



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**WHOLESOME MEAT AND FISH ACT**

**(CHAPTER 349A)**

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# Wholesome Meat and Fish Act

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An Act to regulate the slaughtering of animals and the processing, packing, inspection, import, distribution, sale, transshipment and export of meat products and fish products and for matters connected therewith.

[10th December 1999]

PART I  
PRELIMINARY

**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act.

**Interpretation**

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Agency” means the Singapore Food Agency established by the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019;

*[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

“animal” means any bird, mammal, reptile or amphibian;

“authorised examiner” means any person or body of persons designated by the Director-General under section 3(5) to carry out any inspection, examination and certification of any meat product or fish product under this Act and includes any authorised officer;

“authorised officer” means any person appointed by the Director-General to be an authorised officer under section 3(2);

*[Deleted by Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

“cold store” means any chiller, freezer, cold room or other refrigerated facility used for the storage of meat products or

fish products and includes any refrigerated conveyance used for transportation of meat products or fish products in the course of any trade or business;

“conveyance” includes any aircraft, vessel, train, vehicle or any other artificial contrivance, whether mechanically propelled or otherwise, used or capable of being used as a means of transport on land, water or air;

“Director-General” means the Director-General, Food Administration appointed under section 3(1) of the Sale of Food Act (Cap. 283);

*[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

“Director-General of Customs” means the Director-General of Customs appointed under section 4(1) of the Customs Act (Cap. 70);

*[4/2003 wef 01/04/2003]*

“disease” means any animal disease and any other disease as is likely to infect human beings;

“examination” includes laboratory analysis;

“export” does not include the taking out of Singapore of any goods in transit or any goods which are being transhipped;

“fish” means any species of fish and includes crustacea, shellfish, echinoderm, mollusc, and the young and eggs thereof;

“fish product” means —

(a) any fish or part thereof; and

(b) any product or by-product of any fish,

which is intended for human consumption;

“goods in transit” means goods that are brought into Singapore solely for the purpose of taking them out of Singapore and that which remains at all times on the conveyance that brought them into Singapore;

“import” does not include the bringing into Singapore of any goods in transit or any goods which are being transhipped;

“label” means any written, printed, pictorial or other descriptive matter that is to be applied or attached to or included in, or that accompanies or is to accompany, any meat product or fish product or the package or receptacle thereof, and “labelled” shall be construed accordingly;

“meat product” means —

- (a) a carcass or any part thereof; and
- (b) any product or by-product of a carcass,

which is intended for human consumption;

“occupier”, in relation to any premises or conveyance, means the person in occupation of the premises or conveyance or having the charge, management or control thereof and, in relation to any part of any premises different parts of which are occupied by different persons, means the person in occupation or having the charge, management or control of that part;

“officer of customs” has the same meaning as in the Customs Act (Cap. 70);

“owner” —

- (a) in relation to any premises or conveyance, means the person for the time being receiving the rent of the premises or conveyance whether on his own account or as agent or trustee or as receiver, or who would receive the same if the premises or conveyance were let or chartered and, in relation to any premises, includes the person whose name is entered in the Valuation List authenticated under section 15 of the Property Tax Act (Cap. 254);
- (b) in relation to any licensed slaughter-house, processing establishment, cold store or wholesale market, means the person holding the licence granted under this Act in respect of the slaughter-house, processing establishment, cold store or wholesale market; and

(c) in relation to any meat product or fish product or any other item to which this Act applies, includes the person who is the consignor or consignee thereof;

“premises” includes messuages, houses, buildings, structures, lands, tenements, easements and hereditaments of any tenure, whether open or enclosed, whether built on or not, whether public or private, and whether maintained or not under statutory authority;

“process”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, includes cutting and the use of any method of manufacture, preservation or preparation;

“processing establishment” means any factory, plant or other premises where meat products or fish products, as the case may be, are processed for distribution to wholesalers or retailers or for export;

“receptacle”, in relation to any meat product or fish product, means any basket, carton, bag, box, packet or article which contains the meat product or fish product and where any such receptacle is contained in another such receptacle includes the latter receptacle;

“rules” means rules made under section 42;

“sell” means to sell by way of retail or wholesale dealing and includes barter, and also includes offering or attempting to sell, or receiving for sale, or exposing for sale, or sending or delivering for sale, or causing or allowing to be sold, offered or exposed for sale;

“slaughter-house” means any premises where animals are slaughtered for the production of meat products;

“tranship”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means to bring any goods into Singapore by land, sea or air from any place which is outside Singapore and thereafter to remove those goods from the conveyance in which they were brought into Singapore and —

(a) return them to that same conveyance; or

(b) transfer them to another conveyance for the purpose of being taken out of Singapore,

whether those goods are to be transferred directly between conveyances or whether they are to be landed in Singapore after they were brought into Singapore and stored, pending their being taken out of Singapore;

“vehicle” means any conveyance used to carry goods by land.

[16/2000]

(2) For the purposes of this Act, any meat product or fish product shall be deemed to be adulterated if —

(a) it does not comply with the prescribed standards; or

(b) it contains any chemical, drug or other substance which renders the meat product or fish product injurious to health or unfit for human consumption.

### **Administration of Act and appointment of officers, etc.**

3.—(1) The Director-General shall be responsible for the administration of this Act, subject to the general or special directions of the Minister.

[16/2000]

(2) The Director-General may in writing appoint any public officer or any officer of the Agency or any other statutory authority, or an auxiliary police officer appointed under the Police Force Act (Cap. 235), to be an authorised officer for the purposes of this Act and the rules.

[16/2000]

[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]

(3) The Director-General may delegate the exercise of all or any of the powers conferred or duties imposed upon him by this Act (except the power of delegation conferred by this subsection) to any authorised officer.

[16/2000]

[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]

(4) All authorised officers shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code (Cap. 224).

[16/2000]

(5) The Director-General may designate any person or body of persons to carry out at any appointed place any inspection, examination and certification of any meat product or fish product under this Act.

*[16/2000]*

(6) The Director-General may, for any reason that appears to the Director-General to be sufficient, at any time revoke a person's appointment as an authorised officer or a person's or body's designation under subsection (5).

*[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

(7) An auxiliary police officer who is appointed as an authorised officer under subsection (2) does not, by virtue only of the appointment, become an employee or agent of the Agency.

*[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

### **Identification card to be produced**

**4.—**(1) Every authorised officer, when exercising any of his powers under this Act or the rules shall, if not in uniform, declare his office and shall, on demand, produce to any person affected by the exercise of such power such identification card as the Director-General, the Director-General of Customs or the Commissioner of Police may direct to be carried by an authorised officer.

*[16/2000]*

*[4/2003 wef 01/04/2003]*

(2) It shall not be an offence for any person to refuse to comply with any request, demand or order made or given by any authorised officer if the authorised officer is not in uniform and refuses to declare his office and produce his identification card, on demand being made by the person.

*[16/2000]*

**PART II****CONTROL OF IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSHIPMENT OF  
MEAT PRODUCTS AND FISH PRODUCTS****Prohibition of import, export or transhipment of meat  
products or fish products without licence**

**5.—(1)** No person shall import, export or tranship any meat product or fish product except under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence granted by the Director-General under this Part.

[16/2000]

(2) Any person who —

(a) imports, exports or tranships any meat product or fish product without a licence; or

(b) fails to comply with any of the conditions of his licence,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be 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.

**Prohibition of import, export or transhipment of meat  
products or fish products without permit**

**6.—(1)** No licensee shall import any meat product or fish product for sale, supply or distribution in Singapore unless —

(a) the licensee has obtained a permit from the Director-General in respect of each consignment of meat products or fish products to be imported by him and the import of each such consignment is carried out in accordance with the conditions of the permit;

(b) the whole consignment conforms to the description as contained in the permit;

(c) the whole consignment meets with the prescribed standards; and

- (d) the meat products or fish products constituting the consignment are packaged and labelled in the prescribed manner.

[16/2000]

(2) No licensee shall export any meat product or fish product from Singapore to any country, territory or place unless —

- (a) the licensee has obtained a permit from the Director-General in respect of each consignment of meat products or fish products to be exported by him and the export of each such consignment is carried out in accordance with the conditions of the permit;
- (b) the whole consignment to be exported conforms to the description as contained in the permit;
- (c) in the case of a consignment of meat products, the whole consignment has been derived from animals which have been slaughtered in slaughter-houses licensed under this Act or from meat products which have been imported in accordance with this Act;
- (d) the whole consignment has been processed in a processing establishment licensed under this Act;
- (e) in the case of a consignment which requires to be stored in a cold store, the cold store in which the consignment has been or is being stored is licensed under this Act;
- (f) the licensee provides the Director-General with satisfactory evidence that the whole consignment meets with the requirements of the country to which it is being exported; and
- (g) the meat products or fish products constituting the consignment are packaged and labelled in the prescribed manner.

[16/2000]

(3) No licensee shall tranship any meat product or fish product in Singapore unless the licensee has obtained a permit from the Director-General in respect of each consignment of meat products

or fish products to be transhipped by him and the transhipment is carried out in accordance with the conditions of the permit.

[16/2000]

(4) Any licensee who contravenes or fails to comply with subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be 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.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (4), it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove —

- (a) that the commission of the offence was due to the act or default of another person or to some other cause beyond his control; and
- (b) that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence by himself or by any person under his control.

(6) If in any case the defence provided by subsection (5) involves the allegation that the commission of the offence was due to the act or default of another person, the person charged shall not, without leave of the court, be entitled to rely on that defence unless, within a period ending 7 clear days before the hearing, he has served on the prosecutor a notice in writing giving such information as was then in his possession identifying or assisting in the identification of that other person.

(7) In this section, “licensee” means any person who has obtained a licence as required under section 5 for the import, export or transhipment of any meat product or fish product.

### **Application for licences and permits and renewal of licences**

7.—(1) An application for a licence required under section 5 or a permit required under section 6 shall be made to the Director-General in such form or manner as the Director-General may require and shall be accompanied by —

- (a) the prescribed fee;
- (b) such particulars, information and documents as may be specified by the Director-General; and
- (c) if required by the Director-General, a statutory declaration by the applicant verifying any information contained in or relating to the application.

[16/2000]

(1A) In deciding whether to grant a licence under section 5 for the import of any meat product or fish product, the Director-General may make inquiries and investigations that are reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances so as to be satisfied as to the experience and resources of the applicant in providing a secure and reliable supply in Singapore of the meat product or fish product.

[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]

(1B) Without limiting subsection (1A), those inquiries and investigations may include whether the applicant for a licence to import any meat product or fish product has a procurement plan stating —

- (a) the risks (including assessments thereof) of any disruption occurring to the import of the meat product or fish product from the markets from which they are to be procured; and
- (b) any plan of action (including preventive strategies) for the purpose of —
  - (i) ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the applicant can still provide a secure and reliable supply in Singapore of the meat product or fish product of acceptable quality; or
  - (ii) otherwise reducing or mitigating the effect of any disruption to the supply of the meat product or fish product from any such market from which they are to be procured.

[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]

(2) On receipt of an application under subsection (1), the Director-General may —

- (a) grant the licence or permit applied for, with or without conditions; or
- (b) refuse to grant the licence or permit applied for.

[16/2000]

(2A) Without limiting subsection (2), the Director-General may grant a licence under section 5 subject to such conditions as the Director-General thinks fit, including but not limited to the conditions necessary or related to ensuring a secure and reliable supply in Singapore of any meat product or fish product.

[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]

(3) Where the Director-General has refused to grant a licence or permit under subsection (2)(b), the Director-General shall, if requested to do so by the applicant, state in writing the reasons for his refusal.

[16/2000]

(4) The conditions which the Director-General may impose under subsection (2)(a) include any condition which —

- (a) restricts or prohibits the import of any meat product or fish product from any country, territory or place or any farm, slaughter-house or processing establishment therein; or
- (b) restricts or prohibits the export of any meat product or fish product from Singapore to any country, territory or place.

[16/2000]

(5) The Director-General may at any time vary or revoke any of the existing conditions imposed under subsection (2)(a) or impose new conditions.

[16/2000]

(6) Every licence or permit granted under this section —

- (a) shall be in such form as the Director-General may determine;
- (b) shall be valid for the period stated therein unless it is sooner revoked under section 8; and
- (c) in the case of a licence, may be renewed upon its expiry.

[16/2000]

(7) Subsections (1) to (6) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to an application for the renewal of a licence.

### **Suspension and revocation of licences and permits**

**8.—(1)** The Director-General may suspend or revoke a licence or permit granted under section 7 if he is satisfied that —

- (a) the grant of the licence or permit has been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (b) the holder of the licence or permit is contravening or has contravened or has failed to comply with —
  - (i) any of the provisions of this Act or the rules;
  - (ii) any condition of his licence or permit; or
  - (iii) any direction given to him by the Director-General or an authorised officer under this Act or the rules or by the Director-General under Part IIA of the Sale of Food Act (Cap. 283); or

*[Act 48 of 2017 wef 01/02/2018]*

*[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

- (c) it is in the public interest to suspend or revoke the licence or permit.

*[16/2000]*

(2) The Director-General shall, before suspending or revoking the licence or permit under subsection (1), give to the holder of the licence or permit notice in writing of his intention to do so and shall in such notice call upon the holder of the licence or permit to show cause within such time as may be specified in the notice as to why his licence or permit should not be suspended or revoked.

*[16/2000]*

(3) If the holder of the licence or permit —

- (a) fails to show cause within the period of time given to him to do so or such extended period of time as the Director-General may allow; or
- (b) fails to show sufficient cause,

the Director-General shall give notice in writing to the holder of the licence or permit of the date from which the suspension or revocation of his licence or permit is to take effect.

[16/2000]

## **Appeals**

**9.—(1)** Any person who is aggrieved by —

- (a) the imposition of any condition by the Director-General upon granting or renewing a licence or upon granting a permit under section 7;
- (b) the refusal of the Director-General to grant or renew a licence or to grant a permit under section 7; or
- (c) the decision of the Director-General to suspend or revoke a licence or permit under section 8,

may, within 7 days of the date of receipt of the notice informing him of the imposition of conditions, refusal, suspension or revocation, as the case may be, appeal in writing to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

[16/2000]

(2) Notwithstanding that any appeal under subsection (1) is pending —

- (a) any condition imposed by the Director-General upon granting or renewing a licence or upon granting a permit under section 7; or
- (b) the suspension or revocation of a licence or permit under section 8,

shall take effect from the date specified in the notice by the Director-General therefor, unless the Minister otherwise orders.

[16/2000]

(3) Upon the suspension or revocation of a licence or permit, the holder of the licence or permit shall surrender the licence or permit to the Director-General within the time specified in the notice referred to in subsection (1), failing which the holder of the licence or permit shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine

not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

### **Inspection of meat products and fish products upon import or prior to export**

**10.**—(1) Any person who has imported any meat product or fish product into Singapore or who intends to export any meat product or fish product from Singapore shall forthwith arrange, at his own expense, for the meat product or fish product to be inspected, examined and certified by an authorised examiner before it is sold or distributed or exported, as the case may be.

(2) Where any meat product or fish product which has been inspected and examined by an authorised examiner under subsection (1) is found by the authorised examiner to be diseased, adulterated or otherwise unfit for human consumption —

- (a) the authorised examiner shall issue to the person who imported or who intends to export the meat product or fish product a certificate stating his finding; and
- (b) the person who imported, or who intends to export, the meat product or fish product shall, at his own expense and within the prescribed time —
  - (i) in the case of an imported meat product or fish product, remove the meat product or fish product from Singapore or destroy or otherwise dispose of the meat product or fish product in the prescribed manner; or
  - (ii) in the case of any meat product or fish product which is intended for export, destroy or otherwise dispose of the meat product or fish product in the prescribed manner.

(3) Where a person who has imported, or who intends to export, any meat product or fish product fails to comply with subsection (1) or (2)(b), he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(4) Where a person to whom paragraph (b) of subsection (2) applies fails to comply with that paragraph, any authorised officer may take such steps as he thinks fit to secure the removal, destruction or disposal of the meat product or fish product and recover any costs and expenses reasonably incurred by him from that person.

[16/2000]

### PART III

#### LICENSING OF SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS AND COLD STORES

##### **Slaughter of animals to be carried out at licensed slaughter-houses or premises permitted by Director-General**

**11.—**(1) No person shall slaughter any animal which is intended for human consumption or permit any such animal to be slaughtered on any premises, unless —

- (a) those premises have been licensed by the Director-General as a slaughter-house under this Act and the slaughter of the animal is carried out in accordance with the rules and the conditions of the licence; or
- (b) the Director-General has granted a permit to such person allowing him to slaughter the animal on those premises for any special reason and the slaughter of the animal is carried out in accordance with the rules and the conditions of the permit.

[16/2000]

(2) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(3) For the purpose of this section, the occupier of any premises in which any animal is slaughtered in contravention of subsection (1) shall be deemed to have slaughtered that animal, until he proves that it was slaughtered without his knowledge or consent.

**Processing establishments and cold stores to be licensed**

**12.**—(1) No person shall use any premises or permit any premises to be used as a processing establishment or a cold store except under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence granted by the Director-General.

[16/2000]

(2) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

**Application for licences and permits and renewal of licences**

**13.**—(1) An application for a licence required under section 11(1)(a) or 12(1) or a permit required under section 11(1)(b) shall be made to the Director-General in such form or manner as the Director-General may require and shall be accompanied by —

- (a) the prescribed fee;
- (b) such particulars, information and documents as may be specified by the Director-General; and
- (c) if required by the Director-General, a statutory declaration by the applicant verifying any information contained in or relating to the application.

[16/2000]

(2) On receipt of an application under subsection (1), the Director-General may —

- (a) grant the licence or permit applied for, with or without conditions; or
- (b) refuse to grant the licence or permit applied for.

[16/2000]

(3) Where the Director-General has refused to grant a licence or permit under subsection (2)(b), the Director-General shall, if required by the applicant, state in writing the reasons for his refusal.

[16/2000]

(4) In determining whether to grant or refuse to grant a licence required under section 11(1)(a) or 12(1), the Director-General shall have regard to —

- (a) the financial standing of the applicant and his ability to operate and maintain a slaughter-house, processing establishment or cold store, as the case may be, in accordance with the prescribed standards; and
- (b) the suitability of the premises to be licensed for use as a slaughter-house, processing establishment or cold store, as the case may be.

[16/2000]

(5) For the purpose of subsection (4), the Director-General, before granting the licence applied for, may —

- (a) require the applicant to produce to the Director-General evidence of his financial standing or to furnish a cash security deposit or a bank guarantee not exceeding the prescribed amount;
- (b) inspect the premises to be licensed, or cause such premises to be inspected by an authorised officer; and
- (c) require the applicant to make, at his own expense, such alteration or improvements to the premises to be licensed, or to provide, fix or install such facilities therein, as the Director-General may specify.

[16/2000]

(6) The Director-General may at any time vary or revoke any of the existing conditions imposed under subsection (2)(a) or impose new conditions.

[16/2000]

(7) Every licence or permit granted under this section —

- (a) shall be in such form as the Director-General may determine;
- (b) shall be valid for the period stated therein unless it is sooner revoked under section 14; and
- (c) in the case of a licence, may be renewed upon its expiry.

[16/2000]

(8) Subsections (1) to (7) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to an application for the renewal of a licence.

### **Suspension and revocation of licences and permits**

**14.—**(1) The Director-General may suspend or revoke a licence or permit granted under section 13, if he is satisfied that —

- (a) the grant of the licence or permit has been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (b) the holder of the licence or permit is contravening or has contravened or failed to comply with —
  - (i) any of the provisions of this Act or the rules;
  - (ii) any condition of his licence or permit; or
  - (iii) any direction given to him by the Director-General or an authorised officer under this Act or the rules or by the Director-General under Part IIA of the Sale of Food Act (Cap. 283); or

*[Act 48 of 2017 wef 01/02/2018]*

*[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

- (c) it is in the public interest to suspend or revoke the licence or permit.

*[16/2000]*

(2) The Director-General shall, before suspending or revoking the licence or permit under subsection (1), give to the holder of the licence or permit notice in writing of his intention to do so and shall in such notice call upon the holder of the licence or permit to show cause within such time as may be specified in the notice as to why his licence or permit should not be suspended or revoked.

*[16/2000]*

(3) If the holder of the licence or permit —

- (a) fails to show cause within the period of time given to him to do so or such extended period of time as the Director-General may allow; or
- (b) fails to show sufficient cause,

the Director-General shall give notice in writing to the holder of the licence or permit of the date from which the suspension or revocation of his licence or permit is to take effect.

[16/2000]

## **Appeals**

**15.—(1)** Any person who is aggrieved by —

- (a) the imposition of any condition by the Director-General upon granting or renewing a licence or upon granting a permit under section 13;
- (b) the refusal of the Director-General to grant or renew a licence or to grant a permit under section 13; or
- (c) the decision of the Director-General to suspend or revoke a licence or permit under section 14,

may, within 7 days of the date of receipt of the notice informing him of such imposition of conditions, refusal, suspension or revocation, as the case may be, appeal in writing to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

[16/2000]

(2) Notwithstanding that any appeal under subsection (1) is pending —

- (a) any condition imposed by the Director-General upon granting or renewing a licence or upon granting a permit under section 13; or
- (b) the suspension or revocation of a licence or permit under section 14,

shall take effect from the date specified in the notice by the Director-General, unless the Minister otherwise orders.

[16/2000]

(3) Upon the suspension or revocation of a licence or permit, the holder of the licence or permit shall surrender the licence or permit to the Director-General within the time specified in the notice referred to in subsection (1), failing which the holder of the licence or permit shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine

not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

### **Ante mortem and post mortem examination**

**16.—**(1) The Director-General may in writing direct the owner or occupier of a licensed slaughter-house to subject all or any of the animals intended for slaughter at the slaughter-house to an ante mortem examination before slaughter, and to a post mortem examination after slaughter, by an authorised examiner.

[16/2000]

(2) The costs of and incidental to any examination referred to in subsection (1) shall be borne by the person to whom the direction under that subsection is given.

(3) Any person who fails to comply with any direction given to him by the Director-General under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

### **Owners and occupiers of licensed slaughter-houses to ensure that animals are fit for slaughter**

**17.—**(1) It shall be the duty of the owner and occupier of a licensed slaughter-house to ensure —

- (a) that no animal which is diseased or which is, for any other reason, unfit for human consumption is slaughtered at the slaughter-house; and
- (b) that the carcase of any animal which, upon being slaughtered at the slaughter-house, is found to have any disease or to be otherwise unfit for human consumption is destroyed or disposed of in the prescribed manner.

(2) The owner or occupier of a licensed slaughter-house who fails to comply with any of his duties under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(3) In any proceedings against the owner or occupier of a licensed slaughter-house for failing to comply with his duty under subsection (1)(a), it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove —

- (a) that until the animal had been slaughtered, he did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained, that the animal was diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption; and
- (b) that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence by himself or by any person under his control.

### **Power to prohibit slaughter**

**18.**—(1) Where the Director-General or an authorised officer knows or has reason to believe that any animal intended for slaughter at a licensed slaughter-house is diseased or is, for any other reason, unfit for human consumption, the Director-General or authorised officer may by order in writing —

- (a) prohibit the owner or occupier of the licensed slaughter-house from slaughtering that animal; and
- (b) require the owner or occupier of the licensed slaughter-house to destroy or treat such animal at his own expense in such manner as the Director-General or authorised officer thinks fit.

[16/2000]

(2) Any person who fails to comply with an order given to him by the Director-General or an authorised officer under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

### **Power to prohibit dressing of carcasses**

**19.**—(1) Where the Director-General or an authorised officer knows or has reason to believe that the carcass of any animal which has been slaughtered at a licensed slaughter-house is diseased

or is, for any other reason, unfit for human consumption, the Director-General or authorised officer may by order in writing —

- (a) prohibit the owner or occupier of the licensed slaughter-house from dressing that carcass; and
- (b) require the owner or occupier of the licensed slaughter-house to destroy or treat such carcass at his own expense in such manner as the Director-General or authorised officer thinks fit.

[16/2000]

(2) Any person who fails to comply with an order given to him by the Director-General or an authorised officer under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

### **Marking, branding or tagging of carcasses**

**20.**—(1) Before the carcass of any animal that has been slaughtered in a licensed slaughter-house is removed, it shall be marked, branded or tagged in the prescribed manner to denote that that animal has been slaughtered in compliance with section 11(1)(a).

(2) Any person who —

- (a) removes, without lawful excuse, the carcass of any animal that has been slaughtered in a licensed slaughter-house before that carcass is marked, branded or tagged in accordance with subsection (1);
- (b) marks, brands or tags the carcass or any part of the carcass of an animal which was not slaughtered at a licensed slaughter-house with the intention of causing it to be believed that the animal was slaughtered at such a slaughter-house;
- (c) makes or has in his possession any dye, plate or other instrument for the purpose of it being used or knowing or having reason to believe that it is intended to be used for the purpose of counterfeiting the mark, brand or tag of a licensed slaughter-house; or

- (d) sells or exposes for sale or has in his possession for sale the carcass or any part of the carcass of an animal which was not slaughtered at a licensed slaughter-house but which —
- (i) bears any mark, brand or tag which is intended to represent the mark, brand or tag of a licensed slaughter-house; or
  - (ii) is so marked, branded or tagged as to cause it to be believed that the animal was slaughtered in a licensed slaughter-house,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (2)(d), it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove —

- (a) that the commission of the offence was due to the act or default of another person or to some other cause beyond his control; and
- (b) that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence by himself or by any person under his control.

(4) If in any case the defence provided by subsection (3) involves the allegation that the commission of the offence was due to the act or default of another person, the person charged shall not, without leave of the court, be entitled to rely on that defence unless, within a period ending 7 clear days before the hearing, he has served on the prosecutor a notice in writing giving such information as was then in his possession identifying or assisting in the identification of that other person.

### **Power to close slaughter-houses, processing establishments and cold stores**

**21.—**(1) Where the Director-General or an authorised officer finds that any condition in a licensed slaughter-house, processing establishment or cold store has become dangerous to health or may

hinder in any manner the suppression of disease or that the licensed slaughter-house, processing establishment or cold store has been or is being kept in an unhygienic condition, the Director-General or authorised officer may —

- (a) give written directives requiring that the slaughter-house, processing establishment or cold store, as the case may be, be closed for such time as the Director-General may determine; or
- (b) give directives for the immediate stoppage of any slaughtering, processing or other work until he is satisfied that the owner or occupier of the slaughter-house, processing establishment or cold store, as the case may be, has taken action to render the slaughter-house, processing establishment or cold store in a clean and hygienic condition again.

[16/2000]

(2) The Director-General or an authorised officer shall, as soon as possible after he has given written directives under subsection (1)(a), inform the owner or occupier of the slaughter-house, processing establishment or cold store of the reasons why the directives were given.

[16/2000]

(3) Any person who fails to comply with any directive given to him by the Director-General or an authorised officer under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

## PART IV

### SALE OF MEAT PRODUCTS AND FISH PRODUCTS

#### **Licensing of wholesale markets**

**22.—**(1) In this section, “wholesale market” means a place where any animal, meat product, fish or fish product is sold wholesale or through auction.

(2) No person shall use any premises or permit any premises to be used as a wholesale market unless he has been granted a licence by the Director-General to use those premises as such.

[16/2000]

(3) Any person who —

(a) uses any premises or permits any premises to be used as a wholesale market without a licence; or

(b) fails to comply with any of the conditions of his licence, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(4) Sections 13, 14 and 15 shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to a licence required under this section as they apply to a licence required under section 11 or 12.

### **Sale of meat products and fish products**

**23.**—(1) No person shall sell or supply, or have in his possession for the purpose of selling or supplying, or advertise the sale or supply of, any meat product or fish product —

(a) which has been imported in contravention of section 5 or 6;

(b) which has not been inspected, examined and certified by an authorised examiner as required under section 10;

(c) which has been derived from any animal that has been slaughtered in Singapore in contravention of section 11, 17 or 18;

(d) which has been —

(i) processed in a processing establishment; or

(ii) kept for any period of time in a cold store, that has not been licensed under section 12;

(e) which has not been marked, branded or tagged in accordance with section 20;

- (f) which has not been labelled in the prescribed manner or which has been labelled with any information that is false, inaccurate or misleading;
- (g) which has been obtained from a wholesale market that has not been licensed under section 22; or
- (h) which is diseased, adulterated or unfit for human consumption or which is otherwise in contravention of any of the other provisions of this Act or the rules.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be 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.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (2), it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove —

- (a) that the commission of the offence was due to the act or default of another person or to some other cause beyond his control; and
- (b) that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence by himself or by any person under his control.

(4) If in any case the defence provided by subsection (3) involves the allegation that the commission of the offence was due to the act or default of another person, the person charged shall not, without leave of the court, be entitled to rely on that defence unless, within a period ending 7 clear days before the hearing, he has served on the prosecutor a notice in writing giving such information as was then in his possession identifying or assisting in the identification of that other person.

(5) For the purpose of this section, where any meat product or fish product is found on any premises used by any person for the sale of meat products or fish products or for the storage of meat products or

fish products intended for sale, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of that person for sale until the contrary is proved.

## PART V

### POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT

#### **Power to require production of documents, etc.**

**24.**—(1) For the purpose of discharging his functions and duties under this Act and the rules, the Director-General or an authorised officer may at any time require any person —

- (a) to produce to the Director-General or authorised officer for inspection or for the purpose of obtaining copies or extracts, or to provide the Director-General or authorised officer with copies or extracts of, any book, shipping bill, bill of lading or other document or record that the Director-General or authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds contains any information relevant to the administration or enforcement of this Act or the rules; or
- (b) to furnish any information as the Director-General or authorised officer may reasonably require.

[16/2000]

(2) The Director-General or an authorised officer may record any information furnished by any person under subsection (1)(b) as a statement which shall be admissible as evidence in any proceedings in connection with any offence under this Act or the rules.

[16/2000]

(3) Any person who fails to comply with any requirement made by the Director-General or authorised officer under subsection (1)(a) or (b) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

#### **Other powers of investigation**

**24A.**—(1) For the purpose of investigating any offence under this Act or the rules, the Director-General or an authorised officer may —

- (a) require any person in Singapore whom the Director-General or authorised officer (as the case may be) has reason to believe to be acquainted with any facts or circumstances relevant to that investigation to attend before the Director-General or authorised officer to answer any question (to the best of that person's knowledge, information and belief); or
- (b) examine orally any person supposed to be acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case.

(2) The person mentioned in subsection (1)(b) is bound to state truly the facts and circumstances with which the person is acquainted concerning the case except only that the person may decline to make, with regard to any fact or circumstance, a statement which would have a tendency to expose the person to a criminal charge or to penalty or forfeiture.

(3) Any statement made by any person in answer to a question under subsection (1) must —

- (a) be reduced to writing;
- (b) be read over to the person;
- (c) if the person does not understand English, be interpreted in a language that the person understands; and
- (d) after correction (if necessary), be signed by the person.

(4) If any person fails to attend before the Director-General or an authorised officer as required under subsection (1), the Director-General or authorised officer may report the failure to a Magistrate who may issue a warrant to secure the attendance of that person as required by the order.

*[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

### **Powers of entry, search and seizure, etc.**

**25.—**(1) In discharging his functions and duties under this Act and the rules, the Director-General or an authorised officer may —

- (a) at all reasonable times without warrant enter, search and inspect any premises, or stop, enter, search and inspect any

conveyance, in which the Director-General or authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds there is any item to which this Act applies;

- (b) inspect any item to which this Act applies that is found in any premises or conveyance entered into under paragraph (a);
- (c) take, without payment, for the purpose of examination reasonable samples of any meat product or fish product that is found in any premises or conveyance entered into under paragraph (a); or
- (d) seize and detain any item to which this Act applies that is found in any premises or conveyance entered into under paragraph (a) and that the Director-General or authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds is not in compliance with this Act or the rules or is otherwise connected with the commission of an offence under this Act or the rules.

[16/2000]

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1)(a), the Director-General or an authorised officer may —

- (a) require the owner or occupier of any premises or conveyance being inspected to provide all reasonable assistance to the Director-General or authorised officer for the purpose of the inspection; and
- (b) if the circumstances so warrant, with such assistance as he thinks necessary, break open any door, window, lock, fastener, hold, compartment, box, container, receptacle or any other thing.

[16/2000]

(3) Where the Director-General or an authorised officer seizes any item under subsection (1)(d), the Director-General or authorised officer shall forthwith give notice in writing of the seizure to the owner of the item seized or to the agent of such owner, if the name and address of such owner or agent thereof are known.

[16/2000]

(4) Any person aggrieved by the seizure of any item under subsection (1)(d) may, within 48 hours after the seizure, complain thereof to a Magistrate's Court.

(5) Upon hearing such complaint, the Magistrate's Court may —

- (a) confirm the seizure wholly or in part;
- (b) disallow the seizure wholly or in part;
- (c) order that any item seized be restored to its owner, subject to any condition which the Court may think fit to impose to ensure that the item is preserved for any purpose for which it may subsequently be required; or
- (d) order payment to be made to the owner of the item seized of such amount as the Court considers will compensate him for any loss or depreciation resulting from the seizure.

[16/2000]

(6) Any item seized under subsection (1)(d) may be kept or stored in the premises or conveyance where it was seized or may, at the direction of the Director-General or an authorised officer, be removed to any other place to be kept or stored thereat.

[16/2000]

(7) The Director-General or an authorised officer may mark, seal or label any item being detained under subsection (1)(d) in such manner as he thinks fit for the purpose of indicating that the item is under detention and may lock or seal the premises or conveyance in which the item is being detained.

[16/2000]

(8) Any person who fails to comply with any requirement made by the Director-General or an authorised officer under subsection (2)(a) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

(9) Any person who, without the authority of the Director-General or an authorised officer —

- (a) interferes, tampers with, removes, distributes, sells, or otherwise disposes of any item seized or detained under

subsection (1)(d) or alters, counterfeits, defaces, destroys, erases or removes any mark, seal or label placed by the Director-General or an authorised officer on such item under subsection (7); or

- (b) opens, breaks or otherwise tampers with the lock or seal placed by the Director-General or an authorised officer on any premises or conveyance or part thereof under subsection (7),

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

**Power to require destruction treatment or disposal of meat products or fish products found to be diseased, etc.**

**26.**—(1) Where the result of the examination of any sample taken from any meat product or fish product under section 25(1)(c) reveals that the meat product or fish product is diseased, adulterated or unfit for human consumption, the Director-General or an authorised officer may direct the owner of the meat product or fish product or the agent of such owner to destroy or treat or otherwise dispose of the meat product or fish product in such manner as the Director-General or authorised officer thinks fit, and the costs of an incidental thereto shall be borne by such owner or agent thereof.

[16/2000]

(2) If a person to whom any direction under subsection (1) is given fails to comply with the direction —

- (a) he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; and
- (b) any authorised officer may take such steps as he thinks fit to secure the destruction, treatment or disposal of the meat product or fish product to which the direction relates and recover any costs and expenses reasonably incurred by him from that person.

[16/2000]

**Powers of arrest**

**27.**—(1) The Director-General or any authorised officer, police officer or officer of customs may arrest without warrant any person committing or attempting to commit or whom he reasonably suspects of being engaged in committing or attempting to commit any offence under this Act or the rules, if —

- (a) the person refuses to furnish his name and address or furnishes an address out of Singapore; or
- (b) there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person has furnished a false name or address or that the person is likely to abscond.

[16/2000]

(2) The Director-General or any authorised officer, police officer or officer of customs making an arrest without warrant shall, subject to subsection (3), without unnecessary delay bring the person arrested before a Magistrate's Court.

[16/2000]

(3) No person who has been arrested by the Director-General or any authorised officer, police officer or officer of customs shall be released, except on his own bond or on bail or on the special order in writing of the Magistrate or the Director-General.

[16/2000]

**PART VI****MISCELLANEOUS****Obstructing officers in execution of their duties**

**28.** Any person who obstructs, hinders or impedes the Director-General or any authorised officer, police officer or officer of customs or any other person acting under the direction of the Director-General, in the performance or execution of his duty or anything which he is authorised, empowered or required to do under this Act or the rules shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[16/2000]

**Altering licence, permit or certificate**

**29.** Any person who —

- (a) without lawful authority alters, forges, mutilates or defaces any licence, permit or certificate granted under this Act or the rules; or
- (b) knowingly makes use of any licence, permit or certificate which has been so altered, forged, mutilated or defaced,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

**Penalty for false declaration, etc.**

**30.** Any person who, being required by this Act or the rules to make or furnish any declaration, statement, representation or information or to produce any permit or who, for the purpose of obtaining any licence, permit or certificate under this Act —

- (a) makes or furnishes any declaration, statement, representation or information which is false in a material particular; or
- (b) produces any licence, permit or certificate which he knows or has reason to believe is false in any material particular or has not been granted by the person by whom it purports to have been granted, or has been in any way altered or tampered with,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

**Offences committed by bodies corporate and by agents and servants**

**31.—(1)** Where an offence under this Act or the rules has been committed by a body corporate, a partnership or an unincorporated association of persons, any person who at the time of the commission of the offence was a director, manager, partner, secretary or other

similar officer thereof, or was purporting to act in any such capacity shall be guilty of that offence unless he proves —

- (a) that the offence was committed without his consent or connivance; and
- (b) that he had exercised all such diligence to prevent the commission of the offence as he ought to have exercised having regard to the nature of his functions in that capacity and to all the circumstances.

(2) Where an offence under this Act or the rules is committed by any person acting as an agent or servant of another person, or being otherwise subject to the supervision or instruction of another person for the purposes of any employment in the course of which the offence was committed, that other person shall, without prejudice to the liability of the first-mentioned person, be liable under this Act or the rules in the same manner and to the same extent as if he had personally committed the offence if it is proved that the act which constituted the offence was committed with his consent or connivance or that it was attributable to any neglect on his part.

### **Forfeiture**

**32.**—(1) The court before which any person is tried for an offence under this Act or the rules may make an order for the forfeiture of any item which has been seized under the provisions of this Act if —

- (a) the court is satisfied that —
  - (i) an offence under this Act or the rules has been committed; and
  - (ii) the item seized was the subject-matter, or was used in the commission, of the offence; and
- (b) having regard to the circumstances of the case, the court thinks it fit to order the forfeiture of the item.

(2) Where no party raises the question of forfeiture under subsection (1), the court shall consider the question on its own motion.

(3) The court may make an order under subsection (1) for the forfeiture of any item which has been seized under the provisions of this Act notwithstanding that no person may have been convicted of an offence.

(4) If the court, having regard to the circumstances of the case, does not think it fit to order the forfeiture of any item which has been seized under the provisions of this Act, the court shall order that the item be released to the owner thereof or the person entitled thereto.

(5) In the absence of any prosecution with regard to any item which has been seized under the provisions of this Act, the Director-General shall give to the person from whom the item was seized or to the owner of the item notice in writing that the item shall, on the expiration of 7 days of the date specified in the notice, be deemed to be forfeited unless a claim thereto is made before then in accordance with subsection (6).

[16/2000]

(6) A person asserting —

(a) that he is the owner of, or that he is entitled to, any item which has been seized under the provisions of this Act; and

(b) that the item is not liable to forfeiture,

may, personally or by his agent authorised in writing, give written notice to the Director-General that he claims the item.

[16/2000]

(7) On receipt of a notice under subsection (6), the Director-General may direct that the item be released to the person who has given the notice or may refer the matter to a court for decision.

[16/2000]

(8) Where no claim is received on the expiration of 7 days of the date specified in the notice referred to in subsection (5), the item to which the notice relates shall be deemed to be forfeited.

(9) Where the owner of any item seized under the provisions of this Act consents to its disposal, the item shall thereupon be deemed to be forfeited.

(10) Any item forfeited or deemed to be forfeited under this section shall be delivered to an authorised officer and shall be disposed of in such manner as the Director-General thinks fit.

[16/2000]

### **Form and authentication of notices, orders and other documents**

**33.**—(1) All notices, orders and other documents of whatsoever nature which the Director-General is empowered to give by this Act or the rules may be in such form as the Director-General may determine, and may be given by any authorised officer.

[16/2000]

(2) Where any such notice, order or document requires authentication —

(a) the signature of the Director-General or an authorised officer; or

(b) an official facsimile of such signature,

appended thereto shall be sufficient authentication.

[16/2000]

### **Inaccuracies in documents**

**34.**—(1) No misnomer or inaccurate description of any person, premises, building, street, place, vehicle or other conveyance named or described in any notice, order or document prepared, issued or served under or for the purposes of this Act or the rules shall in any way affect the operation of this Act or any such rules as respects that person, premises, building, street, place, vehicle or other conveyance if that person, premises, building, street, place, vehicle or other conveyance is so designated in the notice, order or document as to be identifiable.

(2) No proceedings taken under or by virtue of this Act or any rules shall be invalid for want of form.

### **Service of documents**

**35.**—(1) Any notice, order or document required or authorised by this Act or the rules to be served on any person, and any summons

issued by a court against any person in connection with any offence under this Act or the rules may be served on the person —

- (a) by delivering it to the person or to some adult member or employee of his family or household at his last known place of residence;
- (b) by leaving it at his usual or last known place of residence or place of business in an envelope addressed to the person;
- (c) by sending it by registered post addressed to the person at his usual or last known place of residence or place of business; or
- (d) in the case of an incorporated company, a partnership or a body of persons —
  - (i) by delivering it to the secretary or other like officer of the company, partnership or body of persons at its registered office or principal place of business; or
  - (ii) by sending it by registered post addressed to the company, partnership or body of persons at its registered office or principal place of business.

(2) Any notice, order, document or summons sent by registered post to any person in accordance with subsection (1) shall be deemed to be duly served on the person at the time when the notice, order, document or summons, as the case may be, would in the ordinary course of post be delivered and, in proving service of the notice, order, document or summons, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope containing the same was properly addressed, stamped and posted by registered post.

(3) Any notice, order or document required or authorised by this Act or the rules to be served on the owner or occupier of any premises or any summons issued by a court against any such owner or occupier in connection with any offence under this Act or the rules may be served by delivering it or a true copy thereof to some adult person on the premises or, if there is no such person on the premises to whom it can with reasonable diligence be delivered, by affixing the notice, order, document or summons to some conspicuous part of the premises.

(4) Any notice, order or document required or authorised by this Act or the rules to be served on the owner or occupier of any premises or any summons issued by a court against any such owner or occupier in connection with any offence under this Act or the rules shall be deemed to be properly addressed if addressed by the description of the owner or occupier of the premises without further name or description.

### **Protection from liability**

**36.** No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Director-General or any authorised officer, police officer or officer of customs or any other person acting under the direction of the Director-General for anything which is in good faith done in the execution or purported execution of this Act or the rules.

[16/2000]

### **Jurisdiction of Courts**

**37.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68), a District Court or a Magistrate's Court shall have jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act or the rules and to impose the full penalty or punishment in respect of any such offence.

### **Evidence**

**38.—**(1) Subject to subsection (3) —

- (a) a document or certificate purporting to be report under the hand of the Director-General or an authorised officer upon any matter or thing in connection with the administration or enforcement of this Act or with any investigation carried out under this Act shall be admissible as evidence in any proceedings under this Act and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein; and
- (b) a certificate of an authorised examiner stating that he has analysed or examined any meat product or fish product and stating the result of his analysis or examination shall be admissible in evidence in any proceedings for an offence under this Act as prima facie evidence of the facts stated

therein and of the correctness of the result of the analysis or examination.

[16/2000]

(2) For the purposes of this section, a document purporting to be a certificate referred to in subsection (1) on its production by the prosecution shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be such a certificate.

(3) A certificate referred to in subsection (1) shall not be received in evidence in pursuance of that subsection unless the person charged has been given —

(a) a copy of the certificate; and

(b) notice of the intention of the prosecution to produce the certificate as evidence in the proceedings,

not less than 10 clear days before the commencement of the proceedings.

(4) Where a certificate of the Director-General, an authorised officer or an authorised examiner is admitted in evidence under subsection (1), the person charged may require the Director-General, authorised officer or authorised examiner to be called as a witness for the prosecution and be cross-examined as if he had given evidence of the matters stated in the certificate.

[16/2000]

### **Composition of offences**

**39.**—(1) The Director-General or any officer authorised in writing in that behalf by the Minister may, in his discretion, compound any offence under this Act or the rules which is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum of money not exceeding \$1,000.

[16/2000]

(2) On payment of such sum of money, no further proceedings shall be taken against such person in respect of the offence.

(3) All composition sums collected under this section must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]

**Exemption**

**40.** The Director-General may, in his discretion, either permanently or for such period as he may think fit, exempt any person or premises or any class of persons or premises from any of the provisions of this Act or the rules.

[16/2000]

**Fees, etc., payable to Agency**

**41.** All fees, charges and moneys collected under this Act or any rules made thereunder (except composition sums) must be paid to the Agency.

[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]

**Rules**

**42.—**(1) The Minister may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act and for any matter which is required under this Act to be prescribed.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Minister may make rules —

- (a) prescribing the particulars, information and documents to be furnished with any application made under this Act;
- (b) prescribing the form to be used for any purpose under this Act;
- (c) prescribing the fees to be charged for the purposes of this Act;
- (d) providing for —
  - (i) the inspection of premises subject to this Act and of conveyances used for the carriage of animals, fish, meat products and fish products; and
  - (ii) the inspection, examination and certification of animals, fish, meat products and fish products;
- (e) providing for the authorisation of an authorised examiner, the conditions to be complied with by an authorised examiner and the withdrawal of any such authorisation;

- (f) prescribing the powers and functions of authorised officers and authorised examiners;
- (g) providing for the certification of meat products and fish products intended for export and the conditions under which such certificates may be withdrawn;
- (h) regulating or prohibiting the administration of drugs or other substances to animals before slaughter;
- (i) regulating or prohibiting the acceptance at slaughterhouses of animals for slaughter which are diseased or otherwise unfit for use in the production of meat products;
- (j) regulating the manner in which animals intended for slaughter, fish, meat products and fish products are to be conveyed from place to place and providing for the inspection of conveyances carrying or intended to be used for carrying animals, fish, meat products and fish products;
- (k) regulating and controlling the processing and packing of meat products or fish products in licensed processing establishments;
- (l) prescribing requirements for the chilling, freezing and storage of any meat product or fish product and providing for the approval of any material used in packing any product;
- (m) regulating —
  - (i) the construction, lighting, ventilation, air temperature, cleansing, drainage, water supply, maintenance and good management of premises subject to this Act;
  - (ii) the construction, cleansing and maintenance of all fixtures, appliances, instruments, utensils and things connected or used therewith or connected with the management thereof; and
  - (iii) the hygiene requirements to be observed by or in relation to any person working therein so far as

concerns the clothing, conduct and health of such person;

- (n) regulating and controlling the application of chemicals, drugs and other substances to meat products or fish products and the use of ingredients in the processing of meat products or fish products;
- (o) requiring information as to the nature and quantity of chemicals, drugs or other substances which have been applied to any meat product or fish product or of the ingredients which have been used in the processing of any meat product or fish product to be shown on the labels of such products;
- (p) prescribing the mode of dealing with animals and fish which are diseased or otherwise unfit for use in the production of meat products or fish products;
- (q) requiring that any meat product or fish product intended for export should conform to the requirements of the country to which it is to be exported, and prohibiting or restricting the export of any such product unless the prescribed requirements are complied with;
- (r) providing for the handling and treatment of live animals intended for slaughter for human consumption;
- (s) regulating methods for the slaughter of animals;
- (t) providing for the standards of dressing animals slaughtered in licensed slaughter-houses;
- (u) regulating and controlling the import of animals, fish, meat products and fish products into Singapore and prescribing the mode of dealing with such animals, fish, meat products and fish products upon their entry into Singapore;
- (ua) setting out requirements and procedures for document control and recording by persons licensed under this Act so as to monitor the supply of meat products and fish products of acceptable quality in Singapore, including —

- (i) the information that must be collected about the meat product or fish product;
- (ii) the periods for which the information must be kept; and
- (iii) how, when and to whom that information must be reported;

*[Act 11 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

- (v) prescribing the procedure for the taking and analysis of samples under this Act;
- (w) prescribing the offences which may be compounded and the method and procedure by which such offences may be compounded; and
- (x) empowering the Director-General to issue, from time to time, such directives as the Director-General may consider necessary for the proper control and management of slaughter-houses, processing establishments and cold stores or for any matter connected with the provisions of this Act.

*[16/2000]*

(3) The Minister may, in making any rules, provide that any contravention of, or failure or neglect to comply with, any provision of the rules or any directive issued by the Director-General pursuant to the rules shall be an offence and may prescribe the fine with which the offence shall be punishable, except that no such fine shall exceed for any one offence, the sum of \$10,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, the sum of \$100 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

*[16/2000]*

(4) All rules made under this Act shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

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### **Transitional provisions**

**43.** Any licence, permit, document, application, approval, permission, order, direction, ruling or notice issued, made, given or approved by the relevant authority under —

- (a) the repealed Slaughter-houses and Meat Processing Factories Act (Cap. 307, 1985 Ed.); or
- (b) any rules made under the repealed paragraphs (n), (o) and (p) of section 7(2) of the Fisheries Act,

shall, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act or in any other written law, continue and be deemed to have been prepared, made, granted or approved under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY  
WHOLESOME MEAT AND FISH ACT  
(CHAPTER 349A)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act. It is not part of the Act.

**1. Act 5 of 1999 — Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999**

Date of First Reading	:	23 November 1998 (Bill No. 52/98 published on 24 November 1998)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	20 January 1999
Date of commencement	:	10 December 1999

**2. Act 16 of 2000 — Agri-food and Veterinary Authority Act 2000**  
(Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading	:	21 February 2000 (Bill No. 11/2000 published on 22 February 2000)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	17 March 2000
Date of commencement	:	1 April 2000

**3. 2000 Revised Edition — Wholesome Meat and Fish Act**

Date of operation	:	30 December 2000
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**4. Act 4 of 2003 — Customs (Amendment) Act 2003**  
(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading	:	10 March 2003 (Bill No. 6/2003 published on 11 March 2003)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	21 March 2003
Date of commencement	:	1 April 2003

**5. Act 48 of 2017 — Sale of Food (Amendment) Act 2017**

Date of First Reading	:	2 October 2017 (Bill No. 42/2017 published on 2 October 2017)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	7 November 2017
Date of commencement	:	1 February 2018

**6. Act 11 of 2019 — Singapore Food Agency Act 2019**

Date of First Reading	:	15 January 2019 (Bill No. 5/2019 published on 15 January 2019)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	12 February 2019
Date of commencement	:	1 April 2019

COMPARATIVE TABLE  
WHOLESOME MEAT AND FISH ACT  
(CHAPTER 349A)

COMPARATIVE TABLE

The following provisions in the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 (Act 5 of 1999) have been renumbered by the Law Revision Commissioners in this 2000 Revised Edition.

This Comparative Table is provided for the convenience of users. It is not part of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act.

<b>2000 Ed.</b>	<b>Act 5 of 1999</b>
<b>25—(4) and (5)</b>	<b>25—(4)</b>
<b>(6) to (9)</b>	<b>(5) to (8)</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>40A</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>
<i>Omitted</i>	<b>42—(1) and (2)</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>42—(3)</b>