

AV(HS)1617

09 July 2004

Fish Importers

CIRCULAR TO ALL FISH MERCHANTS AND FISH IMPORTERS IN JURONG AND SENOKO FISHING PORTS

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) is responsible for food safety in Singapore. Over the past few weeks AVA officers have been collecting fish and seafood samples from Jurong and Senoko Fishing Ports to test for preservatives such as formaldehyde or boric acid. The AVA takes a serious view of any person or company who is caught selling, supplying or in possession of adulterated fish or fish products.

AVA will step up its surveillance for adulterated fish and fish products. From 12 Jul 04, AVA officers will collect samples directly from imported fish and seafood consignments. To facilitate this process (from 12 Jul 04) selected consignments for inspection and sampling will have a code on the Cargo Clearance Permits (CCP), indicating that inspection is required.

All consignments that are selected for sampling are to be brought to either Jurong or Senoko Fishing Ports. The drivers are to bring the consignment invoices and report to AVA officers at the fishing ports. Consignments that are sampled will be held until the sampling results are released the following day. Consignments that are found to be adulterated will be destroyed.

Under Section 23 of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act, it is an offence for anyone to sell, supply or have in his possession (for the purpose of selling or supplying) or advertise for sale or supply, any fish or fish product that is adulterated or unfit for human consumption.

Any person or company found selling, supplying or in possession of adulterated fish or fish products will be given a compound fine of \$1,000. Recalcitrant offenders may be suspended from import of fish (by product type and country) or prosecuted in Court. Should any person or company be convicted, AVA will take action to suspend his/her or the company's licence to import fish as well as the licence to sell or supply fish in Jurong or Senoko Fishing Port.

Under the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act, any person who is convicted of selling or supplying fish or fish products that are adulterated is liable to a penalty of a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction, the penalty is a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years, or both.

All fish importers and merchants in Jurong and Senoko Fishing Ports are reminded of the serious consequences of adulterating their fish or fish products with preservatives.

Any person who needs any clarification or further information can call 6795 2841.

Yours faithfully

Lee Woei Sing
Senior Import and Export Officer
Import and Export Division
for Director-General, Agri-Food and Veterinary Services