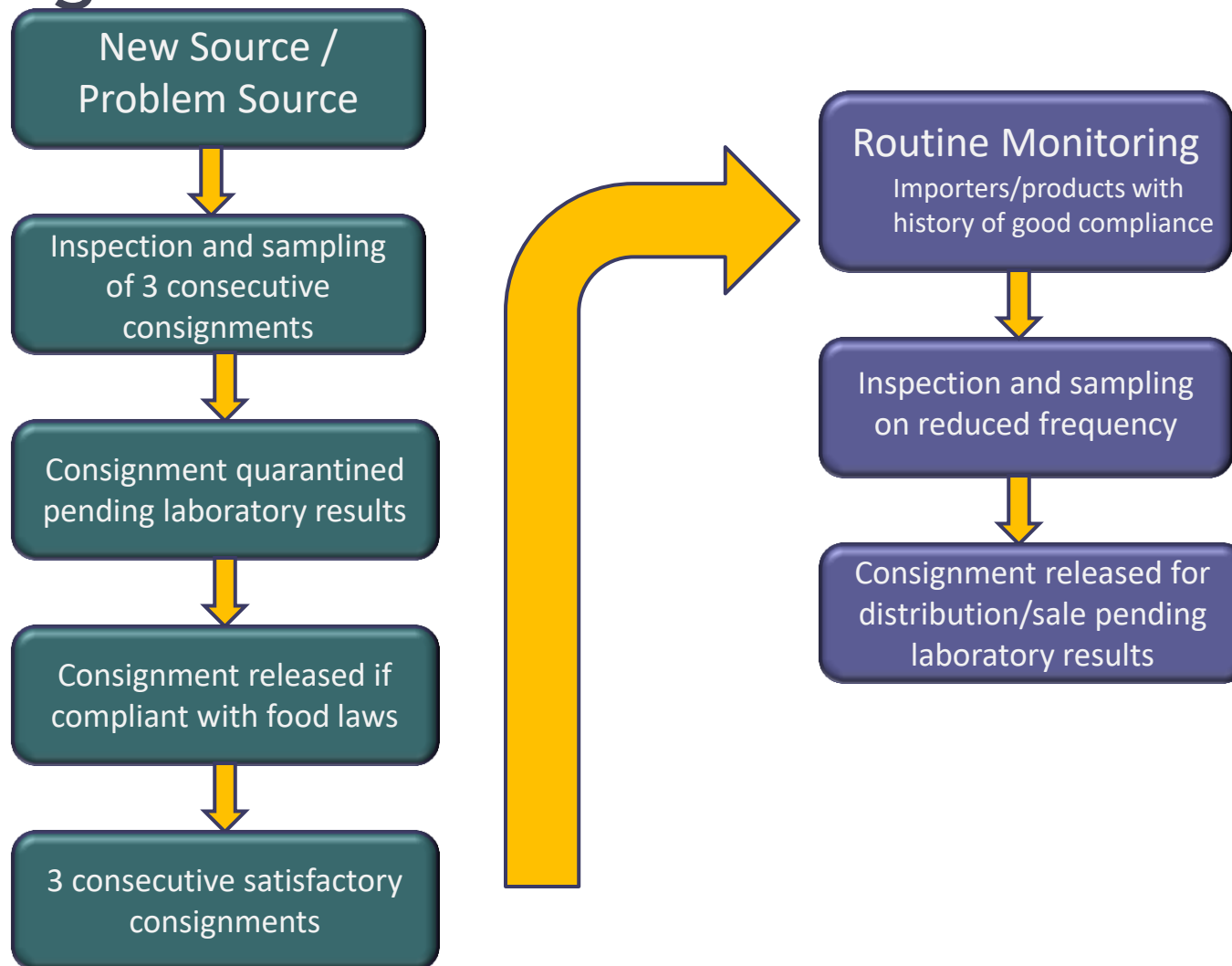
Inspection

- Meat and meat products
 - All imports are subject to 100% inspection
- Seafood and seafood products
 - Imports are inspected based on surveillance programme
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
 - Imports are inspected based on surveillance programme

Inspection

- Processed food (not containing meat and seafood products)
 - Imports are inspected based on surveillance programme
- Market surveillance
 - Inspection conducted at retail

General overview of surveillance program



New Source Surveillance

- Surveillance for new products or products from a new source
- New products placed under new source surveillance program until 3 consecutive consignments show satisfactory results
- Consignments placed on quarantine pending laboratory analysis results

Problem Source Surveillance

- Surveillance for imported products or products from sources with a history of non-compliance
- The product/establishment will be placed on problem source surveillance until 3 consecutive consignments show satisfactory results
- Consignments placed on quarantine pending laboratory analysis results

Routine Monitoring

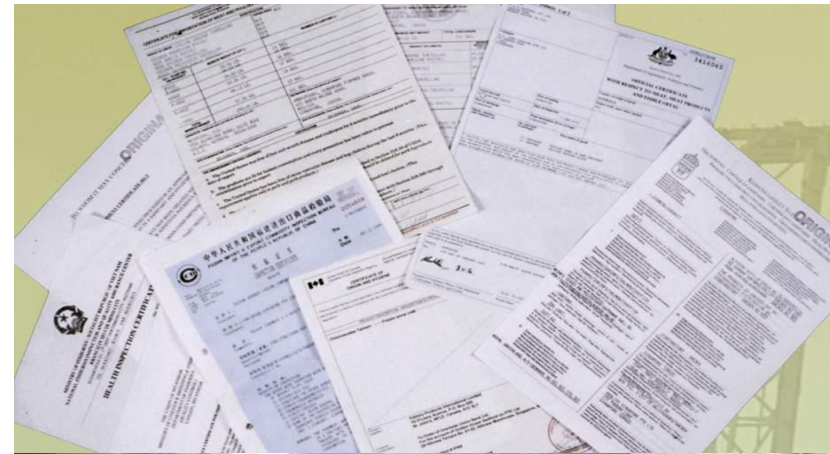
- Monitoring for products with a history of compliance
- Products inspected and sampled on reduced frequency
- Consignments not detained pending laboratory analysis

Imported Meat



Inspection of Meat

- Documentary checks
- Physical and visual checks
- Ensure that meat is from accredited sources
- Sampling



Sampling Meat

- Sampling necessary because it is not feasible to test an entire lot of food
- Testing resources are limited
- AVA sampling guidelines follow the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF)
- From ICMSF guidelines, AVA takes 1,3 or 5 samples depending on size of consignment



Sampling Meat

- Sampling for 1 in 20 consignments for products with history of compliance
 - No detention of consignments
- Sampling for 3 consecutive consignments
 - New and problem source products
 - Consignments detained
- Continuous sampling for high risk products
 - Eg. comminuted beef, ready-to-eat products
 - Consignments detained



Examples of meat and test parameters



Meat Products	Specific Tests
Ready-to-eat meat	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>
Beef products	<i>E Coli O157</i>
Poultry	<i>Campylobacter</i>
Game	Radionuclide

Other laboratory tests may also include (but not limited to):

- Pathogens
- Antibiotics
- Growth promotants
- Contaminants
- Pesticides

Imported Fresh Fruit and Vegetables



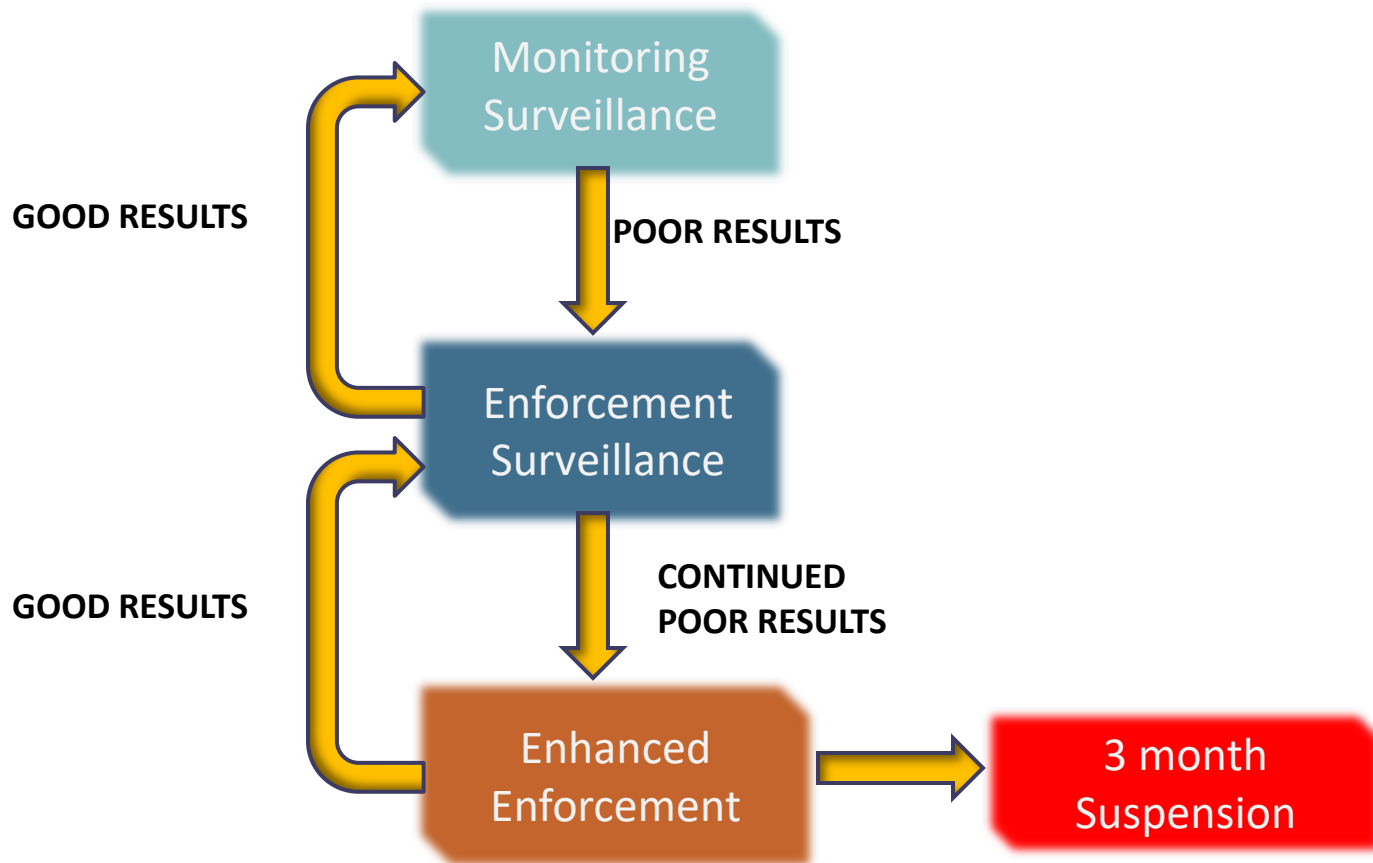
Inspection of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- Not all consignments are physically inspected
- Sampling for laboratory examination based on surveillance program



Sampling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Overview of sampling program



Sampling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- Monitoring surveillance (MS)
 - For screening all types of fruit and vegetables
 - Conducted on random and unbiased basis
 - Consignments not detained
 - Problematic produce is elevated to ES



Sampling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables



- Enforcement surveillance (ES)
 - Produce from MS with poor sampling record
 - Consignments detained
 - Produce may be downgraded to MS if record improves
 - Produce with continued poor record upgraded to EE



Sampling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables



- Enhanced enforcement (EE)
 - Produce from ES with poor record
 - Failed samples subject to fines
 - 3 month suspension imposed if samples continue to fail
 - Produce may be downgraded to ES if record improves



Imported Processed Food



Inspection of Processed Food

- a) Documentary checks
- b) Targets high risk products
- c) Not all consignments are physically inspected
- d) Sampling for laboratory examination based on surveillance program



Examples of high risk processed food and test parameters

Product	Test Parameters
Bottled drinking and mineral water	Microbiological parameters, heavy metals
Nuts and maize	Mycotoxins
Seaweed	Heavy metals
Infant formula	Microbiological test parameters, aflatoxin M1
Flour and starch	Mycotoxins, preservatives

- Products classified as high risk are constantly under review
- New products may be added to list

Sampling Processed Food

- Informal
 - One part for survey purpose



Sampling Processed Food

- Formal – as prescribed in Section 9 of the Sale of Food Act
 - Sample divided into three parts
 - 1st part – laboratory analysis
 - 2nd part – retained by importer or representative
 - 3rd part – retained by AVA



Sampling Processed Food

- Test groups
 - Physical
 - Foreign matter
 - Labelling
 - Chemical
 - Preservatives
 - Mycotoxins
 - Heavy Metals etc.
 - Microbiological
 - *E. coli*
 - *Salmonella spp.* etc.



Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 Tsp (4.5g)	
Servings Per Container	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 35	Calories from Fat 35
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 3.5g	5%
Saturated Fat 0.5g	3%
Trans Fat 1g	
Polyunsaturated Fat 1g	
Monounsaturated Fat 1.5g	



Imported Eggs

Inspection of Eggs

- Documentary checks
- Physical and visual checks
- Ensure that eggs are from accredited sources
- Sampling according to sampling plan



Sampling eggs

- Sampling is done according to sampling plan
- Eggs from new accredited farms are subject to more frequent sampling
- Consignments are not detained

Egg test parameters

Specific Tests

Microbiological parameters

Avian influenza

Freshness

Drug residues

Eggs are also checked for farm coding and cleanliness at the point of import

Inspection at Retail



Market Surveillance

- Food is inspected and procured from retail
- An additional level of surveillance
- Products not always available at import end



Market Surveillance

- Inspection and sampling done based on
 - Monthly sampling plan
 - Food alerts
 - Complaints and feedback



Market Surveillance

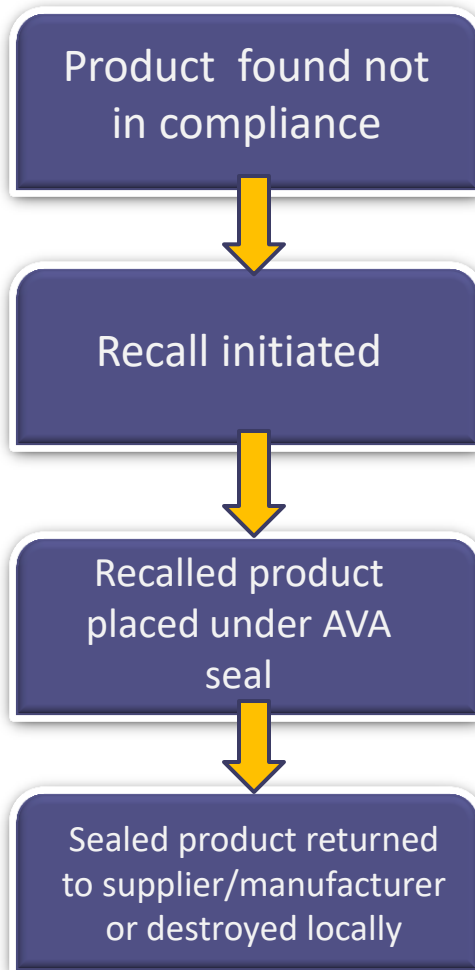
- Labelling checks
 - Brand name
 - Product description
 - Country of origin
 - Net weight
 - Ingredients list (and nutritional panel, if required)
 - Importer's details
 - Unsubstantiated claims are not permitted



Rejection of Consignments



Rejection of consignments



Rejection of consignments

- Supervision of loading for re-export and disposal by AVA-appointed security company
- For rejection cases involving small quantities, AVA inspectors may supervise the disposal on site



Penalties for Illegal Import



Penalties under the various acts & regulations

- Action taken for non-compliance is done in accordance with the legislations governing the specific food type

Food type	Legislation
Meat and Fish	Wholesome Meat & Fish Act
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Control of Plants Act
Processed Food	Sale of Food Act / Food Regulations
Eggs	Animal and Birds Act

Illegal imports – Meat and Seafood

- Section 5: Prohibition of import, export or transshipment of meat products or fish products without licence
 - **Penalty** - liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Illegal imports – Meat and Seafood

- Section 6: Prohibition of import, export or transshipment of meat products or fish products without permit
 - **Penalty** - liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

Illegal imports – Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- Section 7: Prohibition of import or transshipment of fresh fruits or vegetables without licence
 - **Penalty** - liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

Illegal imports – Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- Section 8: Prohibition of import or transshipment of fresh fruits or vegetables without permit
 - **Penalty** - liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Illegal imports – Processed Food

- Regulation 14: Imported food to be registered
 - No person shall import any food that has not been registered with the Director-General
 - Does not apply to meat and fish, fresh fruits and vegetables imported under permits issued by the Director-General
 - **Penalty** - liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000

Illegal imports – Eggs

- Section 8: No person to import or tranship any animal, bird or veterinary biologics without licence
 - no person shall import or tranship any animal, bird or veterinary biologics, except in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf by the Director-General
 - Penalty - liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both

Traveller's Allowances



Traveller's Allowances

- No permit is required if small amount of food products are brought in from approved sources for personal consumption

Food Type	Allowance (per traveller)
Meat and seafood (from approved sources only)	Not exceeding 5 kg
Fresh fruit and vegetables	Small, reasonable quantities for personal consumption
Processed food	Not exceeding 5 kg and SGD100

Food Analysis



Analysis of Food

- Laboratory analysis conducted by
 - Veterinary Public Health Laboratory



Veterinary Public Health Laboratory



- VPHL provides a comprehensive range of analytical services
 - Chemical contaminants and chemical food additives;
 - Drug residues;
 - Pesticide residues;
 - Foodborne microbes, parasites, toxins;
 - Food and feed nutritional components;
 - Physical quality and food authenticity;
 - Genetically modified organisms



Veterinary Public Health Laboratory



- ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation under the [Singapore Accreditation Council Singapore Laboratory Accreditation Scheme](#)
- Facilitates trade through the testing and export health certification services to the food industry for the export of meat, fish and dairy products

Analysis of Food

- AVA is also aided by
 - Health Sciences Authority's Food Safety Laboratory



HSA Food Safety Laboratory

- Recognised as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Food Contamination Monitoring
- Carries out analytical services including testing for
 - additives,
 - contaminants and
 - food composition
- Also provides certification of food for export and quality control for local manufacturers

HSA Food Safety Laboratory

- Accredited under the Singapore Accreditation Council - Singapore Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (SAC-SINGLAS) since 1997
- Provides certification of food for export and quality control for local manufacturers.

AVA website:

<http://www.ava.gov.sg>