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# **Food Safety and Security Bill**

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**Bill No. 49/2024.**

*Read the first time on 12 November 2024.*

## **FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY ACT 2024**

**(No.    of 2024)**

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A BILL

*intituled*

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to food safety in connection with the production of primary produce, the supply of food and the provision of drinking water, to improve food security in Singapore, to promote the general public's health through better diet and nutrition, to repeal the Sale of Food Act 1973 and the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, and to make consequential and related amendments to certain other Acts.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

PART 1  
PRELIMINARY

**Short title and commencement**

5     **1.** This Act is the Food Safety and Security Act 2024 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

**Purposes of Act**

**2.** The purposes of this Act are —

- 10     (a) to improve food security in Singapore through maintaining in Singapore a minimum quantity of stocks of certain foods and agri-food production inputs, and measures to mitigate the impact of agri-food supply chain disruptions on Singapore;
- 15     (b) to increase production of primary produce on a sustainable basis in Singapore so as to contribute to food security in Singapore;
- 20     (c) to ensure that food in Singapore is safe and suitable for human consumption and that non-packaged drinking water in Singapore is not unwholesome;
- 25     (d) to improve traceability systems to enable food to be more efficiently and effectively recalled due to food safety concerns;
- 30     (e) to ensure provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices and to prevent misleading conduct in connection with the supply of food;
- (f) to provide for the compliance of imported food and other import-controlled items with Singapore's standards and requirements of public health and safety;
- (g) to ensure that any export-controlled item that is exported meets relevant importing country requirements to enable and maintain overseas market access for export-controlled items exported from Singapore;

- (h) to minimise and manage the risks to human health from plant pesticides and animal feed in primary production activities; and
- (i) to support national nutritional standards or national dietary recommendations directed at preventing diet-related non-communicable diseases among the general public or at promoting health and wellbeing at all ages. 5

### **General interpretation**

#### **3.—(1) In this Act —**

“advertise” or “advertising”, as a verb, has the meaning given by section 7(2); 10

“advertisement” has the meaning given by section 7(5);

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

“agri-food production input” means any of the following to the extent that it is essential in undertaking any primary production activity: 15

- (a) any animal feed;
- (b) any plant pesticide;
- (c) any animal reproductive material from a food producing animal; 20
- (d) any young of a food producing animal;
- (e) any seed, spore, bulb, root, cutting or other part of a plant from which plants grow or further plants grow;
- (f) any veterinary biologics, or any vaccines, antitoxins or other preparations made from living organisms, which are suitable for use in diagnosing, treating or immunising animals; 25

(g) any vitamin or mineral substance or other substances suitable for, or used for, administration or application to an animal or plant by any means, or consumption by an animal, as a way of directly or indirectly improving growth or modifying the physiology of the animal or plant so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity,

and excludes any primary produce;

“agri-food supply chain” and “agri-food supply chain participant” have the meanings given by section 18(1);

“aircraft” includes an unmanned aircraft;

“analysis” includes any examination or testing of food or any other thing;

“animal” means —

(a) any fish;

(b) any reptile;

(c) any amphibian;

(d) any bird;

(e) any mammal (other than man);

(f) any invertebrate, regardless of the stage of development it is in; or

(g) any egg, or any reptile egg, amphibian egg, fish egg, invertebrate egg or monotreme egg;

“animal feed” has the meaning given by section 16;

“animal feed production licence” means a licence granted under Division 2 of Part 11 authorising the holder of the licence to produce animal feed in the course of a business;

“animal feed regulations” means any regulations made under section 313;

“animal reproductive material” means —

- (a) an embryo, egg or ovum, or roe, semen or sperm, of a food producing animal; or
- (b) any other part, or product, of a food producing animal from which another food producing animal could be produced;

5

“applicable standard” has the meaning given by section 42(1);

“aquaculture” means doing any of the following on land in, or in the sea within the territorial waters of, Singapore:

- (a) cultivating fish or marine vegetation for the purposes of harvesting the fish or marine vegetation or their progeny with a view to sale;
- (b) keeping fish or marine vegetation in a confined area for a commercial purpose (such as in a grow-out pond or tank),

10

15

but does not include any of the following:

- (c) keeping anything in a pet shop for sale or in an aquarium for exhibition (including an aquarium operated commercially);
- (d) doing anything for the purposes of maintaining a collection of fish or marine vegetation otherwise than for a commercial purpose;
- (e) keeping any fish in or on any premises for the purpose of serving the fish as meals to the general public, or otherwise for the purpose of consumption, in or on those premises;

20

25

“associate” has the meaning given by section 17;

“authorised analyst” means an individual appointed under section 287(1) as such;

“authorised officer”, in relation to a provision of this Act, means —

30

- (a) the Director-General; or

(b) an individual appointed under section 278(1) as an authorised officer for the purposes of that provision;

“biosecurity carrier” and “biosecurity matter” have the meanings given by section 125(2);

5 “business” includes —

(a) a venture or concern in trade or commerce, whether or not conducted on a regular, repetitive or continuous basis;

10 (b) the carrying out of an activity as a self-employed person, but not as an employee; and

(c) any business, whether or not carried on for profit, and the fact that an unincorporated association provides services to its members does not prevent those services from being services provided in the course of a business;

15 “catalogued insect-like species” means an insect-like species which is declared a catalogued insect-like species under section 13(2);

“code of practice” means a code of practice issued or approved under section 317;

20 “computer” and “data” have the meanings given by section 2(1) of the Computer Misuse Act 1993;

“consignment permit” means —

(a) an import consignment permit mentioned in section 76(2);

25 (b) an export consignment permit mentioned in section 76(3); or

(c) a transshipment consignment permit mentioned in section 76(4);

30 “contaminant”, for any particular food, has the meaning given by section 12(3);

“content” means any information or material —

(a) whether in the form of text;



(b) whether in the form of speech, music or other sounds;

(c) whether in the form of colours or visual images (animated or otherwise), pictorial or graphic form (for example, an anthropomorphic or a humanlike depiction);

5

(d) whether in electronic or digital form; or

(e) whether in any other form,

and includes information or material in any combination of forms;

“controlled item” has the meaning given by section 42(1);

10

“conveyance” means any of the following (but not while it is goods imported or exported):

(a) an aircraft;

(b) a vessel;

(c) a vehicle;

15

(d) a train (including railway rolling stock);

(e) any other mode of transport, whether of goods, people or both goods and people;

“cooking” includes air-frying, deep-frying, baking, roasting, grilling, sautéing, searing, stir-frying, boiling, steaming, blanching, simmering, braising and stewing;

20

“corporation” means a body corporate formed or incorporated or existing in or outside Singapore, and includes any foreign company within the meaning of section 4(1) of the Companies Act 1967;

25

“country” includes a territory, and any part of a country;

“courier” means a person who, in the normal course of a business, transports objects or things on behalf of another person;

“cultivate” —

(a) for any animal, includes propagate, hatch, breed, rear and farm the animal; and

(b) for any plant, includes —

5 (i) plant a seed, seedling or cutting of the plant or transplant the plant;

(ii) nurture, tend to or grow the plant;

(iii) harvest the plant;

(iv) hydroponically cultivate the plant; and

10 (v) cultivate the plant with the application of an artificial source of light or heat;

“current”, in relation to any FSSA authorisation, means an FSSA authorisation that is in effect and is neither suspended, revoked nor cancelled;

15 “deal with”, in relation to any thing, includes —

(a) moving, altering or interfering with the thing in any physical manner; and

20 (b) supplying the thing or otherwise entering into a transaction whereby the ownership of the thing, or of any beneficial interest in the thing, passes from one person to another;

“defined food” has the meaning given by section 13(1);

“director” has the meaning given by section 4(1) of the Companies Act 1967;

25 “Director-General” means the Director-General, Food Administration appointed under section 277(1);

“Director-General, Food Security” means the Director-General, Food Security appointed under section 274(1);

30 “Director-General of Health” has the meaning given by section 2 of the Infectious Diseases Act 1976;

“disclose”, in relation to information, includes to make available to or provide access to the information;

“disruptive event” means any of the following occurrences happening in Singapore or outside Singapore, whether natural or caused by human acts or omissions: 5

(a) an epidemic or a pandemic, the spread of any disease affecting food producing animals, an infestation of pests or a similar health hazard to humans, animals or plants;

(b) a storm, storm tide, tsunami, flood, drought, an eruption or earthquake, a landslip or other occurrence of a similar kind; 10

(c) an explosion or a fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, a gas leak or a poor air quality episode involving smoke; 15

(d) a war, civil war, revolution, rebellion, insurrection or civil unrest arising therefrom, any hostile act by or against a belligerent power, any act of terrorism or other act of serious violence;

(e) an export ban of any goods (identifiable or in general) by a foreign country of indeterminate length; 20

(f) a strike, lockout, restraint of labour or other labour disturbance from any cause, whether partial or general;

(g) an accident associated with the operation of a conveyance that causes widespread or severe damage to the environment, widespread or severe property loss or damage, or widespread deviations in the international transport of goods; 25

“document” means any thing in which content (in whatever form) is recorded; 30

#### *Examples*

A letter, a menu, a catalogue, an email, a painting, a thumb drive, a film and a sound recording.

“donate” means —

(a) a person giving to another any thing for a charitable, benevolent, or philanthropic purpose without receiving any money or money’s worth; or

5 (b) a person giving for a charitable, benevolent, or philanthropic purpose, and without the person receiving any money or money’s worth, any thing donated by another,

10 but excludes an individual giving any thing to another individual as part of a personal relationship between them that is not commercial in nature;

“dressed” means the removal of parts of an animal after slaughter to prepare it for human consumption as food;

“drinking water” means —

15 (a) water that is intended for human consumption or for purposes connected with human consumption (such as the washing, preparation or cooking of food or the making of ice intended for human consumption, or for the preservation of unpackaged food), whether or  
20 not the water includes use for other purposes; or

(b) water held out as water in paragraph (a),

but does not include any water intended for consumption solely by animals;

25 “drinking water producer” has the meaning given by section 114(1);

“edible plant” means a species of plant that is capable of being consumed as food;

“egg” means the egg of any avian species that is capable of being consumed as food;

30 “egg product” means —

(a) the whole or part of the content of an egg with the shell removed, and in any form (including frozen, liquid, or dried); or

(b) any egg that is subject to a process of preserving or pickling;

“engage in conduct” means —

(a) to do an act or omit to do an act —

(i) on a single occasion; or

5

(ii) on a number of occasions over a period of time;  
or

(b) to both do an act and omit to do an act —

(i) on a single occasion; or

(ii) on a number of occasions over a period of time;

10

“entity” means —

(a) a body corporate (including a limited liability partnership);

(b) an unincorporated association;

(c) a partnership;

15

(d) a business trust;

(e) a body of individuals who together form a body; or

(f) a person other than an individual;

“examine” includes weigh, count, test and measure;

“export” does not include the taking out of Singapore of —

20

(a) any goods in transit without landing in Singapore; or

(b) any goods that are being transhipped;

“export” and “export-controlled item” have the meanings given by section 42(1);

“failing”, for a controlled item, has the meaning given by section 42(1);

25

“farm management plan” has the meaning given by section 90;

“fish” means any species of fish (whether marine or freshwater), and includes —

(a) crustacea, shellfish, echinoderm, molluscs or any other form of aquatic life; and

(b) the roe or young of any fish;

5 “fish product” means any of the following intended for human consumption as food:

(a) any part of any fish;

(b) any product derived from processing or preserving fish;

(c) any product containing fish;

10 “food” has the meaning given by section 4;

“food additive” means any substance not normally consumed as a food in itself and not normally used as a characteristic ingredient of food, whether or not it has nutritive value, the intentional addition of which to food for a technological purpose in the manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, transport or storage of such food results, or may be reasonably expected to result, in it or its by-products becoming directly or indirectly a component of such foods;

20 “food business” has the meaning given by section 5;

“food business licence” means a licence granted under Part 4 to carry on a licensable food business at the premises stated in the licence;

25 “food business licensee” means a holder of a current food business licence;

“food contact article” means the whole or any part of any utensil, machinery, instrument, device, apparatus, packaging, appliance or article that —

30 (a) is used, or is designed or intended for use, in or in connection with the handling of food; and

- (b) has or may have direct contact with food when it is used, in or in connection with the handling of food, but excludes any pipe, water fitting, apparatus or appliance used for the supply of water by the Public Utilities Board;
- “food control plan” has the meaning given by section 90; 5
- “food inspector”, in relation to a provision of this Act, means an individual who is appointed under section 279(1) as a food inspector for the purposes of that provision;
- “food premises” means premises in, on or from which a food business is carried on, even on an occasional basis, and includes — 10
- (a) a tent, stall or other structure that is not permanently fixed to a site when it is used to carry on a food business (called a temporary food premises);
- (b) any premises that is a vehicle; and 15
- (c) a food vending machine,
- but does not include any description of premises declared by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, not to be a food premises;
- “food producing animal” means a species of animal that may be bred, raised or kept, or slaughtered, trapped or harvested — 20
- (a) to produce food; or
- (b) to be used as food,
- but excludes any such animal when kept as a pet;
- “food production substance” has the meaning given by section 12(3); 25
- “food safety scheme” means any regulations made under section 310;
- “food security” means a reasonable access to a range of foods that are safe, suitable and not defined food, and are of a sufficient quantity to meet the basic nutritional needs of Singapore’s communities; 30

“food security factors” has the meaning given by section 18(1);  
“food security officer”, in relation to a provision of this Act,  
means —

(a) the Director-General, Food Security; or

5 (b) an individual appointed under section 275(1) as a  
food security officer for the purposes of that  
provision;

10 “food vending machine” means a machine or mechanical device  
that is used or capable of being used for selling or supplying  
any kind of food directly to a customer without the personal  
manipulation or attention of the seller, or the seller’s  
employee or agent, at the time of sale, but does not include  
15 a driverless vehicle that is capable, because of its  
construction, of carrying or serving ready-to-eat food for  
consumers’ immediate consumption at a place or premises  
where the food was prepared;

20 “food worker” means an individual who is or is to be employed  
by, or works or is required to work with or for, a proprietor of  
a food business in any capacity involving any of the  
following activities in the course of the operations of the  
food business:

(a) manufacturing food;

(b) preparing food;

(c) dishing up or plating (and not merely serving) food;

25 (d) any other activity that is prescribed by the Minister,  
by order in the *Gazette*, for the purposes of this Act;

“foreign country” means a country outside Singapore;

30 “foreign food authority” means a national food authority of a  
foreign country whose functions correspond to that of the  
Agency under this Act;

“foreign government” means —

(a) the government of a foreign country;



(b) an authority or instrumentality of the government of a foreign country; or

(c) a foreign regional government body;

“fresh fruits and vegetables” means unprocessed and raw fruits and vegetables that are intended for human consumption as food; 5

“FSSA authorisation” means —

(a) a licence that may be granted under Part 3;

(b) a consignment permit;

(c) a food business licence to carry on a licensable food business at premises stated in the licence; 10

(d) an animal feed production licence;

(e) an appointment as a certified pesticide operator;

(f) a pre-market approval; or

(g) a registration of a plant pesticide product under Part 11; 15

“general public” means the general public in Singapore and includes a section of the general public;

“genetically modified food” has the meaning given by section 13(3); 20

“goods” includes any food, food contact articles, animal feed and plant pesticides;

“goods in transit” means goods that are brought into Singapore solely for the purpose of taking them out of Singapore and that remain at all times on the conveyance that brought them into Singapore; 25

“grant”, for any FSSA authorisation, includes the following:

(a) granting on renewing the FSSA authorisation;

(b) treating under the Second Schedule as granted under any provision of this Act; 30

“handling”, in relation to food, has the meaning given by section 9;

“hazard” has the meaning given by section 125(2);

5 “holder”, for an FSSA authorisation, means the person to whom the FSSA authorisation is granted;

“home”, of an individual, means the individual’s ordinary place of residence in Singapore;

“identification card” —

10 (a) in relation to a food security officer, means an identification card issued under section 281(1) to the food security officer;

15 (b) in relation to an authorised officer or a food inspector, means an identification card issued under section 282(1) to the authorised officer or food inspector;

(c) in relation to an outsourced enforcement officer, means an identification card issued under section 285(3) to the outsourced enforcement officer; or

20 (d) in relation to a Part 9 enforcement officer, means an identification card issued under section 175(4) to the Part 9 enforcement officer;

“import” and “import-controlled item” have the meanings given by section 42(1);

25 “insect-like species” means a form of animal life within the biological classification Insecta, Arachnida, Myriapoda or Clitellata, and includes an insect-like species at a particular stage of its development;

30 “inspection scheme” means an inspection scheme set out in any inspection scheme regulations;

“inspection scheme regulations” means any regulations made under section 71;

“intended use”, in relation to food, means the use of the food that is specifically stated, or could reasonably be presumed to be intended, taking into account the food’s nature, labelling, packaging and identification;

“label”, in relation to any goods, includes any tag, brand, stamp, mark, stencil or written statement, any representation or design, or any descriptive matter, that — 5

(a) is attached to, annexed or affixed to the goods or any container or packaging of or thing used in connection with the goods; 10

(b) is written, printed, stamped or located on the goods or any container or packaging of or thing used in connection with the goods;

(c) is determined on the basis of anything encoded on or in relation to the goods; 15

(d) is displayed or used in connection with, or is accompanying, the goods or anything on which the goods are mounted for display or exposed for supply; or

(e) is otherwise applied to the goods or any container or packaging of or thing used in connection with the goods in a manner from which it may reasonably be inferred that it is applicable to those goods, 20

and includes a label that is partly obscured by another label that is written, stamped or located partly over the firstmentioned label; 25

“labelling requirement”, for any food or agri-food production input, means a regulation made under section 309(2) in relation to that food or agri-food production input;

“land” includes — 30

(a) any structure or premises in, under or over land;

(b) any foreshore;

(c) any land that is underwater; and

(d) any open space;

“licence” means a licence granted or deemed granted under this Act;

“licensable activity” has the meaning given by section 230;

5 “licensable food business” has the meaning given by section 6;

“licensed exporter” has the meaning given by section 42(1);

“licensed importer” has the meaning given by section 42(1);

“limited liability partnership” has the meaning given by section 4(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005;

10 “lot” has the meaning given by section 42(1);

“meal” means food that —

(a) is, or is intended to be, eaten by an individual sitting at a table, or a fixed structure used as a table; and

15 (b) is of adequate substance as to be ordinarily accepted as a meal;

“meat” means raw food that is the whole or any part of the carcass of a slaughtered animal (including edible offal) after it is dressed, whether fresh or after freezing or chilling, but does not include any hide, tallow, meat product, fish or fish product;

20

“meat processing” means —

(a) the production of meat products from slaughtered animals —

25 (i) by mixing meat with another meat or any other substance; or

(ii) by cutting, mincing, curing, boning, drying, smoking, preserving, salting, fermenting or otherwise treating, meat after slaughter;

(b) the storage or packing of any meat or meat product;

30 or

- (c) any other activity that is prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, for the purpose of this definition where the activity involves meat;

“meat product” means any of the following intended for human consumption as food:

- (a) any product wholly or partially prepared or made from meat;

- (b) any product in paragraph (a) which is partially processed, prepared for further processing or fully processed, by any method mentioned in paragraph (a) of the definition of “meat processing”,

but does not include any of the following:

- (c) fish or a fish product;

- (d) the whole or part of an animal, or a product resulting from the processing or preserving of meat, that is or is of a class excluded by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, from this definition;

“medical practitioner” means an individual who is a legally qualified medical practitioner;

“menu” means a menu, in printed or electronic form, that —

- (a) lists or otherwise shows one or more items of food; and

- (b) is either —

- (i) on a board, screen, poster, leaflet or similar thing in or at the premises from which the items of food shown on the menu are sold; or

- (ii) displayed on an online location of a person who sells, or causes to be sold, the items of food online,

and includes any other document that is prescribed in any regulations made under this Act;

“Minister” means —

(a) except as provided in paragraph (b), the Minister charged with the responsibility for food safety and food supply resilience and sustainability; or

5 (b) for the purposes of Part 9 and any Part 9 Regulations, the Minister charged with the responsibility for health promotion;

“mobile home” means a conveyance, other than a vessel —

(a) that is ordinarily used as an individual’s home; and

10 (b) that is permanently or semi-permanently stationary in a single place in Singapore;

“modification” or “modify”, in relation to the conditions of any licence, includes deleting, or varying and substituting a condition, and adding a condition;

15 “motor vehicle” means a vehicle that —

(a) is propelled wholly or partly by a motor or by any means other than human or animal power; and

(b) is used or intended to be used on any road,  
and includes a motor vehicle that is constructed to drive itself,  
20 and a mobility scooter, motorised wheelchair, power-assisted bicycle or personal mobility device within the respective meanings given by the Active Mobility Act 2017;

“movement control direction” means a written direction described in section 126 that is given —

25 (a) under section 125; or

(b) under section 134 in relation to animal feed;

“MSR” or “minimum stockholding requirement” has the meaning given by section 18(1);

30 “MSR activity” and “MSR product” have the meanings given by section 18(1);

“MSR charge” means an amount calculated in accordance with section 29(3) or 30(3);

“non-retail food business” means a food business that is not a retail food business, and includes a food business a component of which involves a retail food business provided that the component is ancillary or incidental to the non-retail food business; 5

“notice” does not include giving notice orally;

“novel food” has the meaning given by section 13(3);

“offence under this Act” includes an offence under any subsidiary legislation made under this Act;

“officer” — 10

(a) in relation to a corporation, means any director, partner, chief executive, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the corporation, and includes —

(i) any person purporting to act in any such capacity; and 15

(ii) for a corporation whose affairs are managed by its members, any of those members as if the member were a director of the corporation;

(b) in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member of the committee of the unincorporated association, and includes — 20

(i) any person holding a position analogous to that of president, secretary or member of the committee of the unincorporated association; and 25

(ii) any person purporting to act in any such capacity; and

(c) in relation to a partnership (including a limited partnership), a partner of the partnership, 30

and includes any person carrying out the duties of any such office referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) if the office is vacant;

“officer of customs” has the meaning given by section 3(1) of the Customs Act 1960;

5 “online location” means any internet domain, website, webpage, chatroom, channel, group, forum or any other location, that can be accessed by means of the internet;

“online material” means content (including any computer program, machine code and internet link) that can be accessed at an online location by means of the internet;

10 “outdated”, in relation to any food in or from a package, has the meaning given by section 12(3);

“outsourced enforcement officer” means an individual who is appointed under section 285(1) as an outsourced enforcement officer;

15 “owner”, in relation to any food, includes any person (other than an officer of customs or an authorised officer) being or holding himself or herself out to be the owner, importer, consignee, agent or person having control of, a beneficial interest in, or the power of disposition over, the food;

“pack” includes re-pack;

20 “packaged food” means food that is encased, covered, enclosed, wrapped, bottled, contained or packed in a closed packaging intended for retail sale;

25 “packaging”, as a noun, includes any thing in or by which goods intended for supply are wholly or partly encased, covered, enclosed, wrapped, bottled, contained or packed; and if the goods are carried or supplied or intended to be carried or supplied in more than one packaging, includes each of the packaging, but does not include any of the following:

(a) bulk cargo containers;

30 (b) pallet overwraps;

(c) crates and packaging that do not obscure labels on the goods;

(d) vehicles;



- “Part 2 Rules” means any rules made under section 40;
- “Part 6 Regulations” means any regulations made under section 312;
- “Part 7 direction” means a direction made by the Director-General under Part 7; 5
- “Part 9 enforcement officer”, in relation to a provision of this Act, means an individual appointed under section 175(1) as a Part 9 enforcement officer for the purposes of that provision;
- “Part 9 Regulations” means any regulations made under section 174; 10
- “partner”, in relation to a limited partnership, includes a limited partner in the limited partnership;
- “pest”, in relation to a plant, means any invertebrate, plant or other living thing (other than a human) that injuriously affects or is capable of injuriously affecting the physical condition, worth or utility of the firstmentioned plant; 15
- “pesticide control regulations” means any regulations made under section 314;
- “pet” means any animal which —
- (a) is in a domesticated state or under the control of humans, regardless of whether animals of its species are classified at common law as being of a tame or domestic nature (such as pet herpetofauna); 20
  - (b) is a species ordinarily kept by an individual in his or her private residence; and 25
  - (c) is not kept for the purpose of human consumption;
- “physical harm” includes any illness and any injury;
- “place” means any land, premises or conveyance, or a part of any land, premises or conveyance;
- “plant”, as a noun, means — 30
- (a) any species of plant (whether living or dead);

(b) any vegetable, fruit, flower, leaf, stem, branch, bulb, spore, seed, root, cutting, graft, scion and any other part (whether severed or attached) intended for propagation or from which further plants may be propagated; or

(c) any mushroom or cyanobacteria,

and includes any part of a plant;

“plant pesticide” means a substance or a mixture of substances that is represented, imported, supplied or prepared, or used in the course of cultivating plants, as a means of directly —

(a) destroying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by or attacks of, any pest in relation to a plant;

(b) destroying a plant;

(c) modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or

(d) attracting a plant pest for the purpose of destroying it,

but does not include any substance or mixture of substances declared by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, not to be a plant pesticide;

“plant pesticide product” means an item of plant pesticide that is manufactured for sale or to be made available for sale;

“poultry” means a chicken, turkey, duck, goose, quail, squab, guinea fowl or pheasant;

“pre-market approval” has the meaning given by section 105;

“premises” means —

(a) any place in Singapore —

(i) whether enclosed or not;

(ii) whether built on or not; and

(iii) whether underground or underwater; or

- (b) any conveyance in Singapore,  
and includes any part of such a place or conveyance;
- “prepacked”, in relation to food, means food that is sealed or  
packed in the package in which the food is to be supplied;
- “prepare”, in relation to food, has the meaning given by 5  
section 10(3);
- “prescribed infectious disease” means —
- (a) any disease set out in the First or Second Schedule to  
the Infectious Diseases Act 1976;
  - (b) any skin disease which is likely to be contagious; or 10
  - (c) any other disease prescribed by the Minister, by order  
in the *Gazette*, to be an infectious disease for the  
purposes of this Act;
- “prescribed pesticide work” has the meaning given by  
section 189(1); 15
- “primary produce” has the meaning given by section 14;
- “primary production activity” has the meaning given by  
section 15;
- “private consumption” has the meaning given by section 44;
- “private residence” means any of the following that is ordinarily 20  
used as an individual’s home, regardless that it is uninhabited  
from time to time:
- (a) a building, structure or tent, or part of a building,  
structure or tent;
  - (b) a mobile home, 25
- and includes any lawn, garden or surfaced or unsurfaced open  
space abutting that building, structure, tent or mobile home  
which is used or capable of being used lawfully and  
exclusively by the individual as part of the enjoyment of  
his or her home; 30

“proprietor”, for a food business, means —

- (a) the person carrying on the food business; or
- (b) if the person in paragraph (a) cannot be identified, the person in charge of the food business;

5 “proscribed substance”, in relation to a particular animal feed, means a substance that is prohibited under the animal feed regulations with respect to the particular animal feed;

“provision of this Act” includes a provision of any subsidiary legislation made under this Act;

10 “public authority” means any body established or constituted by or under any public Act to perform a public function, but excludes a Town Council;

“public interest of Singapore” includes in the interest of the security of Singapore or any part of Singapore;

15 “public place” means —

- (a) any place in Singapore (open to the air or otherwise) to which members of the general public have access as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission, whether or not on payment of a fee, and whether or not access to the place may be restricted at particular times or for particular purposes; or

20  
25 (b) a part of a place in Singapore that the occupier of the place allows members of the general public to enter, but only while the place is ordinarily open to members of the general public;

“Public Utilities Board” means the public authority of that name continued under section 3 of the Public Utilities Act 2001;

30 “ready-to-eat”, in relation to food, means food that does not necessarily require any further preparing before human consumption as food, and includes cup noodles, fruit juice cordial, squash or syrup, powdered beverages and other concentrated food which are meant to be reconstituted or diluted with fluids before consumption;

“registered”, in relation to a food worker, means registered by the Agency as a trained food worker, either generally or in relation to a particular licensable food business;

“registered plant pesticide product” means a plant pesticide product that is registered under Division 3 of Part 11; 5

“regulated food contact article” means a food contact article prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, as a regulated food contact article;

“repealed law” means any of the following:

(a) the Sale of Food Act 1973; 10

(b) the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999;

“requirement of this Act” means —

(a) a requirement of or under any provision of this Act;

(b) a requirement of a section 116 direction or a Part 7 direction; or 15

(c) a requirement of a notice given under any provision of this Act;

“restrict” includes allow on conditions;

“retail food business” means a food business involving —

(a) the preparation of food for direct retail sale to consumers (other than as part of paragraph (b) or (c)); 20

(b) the sale, preparation or serving, of food that is ready-to-eat for consumers’ immediate consumption at the place, on delivery, when taken away, or from mobile or vehicle-based businesses that prepare such food; 25

(c) the sale, preparation or serving, of —

(i) ready-to-eat food for consumers’ immediate consumption at a place or premises other than where the food was prepared; or 30

(ii) food at a place or premises of the consumer's choosing for the consumer's immediate consumption at that place or premises; or

(d) the handling (without any preparation) of food for direct retail sale to consumers (other than as part of paragraph (b) or (c)) at the place or when taken away;

“sample” includes —

(a) a specimen; and

(b) a part of a sample (including a part of a specimen mentioned in paragraph (a));

“section 116 direction” means a written direction under section 116(2);

“service”, as a verb and in relation to a food vending machine, means to stock or replenish that machine with food;

“SFA officer” means —

(a) an employee of the Agency; or

(b) a public officer, or an employee of another public authority, for the time being performing duties in the Agency under a contract, or under an arrangement (such as a secondment) making available temporarily to the Agency the services of the public officer or the other public authority's employee;

“slaughter”, for an animal, means to kill the animal for human consumption, and includes the killing of the animal in the process of capturing, taking or harvesting it for the purposes of preparing it for use as food;

“standard” means a standard made under section 309(1);

“stated”, in relation to an FSSA authorisation, means specified or described in the FSSA authorisation;

“structure” does not include a conveyance;

“substance” includes —

(a) any gas, liquid or solid;

- (b) any organism or part of an organism;
- (c) any material that is produced from an organism;
- (d) any matter whose production involves the use of an organism;
- (e) any radioactivity or electromagnetic radiation; and
- (f) a combination of substances;

5

“supervising”, in relation to the engaging in any conduct or carrying out of work (including an analysis) by an individual (*A*), means —

- (a) observing or monitoring the conduct being engaged in or work being carried out by *A* to the extent necessary to enable the observer or monitor to form an opinion as to whether the conduct or work is being engaged in or carried out properly; and
- (b) being available to give advice to, and answer questions about the work from, *A* when *A* is engaging in that conduct or carrying the work out;

10

15

“temporary fair” means a fair, function or activity, the promoting, organising or staging of which requires a permit under section 35 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987;

20

“tranship” and “transhipment-controlled item” have the meanings given by section 42(1);

“transport”, as a verb, means to carry on any conveyance in the course of a business, and includes any operation incidental to the whole course of carriage, such as loading, unloading and storage in transit;

25

“unincorporated association” means a society or body unincorporate which, under any written law, may sue or be sued, or hold property, in the name of an officer of the society or body duly appointed for that purpose;

30

“unmanned aircraft” has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Air Navigation Act 1966;

“unmanned vessel” means a vessel equipped wholly or substantially with an autonomous system (such as an unmanned surface vehicle and a saildrone) and includes a barge drawn by an unmanned vessel;

5 “unregistered plant pesticide” means a plant pesticide that is not a registered plant pesticide product, and includes a plant pesticide product the registration of which is wholly suspended under section 209(2);

“unsafe” —

10 (a) in relation to food, has the meaning given by section 11; and

(b) in relation to primary produce, has the meaning given by section 14(3);

15 “unsuitable”, in relation to food, has the meaning given by section 12;

“unwholesome”, in relation to non-packaged drinking water, has the meaning given by section 115(4);

“use”, for a plant pesticide, means using in such a way that one or more plants are exposed to it, and includes —

20 (a) applying, spraying, spreading or dispersing the plant pesticide by any means on plants;

(b) keeping the plant pesticide for any activity in paragraph (a); or

25 (c) preparing the plant pesticide for any activity in paragraph (a);

“vehicle” means any vehicle (whether mechanically propelled or otherwise) that runs on wheels and is designed to transport goods, people or goods and people, on land, but excludes a train or rolling stock;

30 “vessel” means a boat, launch or floating craft used in navigation by water, however propelled or moved, and includes an unmanned vessel and a floating facility;

“veterinary drug” has the meaning given by section 12(3).



(2) For the purposes of this Act and without limiting the generality of the definition of “content” in subsection (1) —

(a) any content consisting of or including a hyperlink is taken to include the content that may be accessed directly via the hyperlink; and 5

(b) any content consisting of or including an image or item on which data is stored electronically (such as a QR code) is taken to include content that may be accessed directly by means of the image or item.

(3) For the purposes of this Act and without limiting the generality of the definition of “label” in subsection (1), the following content is taken to be a label: 10

(a) any content that may be accessed directly via a hyperlink comprised in any content on or in a label;

(b) any content that may be accessed directly by means of an image or item on or in a label on which data is stored electronically (such as a QR code). 15

(4) For the purposes of this Act, a label is attached to a container or packaging of goods if the label is securely attached or affixed to, appears on, or is included with, the container or packaging, and — 20

(a) a reference to a label attached to a container or packaging includes a reference to writing appearing on the container or packaging; and

(b) a reference to attaching a label to a container or packaging includes a reference to putting writing on the container or packaging. 25

(5) In this Act, the power to require a person to provide any information includes the power —

(a) to require that person to produce or grant access to the information; 30

(b) to require that person to provide an explanation of the information;

- (c) if the information is not produced, to require the person to state, to the best of the knowledge and belief of that person, where it is;
- (d) if the information is recorded otherwise than in legible form, to require the information to be made available in legible form; and
- (e) if the information required to be provided is not in English, to require the person to arrange for an accurate translation to be done at the cost of that person.

(6) Where —

- (a) by or under any provision in this Act or any direction given under this Act, an act or thing is required or directed to be done within a particular period or before a particular time;
- (b) failure to do that act or thing within the period or before the time mentioned in paragraph (a) constitutes an offence; and
- (c) that act or thing is not done within the period or before the time mentioned in paragraph (a),

the obligation to do that act or thing continues, even though that period has expired or that time has passed, until that act or thing is done.

(7) In this Act, an officer of a public authority includes a public officer, or an employee of another public authority, for the time being performing duties in the firstmentioned public authority under a contract, or under an arrangement (such as a secondment) making available temporarily to the firstmentioned public authority the services of the public officer or the other public authority's employee.

(8) In determining for the purposes of this Act whether a person is physically present in Singapore, it is to be assumed that the person will not falsify or conceal the person's identity or location.

## Meaning of “food”

- 4.—(1) In this Act, “food” includes the following:
- (a) any substance or thing of a kind used, capable of being used, or represented as being for use, for human consumption (whether it is live, raw, prepared or partly prepared); 5
  - (b) any substance or thing of a kind used, capable of being used, or represented as being for use, as an ingredient or food additive in a substance or thing referred to in paragraph (a); 10
  - (c) any substance used in preparing a substance or thing referred to in paragraph (a) (other than a substance used in preparing a living thing);
  - (d) chewing gum or an ingredient or food additive in chewing gum, or any substance used in preparing chewing gum; 15
  - (e) any substance or thing declared by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, to be a food.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), “food” includes —
- (a) fresh fruits and vegetables;
  - (b) other plants intended for human consumption (including seeds that are intended to be sprouted and consumed as sprouts) but not plants intended for propagation or from which further plants may be propagated; 20
  - (c) packaged drinking water;
  - (d) any thing that is or is intended to be mixed with or added to any food or drink; 25
  - (e) meat and meat products;
  - (f) fish and fish products; and
  - (g) eggs and egg products.
- (3) Despite subsection (1), this Act does not apply to any of the following: 30

- (a) any health product within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Health Products Act 2007;
  - (b) any substance that is a medicinal product within the meaning of section 3 of the Medicines Act 1975;
  - 5 (c) any thing that is or contains any controlled drug, psychoactive substance, controlled material or controlled substance within the meaning of section 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1973;
  - (d) any poison within the meaning of section 2 of the Poisons Act 1938, and which is represented for use in a manner not  
10 ordinarily associated with food for human consumption or with supplementing human dietary intake;
  - (e) any cosmetics;
  - (f) any thing that is or contains any tobacco product or tobacco substitute within the meaning of section 2(1) of the  
15 Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act 1993;
  - (g) any packaging (except edible packaging);
  - (h) any thing that is or contains any animal feed;
  - (i) any thing that is or contains any substance or thing  
20 declared by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, not to be food for the purposes of this Act.
- (4) A substance, thing or chewing gum described in subsection (1) is food regardless of whether or not it is in a condition fit for human consumption.
- 25 (5) To avoid doubt, “food” may include live animals and plants.

### **Meaning of “food business”**

5.—(1) In this Act, “food business” means a business or an undertaking or activity that involves —

- (a) the production of primary produce;
- 30 (b) the handling of food intended for supply or for export; or

(c) the supply of food,

regardless of whether the business, undertaking or activity concerned is of a commercial, charitable or community nature or whether it involves the handling or the supply of food on one occasion only.

(2) To avoid doubt, a “food business” includes a food business carried on as a home business or that is an occupation carried on by an individual within the individual’s private residence.

(3) However, a “food business” does not include a business or an undertaking or activity —

(a) that carries on any other business besides trading in food and, in the course of which doing so, acts as an intermediary between persons who trade in food by providing, for reward, premises or a place (including mobile premises) or services (such as an internet service provider or an online auction location);

(b) that provides, for reward, services in connection with or for the purpose of trading in food (such as an event organiser or an organiser of a market at which food is sold);

(c) that consists of producing and providing non-packaged drinking water as a drinking water producer; or

(d) that is declared by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, not to be a food business for the purposes of this Act.

(4) A reference in this Act to the proprietor of any food business is a reference to —

(a) in the case of a licensable food business at any premises — the holder of a food business licence to carry on the licensable food business at those premises; and

(b) in the case of any other food business at any premises — the occupier of those premises at, on or from which that food business is carried on.

### Meaning of “licensable food business”

6.—(1) In this Act, a “licensable food business” means a food business in Singapore that falls within a class of retail food business or non-retail food business that is specified in the First Schedule.

5 (2) The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, amend the First Schedule —

(a) by deleting a class of food business in the First Schedule;

(b) by varying the description of a class of food business or replacing a class of food business in the First Schedule; or

10 (c) by adding a class of food business to the First Schedule.

(3) Before amending the First Schedule with respect to any class of food business, the Minister must take into account the following factors:

15 (a) the risk to public health and the need to prevent or reduce the possibility of a serious danger to public health if the class of food business is not specified in the First Schedule;

(b) whether there are other sufficient safeguards under this Act or any other written law, or by other means, to minimise any risk to public health if the class of food business is not specified in the First Schedule;

20 (c) the kind of food handled or likely to be handled, and the manner and scale of food handling, when carrying on the class of food business;

25 (d) the components ordinarily operated as part of that class of food business;

(e) the type and number of ultimate consumers ordinarily sold or supplied food by or from the class of food business;

(f) any other matter or evidence as may be relevant for the purposes of section 2(c).

## Meanings of “publish in Singapore”, “advertise” and associated terms

7.—(1) In this Act, “publish in Singapore”, in relation to any content, means communicating, distributing, or making available or making known, the content to the general public, in whatever form and by whatever means, such as (but not limited to) — 5

- (a) including the content in a newspaper, magazine, leaflet, brochure, ticket or other document that is available, or distributed, to the general public;
- (b) including in a film, video, television programme or radio programme that is, or is intended to be, seen or heard by the general public; 10
- (c) publicly displaying the content, or something that contains the content, in Singapore;

### *Examples* 15

A blimp, a gas-inflated balloon or other like object which is attached or anchored to the ground and upon which content is displayed.

An animated billboard.

A computer monitor, screen or digital display panel or similar appliance designed to be used primarily for the reception and display of any content capable of being received, or received and displayed, as visual images (whether moving or still) with or without sound, from a broadcasting service, where the monitor, screen, panel or appliance is situated on common property. 20

- (d) leaving the content, or something containing the content, in such a position in a public place and in such circumstances as to indicate that it is intended to be available for collection by members of the general public who are in a public place; 25
- (e) selling, hiring out or supplying the content, or something containing the content, to the general public, or offering the content, or something containing the content, for sale or supply to, or hire by, the general public; 30

(f) posting the content as online material, to which any person physically present in Singapore is capable of having access through the internet;

(g) providing the content on or by any service that —

5 (i) is a social media service, a relevant electronic service or a telecommunication service (such as but not limited to SMS and MMS); and

(ii) is —

10 (A) between a point in Singapore and one or more other points in Singapore; or

(B) between a point and one or more other points, where the firstmentioned point is outside Singapore and at least one of the other points is inside Singapore,

15 so that the content is accessible to or delivered to, one or more users of the service who are physically present in Singapore;

(h) direct marketing of the content to any individuals physically present in Singapore; or

20 (i) publishing the content on an app to which any person physically present in Singapore is capable of having access through the internet.

25 (2) In this Act, “advertise” or “advertising” as a verb, means to publish, or to cause or authorise to be published, any advertisement in Singapore.

(3) For the purposes of this Act and without limiting the generality of the definition of “advertise” or “advertising” in subsection (2), a person is to be treated as causing or authorising to be published, content in Singapore if the person —

30 (a) pays for, commissions, or authorises the content, or something that contains the content, to be published in Singapore; or



(b) receives consideration for the display, placement or location of the content, or something that contains the content, in a manner described in subsection (1), where the display, placement or location of the advertisement is determined by systems or processes that are agreed between the parties entering into the contract relating to the advertisement. 5

(4) However, none of the following, of itself, amounts to advertising by an individual or a person concerned:

(a) an individual communicating — 10

(i) to the general public his or her personal opinion in relation to any goods or services or any person who provides goods or services; and

(ii) without the individual receiving or agreeing to receive, and without the individual contracting for, any money or money's worth, for or in connection with his or her communication; 15

(b) an individual communicating any content, or something that contains content, that is online material produced entirely by another person in either of the following ways, without the individual receiving or agreeing to receive, and without the individual contracting for, any money or money's worth, for or in connection with his or her communication: 20

(i) by using — 25

(A) a social media service;

(B) a relevant electronic service; or

(C) a telecommunication service (such as but not limited to SMS and MMS);

(ii) by — 30

(A) forwarding the content, or the something that contains the content, to; or

(B) sharing the content or the something that contains the content with,

other users of the service without altering the content;

5 (c) an individual expressing through a functionality of a social media service or a relevant electronic service, his or her view about any content, or something that contains any content, that is content produced entirely by another person, being a functionality which enables an end-user of the service to do anything as follows:

(i) apply a “like” or “dislike” button or other similar button;

(ii) apply an emoji or symbol of any kind;

(iii) engage in yes/no voting;

15 (iv) rate or score the content in any way;

(d) a person providing a service (such as a search engine service) that enables end-users of a social media service, a relevant electronic service or a telecommunication service to search online locations or online material, index search results or otherwise retrieve information or material from the search results;

20 (e) a proprietor of any food business displaying or exhibiting, or causing or allowing to be displayed or exhibited, any words or symbols that appear in or on any premises occupied by the proprietor and that relate to the food business, including a menu relating to that food business;

25 (f) 2 or more persons communicating content between themselves that is of a private or domestic nature, by using —

30 (i) a social media service;

(ii) a relevant electronic service; or

(iii) a telecommunication service (such as but not limited to SMS and MMS);

(g) engaging in any other conduct specified or described by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*.

(5) In this section —

“a point” includes a mobile or potentially mobile point, whether on land, underground, in the atmosphere, underwater or anywhere else; 5

“access”, in relation to any content that is online material or an online location, means to read, view, hear or otherwise experience the content, and includes —

(a) access that is subject to a precondition, such as the use of a password; 10

(b) access by way of push technology;

(c) access by way of a standing request; and

(d) access for a limited period of time only;

“advertisement” means any content that can reasonably be regarded as intended to promote, directly or indirectly — 15

(a) the sale of any goods or services; or

(b) the sale of any brand of goods or services,

but excludes a label unless included as an “advertisement” by regulations made under this Act; 20

“app” means an application software package that includes content accessible by end-users, or allows end-users to access content on the internet through the installed application software;

“direct marketing” means the sending of direct marketing material directly to an individual by direct means (such as an email, SMS or MMS) other than by an excluded electronic service; 25

“direct marketing material” means any content where, having regard to the nature of the content, the way in which the content is presented, and the content that can be located using the URLs, telephone numbers or contact information (if any) set out in the content, it would be concluded that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the content is to advertise or promote —

- (a) the sale of any goods or services; or
- (b) the sale of any brand of goods or services;

“excluded electronic service” means —

- (a) an electronic service where the only user-generated content enabled by that service is one-to-one live aural communications;
- (b) an electronic service where the only user-generated content enabled by that service is communication between 2 or more persons that is of a private or domestic nature; or
- (c) an electronic service where the user-generated content enabled by that service is accessible substantially or only to a closed group of persons employed or engaged in a business (whether or not carried on for profit) and solely for their use as a tool in the conduct of that business;

“MMS” means a service that enables the transmission of multimedia messages (such as visual or voice communication) from an end-user on a mobile phone to another mobile phone through a telecommunication service;

“point-to-multipoint service” means an electronic service which allows a person to transmit material to more than one end-user simultaneously;

“posting”, by a person of any content as online material, means the person causing the content to be accessible to, or delivered to, one or more other persons who can access the content through the internet;

“publicly display”, for any content, means to display, exhibit, screen or project the content —

- (a) in a public place in order that another person may see the content;
- (b) in or on a conveyance (whether mobile or stationary) which is used to provide a public passenger transport service and is in a public place, in order that another person may see the content; or
- (c) in any place in a way so that anyone in a public place can see the content from inside or outside the firstmentioned place;

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“public passenger transport service” means a service involving the transport of passengers within, or partly within, Singapore for hire or reward, by —

- (a) a motor vehicle;
- (b) a train (including rolling stock); or
- (c) a vessel,

15

but does not include a service that provides transport by a motor vehicle that is generally conducted on land that is not a road;

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“relevant electronic service” means any of the following electronic services that is supplied to the general public, and is not an excluded electronic service:

- (a) an electronic service that enables end-users to communicate, by means of email, with other end-users;
- (b) an online instant messaging service that enables end-users to communicate with other end-users;
- (c) a service that specialises in providing links or facilitating access to, or information about, online locations, such as (but not limited to) a search engine, directory service or web browser;
- (d) a point-to-multipoint service;

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“SMS” means a service that enables the transmission of short text messages from an end-user on a mobile phone to another mobile phone through a telecommunication service;

“social media service” has the meaning given by section 45T(1) of the Broadcasting Act 1994;

“telecommunication service” has the meaning given by section 2 of the Telecommunications Act 1999.

(6) For the purposes of this section, whether any communication of content on or by a service is or is not of a private or domestic nature must be determined by having regard to all or any one of the following factors:

(a) the number of individuals in Singapore who are able to access the content by means of the service;

(b) any restrictions on who may access the content by means of the service (such as a requirement for approval or permission from a user, or the provider, of the service);

(c) the relationship between the persons that the content is being or has been communicated;

(d) any other relevant factor.

### **Meanings of “sell” and “supply”**

**8.—(1)** In this Act, “sell”, in relation to food, means to do, cause or permit the doing of, offer to do, or attempt to do, any of the following (or a combination thereof) in Singapore in relation to food for handling or for human consumption:

(a) sell or re-sell;

(b) barter;

(c) receive, or having in possession, for sale;

(d) display for sale;

(e) send, forward or deliver for sale;

(f) dispose of by any method for valuable consideration;

(g) dispose of to an agent for sale on consignment;

- (h) provide as a refreshment or a meal or part of a meal to an employee or other individual in accordance with an employment agreement or an agreement for services under a contract of service for consumption by the employee or individual at the employee's or individual's place of work; 5
- (i) offer or give away for the purpose of advertising or in furtherance of any trade or business;
- (j) provide under a contract (whether or not the contract is made with the consumer of the food), together with any accommodation, service or entertainment, in consideration of an inclusive charge for the food provided and the accommodation, service or entertainment; 10
- (k) provide food (whether or not for consideration) in the course of providing services — 15
  - (i) to patients in hospitals, hospices and other residential care facilities like nursing homes;
  - (ii) to children or other individuals in the care or custody of the provider by virtue of any Act; or
  - (iii) to prisoners or inmates in prisons or other places for the detention of individuals under any Act; 20
- (l) dispose of by way of raffle, lottery or other game of chance;
- (m) offer as a prize or reward.

(2) In this Act, “sell”, in relation to any other object or thing which is not food, means to do, cause or permit the doing of, offer to do, or attempt to do, any of the following (or a combination thereof) in Singapore in relation to the object or thing: 25

- (a) sell or re-sell;
- (b) barter; 30
- (c) receive, or having in possession, for sale;
- (d) display for sale;

- (e) send, forward or deliver for sale;
- (f) dispose of by any method for valuable consideration;
- (g) dispose of to an agent for sale on consignment;
- (h) offer or give away for the purpose of advertising or in furtherance of any trade or business;
- (i) dispose of by way of raffle, lottery or other game of chance;
- (j) offer as a prize or reward.

(3) In this Act, “supply” —

(a) in relation to food, includes to do, cause or permit the doing of, offer to do, or attempt to do, any of the following in Singapore in relation to food for handling or for human consumption:

(i) sell;

(ii) donate, or give to another without receiving any money or money’s worth;

(b) in relation to non-packaged drinking water, has the meaning given by section 114(1); and

(c) in relation to an object or a thing not in paragraphs (a) and (b), includes to do, cause or permit the doing of, offer to do, or attempt to do, any of the following in Singapore in relation to the object or thing:

(i) sell;

(ii) donate, or give to another without receiving any money or money’s worth.

(4) For the purposes of this Act —

(a) food, an object or a thing that is displayed for the purpose of being offered as a prize or reward or given away for the purpose of advertising or in the furtherance of trade or business is taken to have been displayed for sale by the owner of the food, object or thing;



- (b) food, an object or a thing that is donated to a person who distributes food, objects or things for a charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purpose is not to be taken to be food, an object or a thing that was given away for the purpose of advertising or in furtherance of trade or business; 5
- (c) food, an object or a thing that is exposed or deposited in any premises for the purpose of being so offered as a prize or reward or given away is taken to have been exposed for sale by the occupier of the premises; 10
- (d) food that is sold for the purpose of being mixed with any other food is to be treated, unless the contrary is proved, as food for sale if the bulk or product produced by the mixing, or any part of the bulk or product, is intended to be sold; and 15
- (e) food that is sold, offered for sale, or displayed for sale is to be treated, unless the contrary is proved, as food sold, offered for sale, or displayed for sale, for human consumption.
- (5) Despite subsections (1), (2) and (3), this Act does not extend to the following: 20
- (a) exchanging food for food or other goods or services as part of a personal relationship between individuals that is not commercial in nature;
- (b) giving food, an object, or a thing to another individual as part of a personal relationship between individuals that is not commercial in nature; 25
- (c) providing food together with accommodation to an individual residing at another individual's private residence in exchange for services or labour by the firstmentioned individual. 30

### Meaning of “handling” food

9. In this Act, “handling”, in relation to food, includes any one or more of the following activities:

- (a) preparing or manufacturing the food;
- 5 (b) processing the food;
- (c) storing, packing or labelling the food;
- (d) transporting or delivering the food;
- (e) displaying the food;
- (f) dishing up or plating the food;
- 10 (g) serving the food;
- (h) supervising the performance of any activity in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) by another individual;
- 15 (i) any other activity that is prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, for the purposes of this section.

### Meanings of “manufacturing” and “preparing” food

10.—(1) In this Act, “manufacture”, in relation to food, includes any one or more of the following:

- (a) making food by combining ingredients;
- 20 (b) significantly changing the condition or nature of food by any process;

#### *Illustrations*

- Preserving or pickling vegetables.
- Milling flour.
- 25 Peeling, cutting or freezing fruits.
- Extracting oil from seeds.
- Baking.
- Extracting protein from cells.

- (c) bottling or canning food, including bottling water;

- (d) packing unpackaged food, other than unprocessed primary produce;
- (e) making ice;
- (f) sterilising, fermenting, pasteurising or freeze-drying food;
- (g) dismembering, filleting, peeling or shucking seafood; 5
- (h) boiling crustacea;
- (i) dairy processing;
- (j) meat processing or other processing of food.

(2) However, “manufacture”, in relation to food, does not include any of the following: 10

- (a) preparing food at a particular place for retail sale at the place, including sale for immediate consumption;

*Illustrations*

Cooking food at a restaurant for sale to a diner in the restaurant.

Assembling and packing sandwiches in a package at a fast-food outlet for retail sale at the outlet. 15

- (b) preparing food in the course of a food business that is or consists of a catering service;
- (c) making ice at a particular place for use at the place;
- (d) changing the condition of food merely by changing its temperature. 20

*Illustration*

The retail sale by a convenience store of a chilled or frozen meal that is pre-prepared by an entity other than the convenience store proprietor, after the meal is heated by the convenience store proprietor or the consumer, on the premises of the convenience store, according to the instructions of the entity. 25

(3) In this Act, “prepare”, in relation to food, means —

- (a) to undertake any activity mentioned in subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c); or 30

- (b) to cut, chop, mince, grate, cook, thaw, heat, dry or wash food, or engage in any conduct mentioned in subsection (1), at a particular place in order to prepare it for sale or supply by retail at the place.

5

*Illustrations*

Cutting, or crushing of fruit or vegetables for juice, at a place for sale for immediate consumption or to takeaway.

Mixing or brewing of tea or coffee on the order of a customer for immediate consumption or to takeaway.

10

Cooking carried out in premises for sale, and served, on the order of a customer, predominantly for immediate consumption.

(4) In this section —

“dairy processing” includes —

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- (a) the storage of milk on the premises at which the animals were milked for further processing;
- (b) the manufacture of dairy products; and
- (c) the pasteurisation or homogenisation of milk;

“dairy product” includes —

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- (a) milk;
- (b) colostrum;
- (c) a liquid milk product;
- (d) cream and thickened cream;
- (e) butter, butter concentrate, buttermilk, concentrated buttermilk, dairy blend, ghee and anhydrous milk fat (butter oil);
- (f) casein, caseinate and cheese;
- (g) whey, whey cream and concentrated whey cream;
- (h) cultured milk and yoghurt;
- (i) ice-cream and ice-cream mix; and

25

- (j) buttermilk powder, lactose powder, milk sugar, powdered milk, skim milk powder, whey powder, milk protein powder and other milk concentrates.

### Meaning of “unsafe” food

11.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, food is unsafe at a particular time if it would be likely to cause physical harm to an individual who might later consume it, assuming — 5

- (a) it was, after that particular time and before being consumed by the individual, properly subjected to all processes (if any) that are relevant to its reasonable intended use; 10
- (b) nothing happened to it after that particular time and before being consumed by the individual that would prevent it being used for its reasonable intended use; and
- (c) it was consumed by the individual according to its reasonable intended use. 15

(2) However, food is not unsafe for the purposes of this Act merely because —

- (a) any individual objects to it because of personal preference;
- (b) any part of the community objects to it on moral, ethical, cultural, spiritual or religious grounds; 20
- (c) its consumption in inappropriate quantities may damage an individual’s health; or
- (d) its presence or consumption is unhealthy for any individual who has an allergy or other personal health condition.

(3) In subsection (1), the reference to processes includes a reference to processes involving storage. 25

### Meaning of “unsuitable” food

12.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, food is unsuitable if it is food that —

- (a) is damaged, deteriorated or perished to an extent that affects its reasonable intended use; 30

- (b) contains, or has attached to it or enclosed with it —
- (i) any damaged, deteriorated, perished or contaminated substance or thing, to an extent that affects its reasonable intended use; or
  - 5 (ii) any thing which is inedible, or is otherwise alien to the particular food;
- (c) is the product of a diseased animal, or an animal that —
- (i) has died otherwise than by slaughter; and
  - 10 (ii) has not been declared by or under this Act or another Act to be safe for human consumption;
- (d) has packaging that is damaged, deteriorated, perished, or contaminated to the extent of affecting the food's reasonable intended use;
- (e) is outdated food, or consists of or has as an ingredient that is outdated food;
- 15 (f) contains a food production substance which is not an approved food production substance for that food;
- (g) contains an approved food production substance at a greater level than permitted under the standards where a maximum level is so prescribed in any standard for that food production substance; or
- 20 (h) contains —
- (i) a proscribed contaminant or any residue of a proscribed contaminant; or
  - 25 (ii) a restricted contaminant at a greater level than permitted under the standards where a maximum level is so prescribed in any standard for that restricted contaminant.

(2) However, food is not unsuitable for the purposes of this Act merely because —

30

- (a) at any particular time before it is sold for human consumption it contains an agricultural chemical or a veterinary drug;
  - (b) any individual objects to it because of personal preference;
  - (c) any part of the community objects to it on moral, ethical, cultural, spiritual or religious grounds; 5
  - (d) its consumption in inappropriate quantities may damage an individual's health; or
  - (e) its presence or consumption is unhealthy for any individual who has an allergy or other personal health condition. 10
- (3) In this section —
- “approved food production substance” means a food production substance which is prescribed in any standard as approved for food generally or for a particular food;
- “contaminant”, for any particular food, means a substance not intentionally added to the food but is present in the food as a result of — 15
- (a) the manufacture or preparation of the food, or its production if the food is primary produce;
  - (b) the transport or storing of the food; or 20
  - (c) environmental contamination,
- but excludes any food production substance for that food and any whole or part of an insect, rodent hair and other like matter;
- “food production substance”, for food, means any substance which — 25
- (a) is intentionally added to food during the manufacture or preparation of the food, or its production if the food is primary produce; and
  - (b) is one of the following: 30
    - (i) a food additive;
    - (ii) a plant pesticide;

(iii) a veterinary drug,

and includes the residue of such a plant pesticide or veterinary drug;

“outdated”, in relation to any food in or from a package, means food that is unused or not consumed —

(a) within the period recommended by the manufacturer of the food; or

(b) before the end of the period that is required by any regulations made under Part 15 to be specified on the package of that food under a prescribed date marking requirement;

“proscribed contaminant”, for any particular food, means a contaminant that is prohibited under any standard with respect to the particular food;

“restricted contaminant”, for any particular food, means a contaminant that is allowed to be present in the particular food at no greater a level prescribed in any standard for that food;

“veterinary drug” means a substance that is represented as being suitable for, or that is manufactured, supplied or used for, administration or application to an animal by any means, or consumption by an animal, as a way of directly or indirectly —

(a) preventing, diagnosing, curing or alleviating a disease or condition in the animal or an infestation of the animal by a pest;

(b) curing or alleviating an injury suffered by the animal;

(c) modifying the physiology of the animal —

(i) so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or

(ii) so as to make it more manageable; or

(d) modifying the effect of another veterinary drug.



## Meaning of “defined food”

13.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, food is defined food if the food —

- (a) is, consists of or has as an ingredient a novel food in respect of which no pre-market approval is granted; 5
- (b) is, consists of or has as an ingredient a genetically modified food in respect of which no pre-market approval is granted; or
- (c) is, consists of or has as an ingredient, in any form (whether whole or in parts and whether fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, smoked, salted or in brine, or as flour) an edible insect-like species which is not a catalogued insect-like species. 10

(2) The Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, declare an edible insect-like species as a catalogued insect-like species where the Agency is satisfied that the insect-like species, where made available for consumption by the general public, is not food of higher regulatory concern. 15

(3) In this section —

“engineered nanomaterial” means any intentionally produced material that has one or more dimensions of the order of 100 nm or less or that is composed of discrete functional parts, either internally or at the surface, many of which have one or more dimensions of the order of 100 nm or less, including structures, agglomerates or aggregates, which may have a size above the order of 100 nm but retain properties that are characteristic of the nanoscale; 20 25

“genetically modified food” means a food coming from an organism that has been altered using any of the following techniques, such that the resulting organism contains a combination of heritable genetic material that could not have occurred naturally or could not have been produced by traditional breeding and selection: 30

(a) in vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant nucleic acids and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles;

(b) fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family,

5 and excludes any novel food and any food that is, consists of or has as an ingredient an insect-like species which has not been so altered;

*Example*

10 Any animal, plant or micro-organism which is modified by genetic engineering.

“novel food” means —

(a) a substance (which may consist of, be isolated from or produced from, cell culture or tissue culture derived from animals, plants, bacteria or yeast, fungi, algae or other micro-organism) that has not been used to a significant degree as food for a period of at least 20 years, whether within or outside Singapore;

(b) a food that has been manufactured, prepared or preserved by a process that has not been previously used in food production for a period of at least 20 years, whether within or outside Singapore;

(c) a food consisting of, isolated from or produced from material of mineral origin that has not been previously used in food production for a period of at least 20 years, whether within or outside Singapore; or

(d) a food that contains or consists of engineered nanomaterials,

30 but does not include any food that is, consists of or has as an ingredient an insect-like species in any form.

## Meanings of “primary produce” and “unsafe primary produce”

14.—(1) “Primary produce” means —

- (a) food produced by any primary production activity;
- (b) an animal, plant or other organism intended for human consumption as food; 5
- (c) raw material taken from an animal, a plant or any other organism intended for food; or
- (d) a substance other than food —
  - (i) that is labelled as not intended for human consumption or for consumption by animals; 10
  - (ii) that the Minister is satisfied —
    - (A) is likely to be consumed by humans or animals; and
    - (B) if consumed by humans or animals — poses a hazard to the humans or animals; and 15
  - (iii) that is prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, to be primary produce for the purpose of this definition.

(2) However, primary produce does not include a raw material mentioned in subsection (1)(c) unless the raw material is in substantially the same condition as when it was taken from the animal, plant or other organism. 20

### *Example*

A whole apple is an example of a raw material in substantially the same condition as when it was taken from a plant. 25

(3) In this Act, “unsafe”, for primary produce, means —

- (a) if the primary produce is ready for immediate human consumption as food — the primary produce, or food produced by a process involving a substantial change to the primary produce, is likely to cause harm to an individual who consumes the primary produce or food if it is 30

prepared, stored or consumed according to its reasonable intended use; or

- (b) if the primary produce is not ready for immediate human consumption as food — food produced by the production of the primary produce, or another process involving a substantial change to the primary produce, is likely to cause harm to an individual who consumes the food if it is prepared, stored or consumed according to its reasonable intended use.

(4) For the purposes of this section and section 15, the nature of primary produce is substantially changed if —

- (a) any thing done to the primary produce markedly increases its shelf life; or  
 (b) any food is added to it.

### **Meaning of “primary production activity”**

**15.—(1)** In this Act, “primary production activity” means the production of primary produce and includes the following:

- (a) the growing, raising, cultivating, picking, harvesting, collecting or catching of animals, plants or other organisms intended for human consumption as food;

#### *Examples*

Engaging in agriculture, animal husbandry, aquaculture, orcharding, apiculture, or farming or harvesting of edible molluscs or catalogued insect-like species.

- (b) the sorting or grading of primary produce on the premises on which it was grown, raised, cultivated, picked, harvested, collected or caught, or on premises that are associated with those premises;

- (c) the treating, freezing, packing, refrigeration, storage or washing of primary produce on the premises on which it was grown, raised, cultivated, picked, harvested, collected or caught, or on premises that are associated with those premises;

- (d) the management and breeding of live animals for the production of primary produce;
- (e) the transporting or delivery of primary produce within premises on which it was grown, raised, cultivated, picked, harvested, collected or caught; 5
- (f) any other activity that is prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, for the purposes of this definition,

but excludes the slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products, meat processing, production of animal feed and pet food production. 10

(2) However, primary production activity does not include —

- (a) any process involving significantly changing the condition or nature of food (for example, manufacturing or canning), regardless of whether the process is carried out in the premises on which the food was grown, raised, cultivated, picked, harvested, collected or caught; 15
- (b) the sale or service of food directly to the general public; or
- (c) any other food production activity that is prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, for the purposes of this subsection. 20

(3) In subsection (1)(c), treating of primary produce means —

- (a) enhancing the appearance of the primary produce (such as by washing, waxing or oiling it) without substantially changing its nature; or
- (b) dealing with the primary produce solely — 25
  - (i) to eliminate or control pathogenic organisms, toxins and contaminants in the primary produce; or
  - (ii) to ripen it.

## Meanings of “animal feed” and associated terms

16.—(1) In this Act, “animal feed” means —

(a) a live animal; or

(b) a material or a mix of materials (whether processed,  
5 semi-processed or raw),

which is intended to be fed directly to any food producing animal, and includes any feed additive.

(2) To avoid doubt, “animal feed” excludes pet food.

(3) For the purposes of this Act, an animal feed is not fit for purpose  
10 if it —

(a) spreads organisms or pathogenic agents to a level or in a manner that could be harmful to humans;

(b) contains a proscribed substance for the animal feed or any residue of the proscribed substance;

(c) results in food production substances or restricted  
15 contaminants in food at a greater level than permitted under any standard, where a maximum level is so prescribed in the standard for that food production substance or restricted contaminant;

(d) is toxic to an extent that causes unnecessary pain or distress  
20 to animals that consume it; or

(e) transmits disease, results in physical harm, or causes unnecessary pain and distress to animals that consume it.

(4) In this section —

25 “basic animal feed” means grain, seeds, hay, meat, fish or milk used as animal feed, or in the preparation of animal feed;

“feed additive” means a substance or combination of substances that —

(a) is not normally consumed as animal feed by itself;

(b) is intentionally added as an ingredient to basic animal  
30 feed; and

(c) affects the characteristics of the animal feed or animal products,

whether or not the substance or combination of substances has any nutritional value or other effect on the animal;

*Examples*

5

Micro-organisms, enzymes, pH regulators, trace elements and vitamins.

“pet food” means a material or a mix of materials (whether processed, semi-processed or raw) which is produced for consumption by pets.

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**Meaning of “associate”**

17.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, a person (*A*) is an associate of another person (*B*) if —

- (a) *A* is *B*’s spouse;
- (b) *A* is a relative of *B* or *B*’s spouse;
- (c) *A* is the spouse of a relative of *B*, or *B*’s spouse;
- (d) *A* is a partner of *B* with whom *A* is in a partnership;
- (e) *A* is a spouse or relative of any individual with whom *B* is in a partnership;
- (f) *A* is an employer of *B* or an employee of *B*, and for this purpose, any director or other officer of a company is treated as employed by that company; or
- (g) *A* has a relationship with *B* in a manner prescribed under subsection (3).

15

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(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person is a relative of an individual if the person is that individual’s brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal ancestor or lineal descendant, treating —

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- (a) any relationship of the half blood as a relationship of the whole blood, and the stepchild or adopted child of any person as that person’s child; and

30

(b) an illegitimate child as the legitimate child of the child's mother and reputed father.

(3) The Minister may make rules in the *Gazette* providing that any person or class of persons is an associate of another person for the purposes of subsection (1)(g).

## PART 2

### STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE OF FOOD SUPPLIES IN SINGAPORE

#### *Division 1 — Interpretive provisions*

#### **Definitions for Part 2**

**18.—(1)** In this Part —

“agri-food supply chain” means a supply chain for providing individuals with items of food for personal consumption (each called in this Act an ultimate consumer) where the items of food consist of or include, or have been produced using (directly or indirectly, and whether or not exclusively), the whole or part of —

- (a) any food;
- (b) any primary produce;
- (c) any creature or other thing taken from the wild; or
- (d) any agri-food production input;

“agri-food supply chain participant” means any of the following:

- (a) any ultimate consumer in Singapore;
- (b) any person engaged in primary production activities in Singapore;
- (c) any person engaged in taking any animal, plant or other thing from the wild in Singapore for the purposes of consumption by humans or food producing animals;



(d) any person in Singapore in the agri-food supply chain between persons mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c) and the ultimate consumers, such as (but not limited to) a person undertaking any of the following activities in Singapore: 5

(i) producing, manufacturing, preparing or processing any food or agri-food production input;

(ii) selling, distributing, transporting, supplying or storing any food or agri-food production input; 10

(iii) making any food or agri-food production input available in Singapore, or providing the food or agri-food production input to another person in Singapore;

“average MSR” has the meaning given by section 20(b); 15

“daily MSR” has the meaning given by section 20(a);

“food security factors” means all of the following:

(a) global food availability;

(b) supply sources for food, including the range of supply sources and the availability to the ultimate consumers of food from local and other sources; 20

(c) the resilience of the agri-food supply chain in response to natural or man-made disasters, climate change, severe disturbances in agricultural markets and other disruptions in the supply of food; 25

(d) food safety and consumer confidence in food;

“MSR” or “minimum stockholding requirement” means a requirement described in section 20;

“MSR activity”, in relation to an MSR product, means undertaking in the course of business any activity involving the MSR product, being an activity that is prescribed by the Part 2 Rules for the purposes of this definition in relation to that MSR product; 30

“MSR product” means —

(a) any food that is prescribed by the Minister in the Part 2 Rules, to be an MSR product; or

5 (b) any agri-food production input that is prescribed by the Minister in the Part 2 Rules, to be an MSR product;

“MSR product shortfall” has the meaning given by section 30(4) or 31(4);

10 “relevant period” means a period (being at least a month) that is prescribed by, or to be determined in accordance with, the Part 2 Rules;

“Singapore public sector agency” has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018;

15 “subject to a minimum stockholding requirement” has the meaning given by section 22;

“trigger notice” means a written notice given under section 23, and includes a trigger notice given by the Minister under section 226(3)(c) on appeal against an original trigger notice given under section 23.

20 (2) In this Part, stocks of any food or agri-food production input are stored in Singapore if the stocks are stored —

(a) on land in Singapore;

(b) on a vessel that —

25 (i) is in a port in Singapore; or

(ii) is moored in Singapore territorial waters waiting to enter a port in Singapore; or

(c) in other circumstances prescribed by the Part 2 Rules for the purposes of this subsection.

30 (3) A reference in section 23, 24, 27 or 32 to the Director-General, Food Security includes a reference to a food security officer duly appointed by the Director-General, Food Security to act for him or her.

## When entity holds stocks of MSR product

19.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, an entity holds stocks of an MSR product if —

- (a) the entity is the holder of the stocks under subsection (2) or (3); and 5
- (b) the stocks are none of the following:
  - (i) any stock which is being kept for the exclusive use of the Singapore Armed Forces or any visiting forces;
  - (ii) any stock which is kept wholly or principally for personal or domestic consumption; 10
  - (iii) any stock being stored in the food premises of a retail food business;
  - (iv) any stock which is being stored in a seagoing vessel for the consumption of crew or passengers or both;
  - (v) any stock which is unsuitable food, unsafe food or a defined food. 15

(2) An entity is the holder of stocks of an MSR product under this subsection if —

- (a) the entity owns the stocks;
- (b) the stocks are being stored in Singapore by the entity or by another entity on behalf of the firstmentioned entity; and 20
- (c) no other entity is the holder of the stocks by virtue of this subsection.

(3) However, if more than one entity would be the holder of the same stock of MSR product under subsection (2), then — 25

- (a) which of those entities is the holder of the stock; and
- (b) the share of the stock each entity is the holder of,

must be as agreed between the entities but, in the absence of any such agreement, must be determined by the Director-General, Food Security in accordance with the method prescribed by the Part 2 Rules. 30

*Division 2 — Minimum stockholding requirement or MSR*

**What is minimum stockholding requirement or MSR**

**20.** An entity that is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product must —

- 5           (a) hold each day, at least the quantity of stocks of the MSR product designated for the entity for the day (called the daily MSR); and
- (b) hold, for each relevant period, at least the average quantity of stocks of the MSR product designated for the entity for
- 10           the relevant period (called the average MSR).

**Quantity of MSR product to be held**

**21.—**(1) For the purposes of section 20(a), the daily MSR for an MSR product designated for an entity on a day, is the quantity specified in the trigger notice that —

- 15           (a) is in force for that day; and
- (b) was given to the entity in relation to that MSR product.

(2) For the purposes of section 20(b), the average MSR for an MSR product designated for an entity for a relevant period applicable to an entity, is the quantity that —

- 20           (a) is worked out in accordance with section 23(3) for the relevant period and the entity; and
- (b) is specified in the trigger notice that —
  - (i) is in force for the whole of that relevant period; and
  - (ii) was given to the entity in relation to that MSR
  - 25           product.

**Entity subject to MSR**

**22.—**(1) An entity is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product if —

- 30           (a) the minimum stockholding requirement has been triggered for the entity in relation to the MSR product because of section 23; and

(b) the entity has not ceased to be subject to the minimum stockholding requirement in relation to the MSR product because of section 24.

(2) An entity is also subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product if — 5

(a) a determination is made under section 27 that —

(i) the entity has assumed another entity's minimum stockholding requirement in relation to the MSR product; or

(ii) another entity's minimum stockholding requirement in relation to the MSR product has been divided with the entity; and 10

(b) the entity has not ceased to be subject to the minimum stockholding requirement in relation to the MSR product because of section 24. 15

### **Triggering MSR**

**23.**—(1) The Director-General, Food Security may, by written notice (called a trigger notice) given to an entity, trigger the minimum stockholding requirement for the entity in relation to an MSR product if — 20

(a) the entity is an agri-food supply chain participant but not an ultimate consumer; and

(b) in a period prescribed by the Part 2 Rules —

(i) the entity undertakes any MSR activity in relation to the MSR product; and 25

(ii) in doing so, the entity exceeds the quantity prescribed by the Part 2 Rules for undertaking the MSR activity in relation to that MSR product.

(2) The trigger notice must specify —

(a) the days for which the notice is in force and the quantity of stocks of the MSR product the entity must hold on those days; 30

(b) the relevant periods for which the trigger notice is in force, and the average quantity of stocks of the MSR product the entity must hold for each of those relevant periods; and

(c) the place or places in Singapore where those stocks must be held.

(3) The average quantity of an MSR product in relation to a relevant period applicable to an entity must be worked out by dividing —

(a) the total minimum quantity of stocks of the MSR product which the Director-General, Food Security determines the entity must hold during the relevant period; by

(b) the number of days constituting that relevant period.

(4) Trigger notices may specify different quantities or average quantities of stocks —

(a) in respect of different MSR products or different entities; or

(b) on the basis of different MSR activities undertaken in relation to the same MSR product.

(5) The Director-General, Food Security must determine the quantity or average quantity of stocks of an MSR product in accordance with section 25.

(6) A trigger notice given under this section is in force for the days or relevant periods which occur within the period —

(a) starting the date specified in the trigger notice as the day the trigger notice comes into force which must be a date after the end of the minimum interval applicable; and

(b) ending the day before —

(i) the trigger notice is cancelled under section 24; or

(ii) another trigger notice given under this section to the same entity in relation to the same MSR product comes into force,

whichever first happens.

(7) Subsection (6) is subject to section 26(2).

(8) In giving a trigger notice under this section, it is not necessary for the Director-General, Food Security to give any person who may be affected by the trigger notice a chance to be heard before the trigger notice is given.

(9) The quantity or average quantity (as the case may be) of stocks of MSR product may be specified in a trigger notice in any of the following terms: 5

(a) a fixed quantity;

(b) a rate or formula by which a quantity is to be calculated.

(10) The minimum interval in subsection (6)(a), for any trigger notice, is the following period after the day the trigger notice is given: 10

(a) 6 months;

(b) another period specified in the Part 2 Rules in substitution of the period in paragraph (a), for a trigger notice or class of trigger notices given on or after the other period as so specified in those Rules. 15

### **Ceasing to be subject to MSR**

**24.—**(1) An entity ceases to be subject to the minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product if the Director-General, Food Security cancels the trigger notice given to the entity. 20

(2) The Director-General, Food Security must, upon being satisfied that the entity has permanently or indefinitely stopped undertaking all MSR activities in relation to that MSR product, cancel the trigger notice given to the entity. 25

(3) An entity ceases to be subject to the minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product if a determination is made under section 27 that another entity has assumed the entity's minimum stockholding requirement in relation to that product.

### **Decision-making criteria for triggering MSR, etc.**

**25.**—(1) The Director-General, Food Security must have regard to, and give such weight as the Director-General, Food Security considers appropriate to, all of the matters in subsection (2) —

- 5           (a) in deciding whether or not to give a trigger notice under section 23;
- (b) in determining under section 23(3) the total minimum quantity of stocks of an MSR product that an entity must hold during a relevant period; or
- 10           (c) in determining under section 23(5) the quantity or average quantity of stocks of an MSR product to be specified in a trigger notice.

(2) The matters for the purposes mentioned in subsection (1) are as follows:

- 15           (a) the food security factors;
- (b) the need to enhance resilience of the agri-food supply chain for Singapore;
- (c) the local eating patterns and preferences;
- (d) the local food production capacity.

### **20 Temporary suspension of MSR by Minister**

**26.**—(1) The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, suspend section 20(a) or (b) in relation to a specified MSR product for a period (not exceeding 6 months) specified in the order (called a suspension period) if the Minister is satisfied that —

- 25           (a) a disruptive event which directly affects the supply of the MSR product in Singapore is occurring or has occurred, or there is a threat of such a disruptive event; and
- (b) a suspension under this section is necessary to substantially prevent, or substantially assist in mitigating, the impact of the disruptive event or the threatened disruptive event, on
- 30           the supply of the MSR product in Singapore.



(2) During the period an order made under subsection (1) has effect, entities are not required to comply with section 20(a) or (b) in relation to the specified MSR product.

(3) An order made under subsection (1) has effect for the suspension period specified in it or until the day it is earlier revoked under subsection (4). 5

(4) An order made under subsection (1) may be revoked at any time by the Minister before the expiry of the suspension period specified in that order.

(5) However, the cessation of an order made under subsection (1) having effect (whether by revocation or expiry of a suspension period) does not prevent a further order being made under subsection (1) by the Minister if the Minister is satisfied that the circumstances warrant it under subsection (1). 10

### **Determination of assumption or division of MSR** 15

**27.—**(1) The Director-General, Food Security may make a determination that he or she is satisfied that an entity's (called the divesting entity's) minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product is being assumed by, or divided with, another entity or entities (called the receiving entity or entities). 20

(2) The Director-General, Food Security may make the determination on the application of a divesting entity or receiving entity or on the Director-General, Food Security's own initiative.

(3) The determination must specify the effect the determination is to have on trigger notices in force under section 23, including whether a trigger notice is taken to have been given to one or more receiving entities by the determination or that a trigger notice is taken to specify a different quantity or average quantity. 25

### **Reporting capacity to hold, etc.**

**28.—**(1) If an entity is subject to the minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product, and the entity intends — 30

- (a) to undertake another MSR activity in relation to the same MSR product;

(b) to permanently or indefinitely cease undertaking an MSR activity in relation to the same MSR product; or

(c) to cease undertaking an MSR activity in relation to the same MSR product in circumstances in which paragraph (b) does not apply,

the entity must give the Director-General, Food Security a written advice in advance in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) The written advice must —

(a) set out details of the situation to which the advice relates;

(b) set out any matters that might affect the entity's capacity to meet any minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product;

(c) be in accordance with any other requirements prescribed by the Part 2 Rules; and

(d) be given to the Director-General, Food Security within the period (if any) prescribed by the Part 2 Rules for the situation.

(3) An entity that intentionally or negligently contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

### **Average MSR default — civil penalty**

**29.—(1)** If —

(a) an entity is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product; and

(b) the entity contravenes section 20(b) by not holding, for a relevant period for which a trigger notice given to the entity is in force, at least the average MSR of stocks of the MSR product designated for the entity for that relevant period,

the entity shall be liable to pay an MSR charge of an amount that is in subsection (3).

(2) The MSR charge payable under subsection (1) must be paid to the Director-General, Food Security not later than the 14th day after a written demand to pay that MSR charge is given by the Director-General, Food Security to the entity in question.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), the MSR charge, for each relevant period which is the subject of the written demand given under subsection (2), is as follows: 5

$$(M_a \times K_a),$$

where —

(a)  $M_a$  is the rate prescribed by the Part 2 Rules for the MSR product concerned and in force on the last day of the relevant period; and 10

(b)  $K_a$  is the MSR product average shortfall for the relevant period, calculated in accordance with subsection (4).

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), “MSR product average shortfall”, for an entity that is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product for a relevant period, means the quantity calculated by subtracting — 15

(a) the average quantity of the stocks of the MSR product actually held by the entity during that relevant period where lower than the quantity in paragraph (b); from 20

(b) the average quantity of the stocks of the MSR product specified in a trigger notice which the entity is required to hold during that relevant period.

(5) Where an entity subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product becomes liable under subsection (1) to pay an MSR charge for a relevant period, the entity’s liability continues despite the entity ceasing to be subject to that minimum stockholding requirement. 25

(6) Any liability under this section is in addition to and does not affect any liability under section 30. 30

(7) This section is subject to a remission under section 39.

**Daily MSR default — civil penalty**

30.—(1) If —

(a) an entity is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product; and

5 (b) the entity contravenes section 20(a) by not holding at least the daily MSR of stocks of the MSR product designated for the entity for any day for which a trigger notice given to the entity is in force,

10 the entity shall be liable to pay an MSR charge of an amount that is calculated in relation to that day using the formula in subsection (3).

(2) The MSR charge payable under subsection (1) must be paid to the Director-General, Food Security not later than the 14th day after a written demand to pay that MSR charge is given by the Director-General, Food Security to the entity in question.

15 (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), the formula, for each day which is the subject of the written demand given under subsection (2), is as follows:

$$(M \times K),$$

where —

20 (a) M is the rate prescribed by the Part 2 Rules for the MSR product concerned and in force on the day; and

(b) K is the MSR product shortfall for that day, calculated in accordance with subsection (4).

25 (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), “MSR product shortfall”, for an entity that is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product on a day, means the quantity calculated by subtracting —

30 (a) the quantity of the stocks of the MSR product actually held by the entity on that day where lower than the quantity in paragraph (b); from

- (b) the quantity of the stocks of the MSR product specified in a trigger notice which the entity is required to hold on that day.

(5) Where an entity subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product becomes liable under subsection (1) to pay an MSR charge for any day or days, the entity's liability continues despite the entity ceasing to be subject to that minimum stockholding requirement.

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(6) Any liability under this section is in addition to and does not affect any liability under section 29.

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(7) This section is subject to a remission under section 39.

### **Daily MSR default — offence**

**31.—**(1) An entity commits an offence if —

- (a) the entity is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in section 20(a) in relation to an MSR product on any day for which a trigger notice given to the entity is in force; and
- (b) the entity intentionally or recklessly holds less than the daily MSR of stocks of the MSR product designated for the entity for any day for which a trigger notice given to the entity is in force.

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20

(2) An entity that is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one of the following amounts, whichever being the higher:

- (a) \$25,000;
- (b) an amount that is calculated in relation to that day using the formula in subsection (3).

25

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b), the formula for the day which is the subject of the charge, is as follows:

$$(N \times K),$$

where —

5 (a) N is the rate prescribed by the Part 2 Rules for the MSR product concerned and in force on the day; and

(b) K is the MSR product shortfall for that day, calculated in accordance with subsection (4).

10 (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), “MSR product shortfall”, for an entity that is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product on a day, means the quantity calculated by subtracting —

15 (a) the quantity of the stocks of the MSR product actually held by the entity on that day where lower than the quantity in paragraph (b); from

(b) the quantity of the stocks of the MSR product specified in a trigger notice which the entity is required to hold on that day.

### *Division 3 — Information about agri-food supply chain*

#### 20 **Requirement to provide information**

**32.—**(1) Subject to sections 33 and 34, the Director-General, Food Security may require a person —

(a) who —

25 (i) is an agri-food supply chain participant; or

(ii) is closely connected with an agri-food supply chain;  
and

(b) who falls within any class of persons prescribed in the Part 2 Rules for the purposes of this section,

30 to provide information to the Director-General, Food Security, within a reasonable period specified in that requirement.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a person is “closely connected” with an agri-food supply chain if the person is any of the following:

(a) anybody providing, to any person mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(i), goods or services related to — 5

(i) the health of food producing animals, or plants, involved in the agri-food supply chain; or

(ii) the safety or quality of any food to be provided to the ultimate consumers;

(b) any person carrying on activities capable of affecting a matter mentioned in paragraph (a)(i) or (ii); 10

(c) any body representing persons mentioned in subsection (1) or paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(3) To avoid doubt, it does not matter whether the person required under subsection (1) is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product. 15

(4) However, subsection (1) does not apply in relation to individuals in an agri-food supply chain so far as they are in the agri-food supply chain by reason of them, or members of their households, being the ultimate consumers. 20

(5) In giving a requirement under this section, it is not necessary for the Director-General, Food Security to give any person who may be affected by the requirement a chance to be heard before the requirement is given.

(6) A requirement under this section is binding on the person to whom it is addressed and given, and that person is bound to state truly what the person is required. 25

### **Subject information of section 32 requirement**

**33.—**(1) The power in section 32 may be exercised only in relation to any information — 30

(a) about matters relating to a person’s activities connected with the agri-food supply chain so far as the activities are in or relate to Singapore;

(b) which the Director-General, Food Security considers necessary for all or any of the following purposes:

(i) to determine what is an MSR product and the MSR activity for an MSR product, and holdings of an MSR product;

(ii) to determine whether there are grounds to exercise any power under section 23, 24, 25, 26 or 27, or under any other provision of this Act directed at mitigating the impact on Singapore of agri-food supply chain disruptions or the impact of disruptive events on the supply of food or agri-food production inputs in Singapore;

(iii) to monitor or analyse markets connected with agri-food supply chains;

(iv) to monitor the resilience of the agri-food supply chain in response to natural or man-made disasters, climate change, severe disturbances in agricultural markets and other disruptions in the supply of food and agri-food production inputs; and

(c) that is —

(i) within the knowledge of the person to whom a requirement under section 32 is given; or

(ii) in the custody or under the control of that person.

(2) However, nothing in this section requires a person to provide any information subject to legal privilege.

### **Other content of section 32 requirement**

**34.** A requirement under section 32 must specify —

(a) the purpose or purposes for which the required information is required;

(b) how and when the required information is to be provided, including (in particular) —

(i) the form in which it is to be provided;



- (ii) the means by which it is to be provided; and
  - (iii) the time or times at which, or by when, it is to be provided; and
- (c) that it is an offence under this Act to fail to comply with the requirement.

5

**Limits to disclosure of information provided due to section 32 requirement**

**35.—**(1) Subsection (2) applies to —

- (a) the Director-General, Food Security to whom any information is provided because of a requirement under section 32; and
- (b) a Singapore public sector agency or other person to whom the information is disclosed by or under the authority of the Director-General, Food Security under this section.

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(2) Information provided because of a requirement under section 32 must not be disclosed to a person who is not a Singapore public sector agency —

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- (a) except as required by an order of court, or for the purposes of any criminal proceedings for an offence under this Part or any Part 2 Rules; or
- (b) except in an anonymised form, for any other purposes.

20

(3) If —

- (a) a person discloses, or the person's conduct causes disclosure of, information provided because of a requirement under section 32;
- (b) the disclosure is not authorised by this section; and
- (c) the person does so —
  - (i) knowing that the disclosure is not authorised by this section; or

25

(ii) reckless as to whether the disclosure is or is not authorised by this section,

the person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

(4) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (3), it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, any of the following:

(a) the information was, at the time of its disclosure by the person charged, information that consists of readily observable matter, including information that consists of deductions, conclusions or inferences made or drawn from readily observable matter;

(b) the person charged disclosed or caused the disclosure of information as authorised or required by an order of court.

(5) In subsection (2), “anonymised form”, for any information or particulars, means any form that will not identify, and is not reasonably capable of being used to identify, any person to whom the information or particulars relate.

(6) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the authorisation to share any information under the control of a Singapore public sector agency with another Singapore public sector agency to the extent permitted by any data sharing direction given under the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018.

## **Compliance and non-compliance with section 32**

**36.—(1)** Where —

(a) any information which is required by a section 32 requirement to be given to the Director-General, Food Security is not given or is not given within the time delimited in the requirement; or

(b) information which is required by a section 32 requirement to be given to the Director-General, Food Security is given to the Director-General, Food Security, but the information does not comply with the requirements of section 34(b) as regards the form of the information,

5

then the person required to give the information shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

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(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply if the person required to give the information has a reasonable excuse.

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(4) The ordinary meaning of “reasonable excuse” is affected by section 258.

*Division 4 — General provisions*

**Interest in case of civil penalty default**

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37. If any MSR charge is not paid before the end of the time delimited by or under section 29(2) or 30(2), the entity concerned is liable to pay to the Director-General, Food Security interest, at the rate prescribed in the Part 2 Rules, on the amount of MSR charge unpaid, calculated on a daily basis from the end of the time so delimited until the day the MSR charge is paid.

25

**Recovery of civil penalty**

38.—(1) Any MSR charge is deemed, when it becomes due and payable at the expiry of the time so delimited by or under section 29(2) or 30(2), to be a debt due to the Government from the person from whom the MSR charge is due and payable, and must

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be collected and received by the Director-General, Food Security in accordance with this Act.

5 (2) Any MSR charge, and all interest imposed under section 37, that is unpaid may be recovered as a debt in any court of competent jurisdiction in the name of the Agency.

(3) Any action or remedy for recovery of any MSR charge and any interest under section 37 may be taken at any time, despite any written law to the contrary.

10 (4) All MSR charges collected or recovered under this Part, and all interest imposed under section 37, must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

### Remission

39.—(1) Where it is shown to the satisfaction of the Minister —

15 (a) that payment of any MSR charge payable is likely to cause substantial hardship to an entity; or

(b) that payment of any MSR charge payable by a particular entity is not compatible with the purposes of this Part having regard to the peculiar facts of the case,

20 the Minister may remit the payment of the MSR charge, either in whole or in part.

(2) This section also applies to any interest imposed under section 37.

### Part 2 Rules

25 40.—(1) The Minister may make rules which are required or permitted to be prescribed by this Part or are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Part.

(2) In particular, the Minister may make rules —

30 (a) prescribing for the purposes of section 23(1)(b), the period and quantity for undertaking an MSR activity in relation to an MSR product;

- (b) providing for procedures that an entity subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product must comply with in order to ensure the safety or efficacy of the MSR product when held, including (in particular) requirements to ensure suitability for consumption as food, requirements as to the manner of storage, and the maximum length of holding of the MSR product before supplying it in Singapore; 5
  - (c) prescribing requirements to ensure that the location where an MSR product is held by an entity subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to the MSR product, is secure from loss, theft, sabotage or unauthorised access; 10
  - (d) prescribing the procedure to be followed in connection with making determinations under section 27;
  - (e) providing that any contravention of any provision of the rules is an offence and that the penalty on conviction may be a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both; and 15
  - (f) providing for any saving, transitional, and other consequential, incidental and supplemental provisions that are necessary or expedient for rules made under this section. 20
- (3) Part 2 Rules may prescribe for the purposes of section 23(1)(b) different periods or different quantities —
- (a) in respect of different MSR products; 25
  - (b) on the basis of different MSR activities undertaken in relation to the same MSR product; or
  - (c) on the basis of 2 or more entities undertaking similar MSR activities in relation to the same MSR product, being —
    - (i) corporations that are related to each other under section 6 of the Companies Act 1967; or 30
    - (ii) entities that are not so related to each other.

## **Saving and transitional provisions for food security**

5 **41.**—(1) The Director-General, Food Security may give a trigger notice to any person who immediately, before the commencement of this Part, holds a licence granted by the Price Controller or a Deputy Price Controller or an Assistant Price Controller under the Price Control Act 1950 —

(a) that authorises the person to import, carry on any wholesale dealing, or export, a controlled article which is food; and

10 (b) that is in force immediately before that commencement.

(2) However, where a trigger notice is given in the circumstances in subsection (1) —

15 (a) the trigger notice starts to be in force on the date specified in the trigger notice as the day the trigger notice comes into force, which need not be at least 6 months after the day the trigger notice is given; and

(b) a person to whom the trigger notice is given has no right of appeal under Part 12.

20 (3) For a period of 2 years after the commencement of this Part, the Minister may, by regulations in the *Gazette*, prescribe such additional provisions of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of this Part as the Minister may consider necessary or expedient.

## **PART 3**

### **IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSHIPMENT**

#### *Division 1 — Application and interpretive provisions*

### **Definitions for Part 3**

**42.**—(1) In this Part —

30 “agri-food production input” excludes the following even if essential in undertaking any primary production activity:

- (a) any animal reproductive material from a food producing animal;
- (b) any young of a food producing animal;
- (c) any seed, spore, bulb, root, cutting or other part of a plant from which plants grow or further plants grow; 5
- (d) any veterinary biologics, or any vaccines, antitoxins or other preparations made from living organisms, which are suitable for use in diagnosing, treating or immunising animals;

“applicable standard” — 10

- (a) in relation to a particular food, at a particular time, means the standard or labelling requirement in force in relation to the food at that time that relates to —
  - (i) the composition or nature of food (including food production substances and contaminants in it, the maximum amounts of food production substances and contaminants, or residues thereof, that may be present in the food, and its microbiological status and safety) and the method of sampling and testing the food to determine its composition or nature; 15 20
  - (ii) food packaging;
  - (iii) the handling of the food, including the method of handling; or
  - (iv) the content of labels for food; 25
- (b) in relation to a particular regulated food contact article, at a particular time, means the standard in force in relation to that regulated food contact article at that time that relates to the construction of that regulated food contact article; 30
- (c) in relation to a particular animal feed, at a particular time, means the standard in force in any animal feed regulations in relation to that animal feed at that time that relates to —

(i) the composition of the animal feed and the method of sampling and testing the animal feed to determine its composition;

(ii) the manufacture or production, storage, keeping or transporting of the animal feed; or

(iii) the content of labels for packages of the animal feed; or

(d) in relation to a particular agri-food production input (except any animal feed or plant pesticide), or a particular matter affecting the agri-food production input, at a particular time, means the standard or labelling requirement in force in relation to that agri-food production input or matter at that time that relates to —

(i) the composition of the agri-food production input and the method of sampling and testing the agri-food production input to determine its composition;

(ii) the manufacture or production, storage, keeping or transporting of the agri-food production input; or

(iii) the content of labels for packages of the agri-food production input;

“application”, for a licence or consignment permit, means —

(a) an application for or to renew the licence; or

(b) an application for the consignment permit;

“consignment”, in relation to any controlled item, means one or more controlled items of a particular kind (according to the Agency’s classification) that is —

(a) in one or more lots; and

(b) is imported by, or exported or transhipped for —

(i) the same owner of those lots;



(ii) at the same time; and

(iii) on a single and the same conveyance;

“controlled item” means an import-controlled item, an export-controlled item or a transshipment-controlled item;

“examinable matter” means a controlled item —

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(a) of a kind that is prescribed under any inspection scheme regulations that if imported, exported or transhipped, must be —

(i) inspected, or inspected and analysed, under this Part; or

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(ii) covered by a recognised foreign government certificate;

(b) of a kind that is the subject of a holding order;

(c) that, despite the fact that it is not of a kind referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), is nevertheless required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under any inspection scheme regulations; or

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(d) that is other than a controlled item of a kind referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) or a controlled item in paragraph (c) and —

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(i) that an authorised officer has reasonable grounds to believe may be failing; and

(ii) in respect of which the authorised officer has notified that belief to an owner of that controlled item;

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“export”, in relation to any object or thing other than an object or a thing in transit in Singapore, means to bring, or cause to be brought, out of Singapore the object or thing by any means to a place outside Singapore, and does not include doing so by reason only of being a courier of the object or thing;

30

“export-controlled item” means any transshipment-controlled item, any rice, or any other food or agri-food production input

that the Minister declares, by order in the *Gazette*, to be an export-controlled item;

“failing”, for a controlled item, means any examinable matter that, as a result of an inspection, or inspection and analysis, under any inspection scheme regulations, is found to be one of the following:

(a) a food that —

(i) does not meet an applicable standard for that food;

(ii) is unsuitable food, unsafe food or a defined food; or

(iii) if imported, is not covered by a recognised foreign government certificate where the inspection scheme regulations identify the food as one that, if imported, must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate;

(b) a regulated food contact article that does not meet an applicable standard for that regulated food contact article;

(c) an animal feed that —

(i) does not meet an applicable standard for that animal feed; or

(ii) is not fit for purpose;

(d) an agri-food production input that does not meet an applicable standard for that agri-food production input;

(e) a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed;

“holding order” means an order made under section 73(1);

“identifying detail”, in relation to any consignment comprising an import-controlled item, export-controlled item or a transshipment-controlled item, means any of the following:

- (a) the maximum mass or weight of the consignment or the controlled item;
- (b) the place outside Singapore from which the consignment or the import-controlled item or transshipment-controlled item originates, or to which the consignment or the export-controlled item or transshipment-controlled item is to be exported; 5
- (c) the composition, method of manufacture or production, grade or quality of the controlled item; 10
- (d) the import-controlled item or transshipment-controlled item having the approval of a specified foreign government of a particular foreign country or a foreign food authority of a specified foreign country as is required by any inspection scheme regulations; 15
- (e) the export-controlled item or transshipment-controlled item having the approval of the Agency, a foreign government or foreign food authority as is required by any inspection scheme regulations; 20

“import”, in relation to any object or thing other than an object or a thing in transit in Singapore, means to bring, or cause to be brought, into Singapore the object or thing by any means from any place outside Singapore, and does not include doing so by reason only of being a courier of the object or thing; 25

“import-controlled item” means any of the following:

- (a) any of the following food:
  - (i) fresh fruits and vegetables;
  - (ii) meat and meat products; 30
  - (iii) fish and fish products;
  - (iv) eggs and egg products;
  - (v) any live animal or any plant that is food;

- (vi) any other food except a food additive as such;
- (b) any prepacked food additive preparation;
- (c) any regulated food contact article;
- (d) any animal feed;
- 5 (e) any agri-food production input that the Minister declares, by order in the *Gazette*, to be an import-controlled item;

“inspection advice” means an advice issued under section 72;

“licence” means a licence that may be granted under this Part;

10 “licensed exporter” means a person who is the holder of a current licence under this Part to export in the course of business any export-controlled item specified in the licence;

“licensed importer” means a person who is the holder of a current licence under this Part to import in the course of  
15 business any import-controlled item specified in the licence;

“lot” means a quantity of an object or a substance or thing that —

(a) is —

(i) uniform in composition and method of manufacture; and

20 (ii) made in one cycle of manufacture or, in the case of a controlled item that is sterilised, pasteurised or freeze-dried, sterilised, pasteurised or freeze-dried, in one cycle; or

(b) is of a particular kind made or packed in a distinct  
25 manner;

“prepacked food additive preparation” means any food additive, or any mix consisting mainly of any food additive, that —

(a) is in a packaging of not more than 2 kilograms each;  
or

30 (b) is imported for retail sale;

“procurement plan”, for any import-controlled item, means a plan —

- (a) identifying the risks (including assessments thereof) to food security in Singapore from any disruption occurring to the import of the import-controlled item from the foreign markets from which they are to be procured, including (but not limited to) financial risks, non-financial trading risks, climatic risks, and risks of or from disease or pollution; and 5
- (b) stating any plan of action (including preventive strategies) for the purpose of managing those risks and — 10
  - (i) ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the applicant can still provide a secure and reliable supply in Singapore of the import-controlled item of acceptable quality; or 15
  - (ii) otherwise preventing or mitigating the impact of disruptive events on the supply of the import-controlled item on food security in Singapore; 20

“prohibited animal feed” means an animal feed, or a brand of animal feed, the import of which is prohibited by the Minister under section 69(3);

“prohibited food” means —

- (a) a food, or a brand of food, the import of which is prohibited by the Minister under section 69(1); 25
- (b) a food, or a brand of food, the import of which is prohibited by any Part 9 Regulations;
- (c) any food the import of which is prohibited under any written law other than this Act or any subsidiary legislation made under this Act; 30
- (d) any defined food which is, consists of or has as an ingredient, in any form an insect-like species which is

not within any class of catalogued insect-like species;  
or

(e) any other defined food;

“prohibited food contact article” means a regulated food contact  
5 article the import of which is prohibited by the Minister under  
section 69(2);

“recognised foreign government certificate” means a certificate  
covered by a determination in force under section 75(1);

“trading activity” means any of the following activities:

- 10 (a) importing any import-controlled item;  
(b) exporting any export-controlled item;  
(c) transhipping any transshipment-controlled item;

“tranship” means bringing any goods into Singapore by land, sea  
or air from any place which is outside Singapore and then  
15 removing those goods from the conveyance in which they  
were brought into Singapore and —

- (a) returning those goods to that same conveyance; or  
(b) transferring those goods to another conveyance for  
the purpose of them being taken out of Singapore,

20 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;

“transshipment-controlled item” means any of the following:

- 25 (a) any meat or meat product;  
(b) any fish or fish product;  
(c) any egg;  
(d) any other food or any agri-food production input that  
the Minister declares, by order in the *Gazette*, to be a  
30 transshipment-controlled item.

(2) In this Part, the integrity of a controlled item or an examinable matter is ensured if the identity or composition of the controlled item or examinable matter, in relation to any condition, restriction or other description that applies in relation to the controlled item or examinable matter —

5

- (a) is ascertainable;
- (b) is maintained without loss, addition or substitution; and
- (c) is not confused with that of any other controlled item, examinable matter or goods.

(3) For the purposes of the definition of “prepacked food additive preparation” in subsection (1), any food additive of a particular kind in a packaging of more than 2 kilograms each is presumed, unless the contrary is proved, to have been imported for retail sale if, on the particular occasion of its bringing into Singapore, the packaging is a container made wholly or principally of breakable and fragile material.

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(4) To avoid doubt, for the purposes of this Part, a single controlled item may constitute a consignment of that controlled item.

### **Matter to which Part 3 applies**

**43.**—(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), this Part applies only to the following:

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- (a) the export of any export-controlled item;
- (b) the import of any import-controlled item;
- (c) the transshipment of any transshipment-controlled item.

(2) This Part does not apply to or in relation to —

25

- (a) any food, or any prepacked food additive preparation, that is imported for private consumption;
- (b) any controlled item that is sea, air or railway stores on board a vessel, an aircraft or a train furnished under section 39(1) or 41(1) of the Customs Act 1960; and
- (c) any eggs that are imported —

30

- (i) only for poultry breeding; or

- (ii) only for the breeding of egg-laying birds for the purpose of collecting for human consumption eggs laid by such birds.

(3) Subject to section 86, this Part does not apply to or in relation to any of the following:

- (a) any export of an export-controlled item before the commencement of this Part;
- (b) any import of an import-controlled item before the commencement of this Part;
- (c) any transshipment of a transshipment-controlled item entering Singapore before the commencement of this Part.

### **Meaning of import for “private consumption”**

**44.—**(1) Any food (other than a food additive as such) or any prepacked food additive preparation, of a particular kind or different kinds is taken to have been imported for private consumption if on the particular occasion of its bringing into Singapore —

- (a) the food (other than a food additive as such), or the prepacked food additive preparation, has not been imported as a trade sample or for use in any food business;
- (b) the food (other than a food additive as such), or the prepacked food additive preparation, has not been imported for the purpose of donating it to other persons in Singapore;
- (c) all the following are satisfied:

- (i) the food (other than a food additive as such), or the prepacked food additive preparation, has, or both the food (other than a food additive as such) and prepacked food additive preparation have, a total weight of not more than 15 kilograms (inclusive of any eggs), or another total volume or total weight that is prescribed at the time of that occasion under subsection (5);



(ii) if any of the food is eggs — it is a clutch of not more than 30 eggs, or another number of eggs that is prescribed at the time of that occasion under subsection (5); and

(d) the food (other than a food additive as such), or the prepacked food additive preparation, is imported by a single person who is an individual. 5

(2) Without limiting the generality of the expression, food of any kind is taken to have been imported as a trade sample if the food is imported — 10

(a) for the purposes of scientific or commercial evaluation; or

(b) for the purpose of manufacturing other food for supply.

(3) However, subsection (1) does not extend to any food of higher regulatory concern.

(4) Each of the following food is a food of higher regulatory concern: 15

(a) any meat that is neither —

(i) pork, beef, lamb, mutton or venison; nor

(ii) meat from a chicken, duck, turkey, goose, quail or domesticated pigeon; 20

(b) any meat product wholly or partially derived from meat in paragraph (a);

(c) any puffer fish, or any fish product wholly or partially derived from puffer fish;

(d) any live fertilised or embryonated egg; 25

(e) any animal blood or blood product, such as blood curd;

(f) any raw or unpasteurised liquid milk;

(g) any chewing gum;

(h) any defined food;

(i) any other food prescribed by the Minister by an order in the *Gazette*. 30

- (5) The Minister may make an order in the *Gazette* —
- (a) prescribing for the purpose of subsection (1)(c)(i), another total volume or total weight; or
  - (b) prescribing for the purpose of subsection (1)(c)(ii), another number of eggs.

*Division 2 — Import, export and transshipment offences*

**Importing prohibited food, etc.**

45.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person imports an object or a thing;
- (b) the object or thing is a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed; and
- (c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing is a prohibited food, prohibited food contact article or prohibited animal feed, as the case may be.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

5

**Importing prohibited food, etc. — strict liability**

46.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person imports an object or a thing; and  
 (b) the object or thing is a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed.

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(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or  
 (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

15

**Unlicensed import of import-controlled item**

47.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

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- (a) the person imports an object or a thing;  
 (b) the object or thing is an import-controlled item to which this Part applies;  
 (c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing is an import-controlled item; and  
 (d) the person is not one of the following:

25

- (i) a holder of both a current licence to import and a current import consignment permit for that import-controlled item;

(ii) a person on whose behalf a person in sub-paragraph (i) is importing the import-controlled item;

(iii) a person exempt from this section under section 320 or 321 in relation to the import of that import-controlled item.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —

(i) under subsection (1);

(ii) under section 8(3) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 for importing any egg that is food without a licence under that Act, where the current offence involves any egg;

- (iii) under section 7(4) of the Control of Plants Act 1993 for importing fresh fruits and vegetables without a licence under that Act, where the current offence involves fresh fruits and vegetables;
- (iv) under section 8(3) of the Control of Plants Act 1993 for importing fresh fruits and vegetables without a permit under that Act, where the current offence involves fresh fruits and vegetables; 5
- (v) under section 5(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 for importing any meat product or fish product without a licence under that Act, where the current offence involves any meat or meat product or any fish or fish product; or 10
- (vi) under section 6(4) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 for contravening section 6(1)(a) of that Act, where the current offence involves any meat or meat product or any fish or fish product. 15

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii), (iii), (iv), (v) or (vi) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section. 20

### **Unlicensed import of import-controlled item — strict liability**

**48.—**(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person imports an object or a thing;
- (b) the object or thing is an import-controlled item to which this Part applies; and 25
- (c) the person is not one of the following:
  - (i) a holder of both a current licence to import and a current import consignment permit for that import-controlled item;
  - (ii) a person on whose behalf a person in sub-paragraph (i) is importing the import-controlled item; 30

(iii) a person exempt from this section under section 320 or 321 in relation to the import of that import-controlled item.

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

5 (3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

10 (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

### **Importing non-conforming consignment of import-controlled item**

15 **49.—**(1) A person holding a current import consignment permit commits an offence if —

(a) the person imports a consignment comprising any import-controlled item to which this Part applies;

20 (b) the consignment does not conform to any identifying detail of the consignment that is stated in the import consignment permit;

(c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the consignment is non-conforming in a manner mentioned in paragraph (b); and

(d) the import-controlled item is not failing.

25 (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

30 (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —

(i) under subsection (1);

(ii) under section 8(3) of the Control of Plants Act 1993 for contravening section 8(1)(b) of that Act, where the current offence involves fresh fruits and vegetables; or

(iii) under section 6(4) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 for contravening section 6(1)(b) of that Act, where the current offence involves any meat or meat product or any fish or fish product.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii) or (iii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section.

**Importing non-conforming consignment of import-controlled item — strict liability**

**50.—**(1) A person holding a current import consignment permit commits an offence if —

(a) the person imports a consignment comprising any import-controlled item to which this Part applies;

(b) the consignment does not conform to any identifying detail of the consignment that is stated in the import consignment permit; and

(c) the import-controlled item is not failing.

5 (2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

10 (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

### **Unlicensed export of export-controlled item**

**51.—**(1) A person commits an offence if —

15 (a) the person exports an object or a thing;

(b) the object or thing is an export-controlled item to which this Part applies;

(c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing is an export-controlled item; and

20 (d) the person is not one of the following:

(i) a holder of both a current licence to export and a current export consignment permit for that export-controlled item;

25 (ii) a person on whose behalf a person in sub-paragraph (i) is exporting the export-controlled item;

(iii) a person exempt from this section under section 320 or 321 in relation to the export of that export-controlled item.

30 (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —



- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

**Unlicensed export of export-controlled item — strict liability**

**52.—(1)** A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person exports an object or a thing;
- (b) the object or thing is an export-controlled item to which this Part applies; and
- (c) the person is not one of the following:
  - (i) a holder of both a current licence to export and a current export consignment permit for that export-controlled item;
  - (ii) a person on whose behalf a person in sub-paragraph (i) is exporting the export-controlled item;

(iii) a person exempt from this section under section 320 or 321 in relation to the export of that export-controlled item.

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

5 (3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

10 (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

### **Exporting non-conforming consignment of export-controlled item**

15 **53.**—(1) A person holding a current export consignment permit commits an offence if —

(a) the person exports a consignment comprising any export-controlled item to which this Part applies;

20 (b) the consignment does not conform to any identifying detail of the consignment that is stated in the export consignment permit;

(c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the consignment is non-conforming in a manner mentioned in paragraph (b); and

(d) the export-controlled item is not failing.

25 (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

30 (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who — 5

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1). 10

**Exporting non-conforming consignment of export-controlled item — strict liability** 15

**54.—**(1) A person holding a current export consignment permit commits an offence if —

(a) the person exports a consignment comprising any export-controlled item to which this Part applies;

(b) the consignment does not conform to any identifying detail of the consignment that is stated in the export consignment permit; and 20

(c) the export-controlled item is not failing.

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction — 25

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000. 30

**Unlicensed transshipment of transshipment-controlled item**

55.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person transships a consignment comprising any transshipment-controlled item;
- 5 (b) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the consignment comprises the transshipment-controlled item; and
- (c) the person is not one of the following:
  - 10 (i) a licensed importer or licensed exporter who is granted a transshipment consignment permit covering the particular consignment;
  - (ii) a person exempt from this section under section 320 or 321 in relation to the transshipment of that consignment.

15 (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - 20 (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - 25 (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- 30 (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately

before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

**Unlicensed transshipment of transshipment-controlled item — strict liability**

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**56.—(1)** A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person transships a consignment comprising any transshipment-controlled item; and
- (b) the person is not one of the following:

- (i) a licensed importer or licensed exporter who is granted a transshipment consignment permit covering the particular consignment;

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- (ii) a person exempt from this section under section 320 or 321 in relation to the transshipment of that consignment.

15

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

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- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

**Export or transshipment of controlled item without inspection advice**

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**57.—(1)** A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person enters an object or a thing for export or transshipment, or exports or transships an object or a thing;

- (b) the object or thing is examinable matter;

- (c) an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing;

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(d) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing;

5 (e) the person has not obtained the prior approval of an authorised officer to export or tranship the object or thing; and

(f) the person is neither an officer of customs, nor an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties.

10 (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

15 (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

20 (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

25 (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

30 (4) In this section and section 58, an object or a thing is entered for export or transhipment if, in the course of the preparation or production of the object or thing for export or transhipment, the

object or thing is presented to, or information about the object or thing is given to —

- (a) an officer of customs acting in the course of his or her duties; or
- (b) an authorised officer acting in the course of his or her duties,

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for the purpose of the officer exercising a power or performing a function in relation to the object or thing under any written law regulating export or transhipment of goods.

**Export or transhipment of controlled item without inspection advice — strict liability**

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**58.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person enters an object or a thing for export or transhipment, or exports or tranships an object or a thing;
- (b) the object or thing is examinable matter;
- (c) an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing;
- (d) the person has not obtained the prior approval of an authorised officer to export or tranship the object or thing; and
- (e) the person is neither an officer of customs, nor an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties.

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(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

25

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

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*Division 3 — Import-controlled items offences***Importing item not meeting applicable standard, etc.**

59.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person imports an import-controlled item that is none  
5 of the following:

- (i) a prohibited food;
- (ii) a prohibited food contact article;
- (iii) a prohibited animal feed;

(b) the import-controlled item —

- 10 (i) does not meet an applicable standard; or
- (ii) is not covered by a recognised foreign government certificate where the inspection scheme regulations identify the import-controlled item as one that, if imported, must be covered by a recognised foreign  
15 government certificate; and

(c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, when importing that the import-controlled item —

- (i) does not meet an applicable standard; or
- 20 (ii) is not covered by a recognised foreign government certificate where the inspection scheme regulations identify the import-controlled item as one that, if imported, must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall  
25 be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

- (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
- 30 (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or



(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) However, where at the trial of a person charged with an offence under subsection (1), it is proved that — 5

(a) any of the following circumstances applied with respect to the import-controlled item when imported:

(i) the food was unsafe;

(ii) the type of regulated food contact article had or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe; and 10

(b) the person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the relevant circumstances in paragraph (a) applied with respect to the import-controlled item when imported, 15

the person who is convicted or found guilty of the offence shall be liable on conviction instead —

(c) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or 20

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or

(d) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or 25

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(4) In subsections (2) and (3), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and 30

- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

**Importing item not meeting applicable standard, etc. — strict liability**

**60.—(1)** A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person imports any import-controlled item that is none of the following:

- (i) a prohibited food;
- (ii) a prohibited food contact article;
- (iii) a prohibited animal feed; and

(b) the import-controlled item —

- (i) does not meet an applicable standard; or
- (ii) is not covered by a recognised foreign government certificate where the inspection scheme regulations identify the import-controlled item as one that, if imported, must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate.

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$8,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

(4) However, where at the trial of a person charged with an offence under subsection (1), it is proved that any of the following circumstances applied with respect to the import-controlled item when imported:

- (a) the food was unsafe;
- (b) the type of regulated food contact article had or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe,

the person who is convicted or found guilty of the offence shall be liable on conviction instead — 5

- (c) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
- (d) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000. 10

### **Dealing with imported examinable matter without inspection advice**

**61.—(1)** A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person — 15
  - (i) intentionally deals with an object or a thing in a particular manner; or
  - (ii) has in possession an object or a thing knowing that it is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply; 20
- (b) the object or thing is examinable matter;
- (c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing was imported;
- (d) an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing; 25
- (e) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing;
- (f) the person has not obtained the prior approval of an authorised officer to deal with the object or thing in that manner; and 30

(g) the person is neither an officer of customs, nor an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

5 (a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

10 (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

15 (3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

20 (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

25 (4) Subsection (1) does not apply to a dealing with prepacked food for the purpose of altering or replacing the label on a package containing the prepacked food in order to meet an applicable standard relating to content in labels for prepacked food.

**Dealing with imported examinable matter without inspection advice — strict liability**

62.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person —

(i) intentionally deals with an object or a thing in a particular manner; or 5

(ii) has in possession an object or a thing knowing that it is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply;

(b) the object or thing is examinable matter; 10

(c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing was imported;

(d) an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing;

(e) the person has not obtained the prior approval of an authorised officer to deal with the object or thing in that manner; and 15

(f) the person is neither an officer of customs, nor an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties.

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1) except subsection (1)(a) and (c). 20

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or 25

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(4) Subsection (1) does not apply to a dealing with prepacked food for the purpose of altering or replacing the label on a package containing the prepacked food in order to meet an applicable standard relating to content on labels for prepacked food. 30

### Dealing with failing imported food, etc., knowingly

63.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person intentionally deals with an import-controlled item in a particular manner;
- 5 (b) the import-controlled item is examinable matter;
- (c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the import-controlled item was imported;
- (d) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the import-controlled item has been identified in an inspection advice as failing;
- 10 (e) the person has not obtained the prior approval of an authorised officer to deal with the import-controlled item in that manner;
- (f) the person is neither permitted nor required, in accordance with the inspection advice, to deal with the import-controlled item in that manner; and
- 15 (g) the person is neither an officer of customs, nor an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or
- 25 (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.
- 30

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —
  - (i) under subsection (1); or
  - (ii) under section 23(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, where the current offence involves any meat or meat product or any fish or fish product.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section.

**Possession for supply knowing that prohibited food, etc.**

**64.—(1)** A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person has in possession an object or a thing knowing that it is being or is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply;
- (b) the object or thing is imported and is a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed; and
- (c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing —
  - (i) is imported; and
  - (ii) is a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed, as the case may be.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —

(i) under subsection (1); or

(ii) under section 23(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, where the current offence involves any meat or meat product or any fish or fish product.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section.

### **Possession for supply knowing, etc., applicable standard not met**

**65.—**(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person has in possession an object or a thing knowing that it is being or is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply;

(b) the object or thing is none of the following:

(i) a prohibited food;

(ii) a prohibited food contact article;



- (iii) a prohibited animal feed;
  - (c) the object or thing is an import-controlled item that was imported;
  - (d) the import-controlled item —
    - (i) does not meet an applicable standard; or 5
    - (ii) has been identified in an inspection advice as failing;
  - (e) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the import-controlled item was imported;
  - (f) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the import-controlled item — 10
    - (i) does not meet an applicable standard; or
    - (ii) has been identified in an inspection advice as failing;
  - (g) the person has not obtained the prior approval of an authorised officer to possess the import-controlled item in that manner; and 15
  - (h) the person is neither an officer of customs, nor an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties.
- (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —
- (a) where the person is an individual — 20
    - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
    - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or 25
  - (b) where the person is not an individual —
    - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
    - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.
- (3) However, where at the trial of a person charged with an offence 30 under subsection (1), it is proved that —

(a) any of the following circumstances applied with respect to the import-controlled item:

(i) the food was unsafe;

(ii) the type of regulated food contact article had or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe; and

(b) the person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the relevant circumstances in paragraph (a) applied with respect to the import-controlled item,

the person who is convicted or found guilty of the offence shall be liable on conviction instead —

(c) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or

(d) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(4) In subsections (2) and (3), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —

(i) under subsection (1); or

- (ii) under section 23(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, where the current offence involves any meat or meat product or any fish or fish product.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (4)(b)(ii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section. 5

**Possession for supply where applicable standard not met — strict liability**

66.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person has in possession an object or a thing knowing that it is being or is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply; 10
- (b) the object or thing is none of the following:
  - (i) a prohibited food;
  - (ii) a prohibited food contact article; 15
  - (iii) a prohibited animal feed;
- (c) the object or thing is an import-controlled item that was imported;
- (d) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the import-controlled item was imported; 20
- (e) the import-controlled item —
  - (i) does not meet an applicable standard; or
  - (ii) has been identified in an inspection advice as failing;
- (f) the person has not obtained the prior approval of an authorised officer to possess the import-controlled item in that manner; and 25
- (g) the person is neither an officer of customs, nor an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties.

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1) except subsection (1)(a) and (d). 30

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$8,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

(4) However, where at the trial of a person charged with an offence under subsection (1), it is proved that any of the following circumstances applied with respect to the import-controlled item when in the person's possession:

(a) the food was unsafe;

(b) the type of regulated food contact article had or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe,

the person who is convicted or found guilty of the offence shall be liable on conviction instead —

(c) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(d) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

#### *Division 4 — Defence and presumption*

##### **Defence of due diligence**

**67.—**(1) In a prosecution of a person for an offence under this Part, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the commission of the offence was due to —

(i) an act or omission of another person; or

(ii) an accident or some other cause outside the control of the person charged; and

(b) the person charged took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence by the person, or by another person under the control of the person charged.

(2) In subsection (1)(a), another person does not include a person who was at the time of the commission of the offence — 5

(a) an employee or agent of the person charged; or

(b) if the person charged is an entity, an officer of the entity.

(3) Section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 does not apply in relation to a strict liability offence under this Part. 10

**Presumption as to possession**

**68.** For the purposes of sections 61, 62, 64, 65 and 66, where food is found in any premises that a person uses for —

(a) manufacturing food of the same kind;

(b) preparing food of the same kind; 15

(c) storing, packing or labelling food of the same kind;

(d) transporting or delivering food of the same kind;

(e) displaying food of the same kind; or

(f) selling food, whether or not of the same kind,

then the following presumptions apply: 20

(g) the food is presumed to be in the person’s possession for the purpose of supply until the contrary is proved;

(h) the person is presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have known that the food is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply. 25

*Division 5 — Prohibitions, inspection schemes and holding orders*

**Prohibited food, prohibited animal feed, etc.**

5     **69.**—(1) The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, prohibit the import of a food, or a brand of food, because the Minister is satisfied —

(a) that there is uncertainty or concern about the safety and suitability of the food, in light of information about —

10           (i) the nature of the food or the source from which it is derived;

(ii) the hazards associated with the food;

(iii) the measures applied during the manufacturing or handling of the food, or during its production if the food is primary produce;

15           (iv) the likelihood of a particular contaminant being present in the food at a level determined as unacceptable in accordance with any applicable standard or any international standard, or any science-based criteria; or

20           (v) the likelihood that the food is unsafe or unsuitable; and

(b) that categorising the food as prohibited food will assist in managing the risk that the food poses to human health in Singapore.

25     (2) The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, prohibit the import of a regulated food contact article because the Minister is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that it is particularly dangerous to use with food because of its construction.

*Example*

30     A container that is made up of materials from which harmful chemicals are likely to migrate into the food at quantities which could endanger human health, whenever the container is used to hold hot and greasy food over short contact times, may be prescribed.

(3) The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, prohibit the import of an animal feed, or a brand of animal feed, because the Minister is satisfied —

- (a) that there is uncertainty or concern about the fitness for purpose of the animal feed, or brand of animal feed, in light of information about —
  - (i) the nature of the animal feed or the source from which it is derived;
  - (ii) the hazards associated with the animal feed;
  - (iii) the measures applied during the manufacturing or handling of the animal feed, or during its cultivation if the animal feed is a live animal;
  - (iv) the likelihood that the animal feed contains a proscribed substance for the animal feed or any residue of the proscribed substance; or
  - (v) the potential adverse impact to primary production activity in Singapore as a result of food producing animals consuming such animal feed; and
- (b) that if it did enter or continue to enter Singapore on import, the animal feed may have a significant adverse impact on any primary production activity in Singapore.

### **Import prohibition of live food producing animals**

**70.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Agency may from time to time and in accordance with subsections (2), (3) and (4), make directives of general application banning the import of any live food producing animal of a particular kind from a particular country or place outside Singapore as may be necessary to alleviate or minimise any risk of the death of, or a serious physical harm to, any individual who might later consume in Singapore the animal, or any meat, meat product or fish product derived from such an animal.

(2) The Agency must not make any directive under subsection (1) with respect to any relevant live food producing animal, unless it is impracticable, in the circumstances of the particular case, for any order under section 7(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 to be

made or amended to effectively alleviate or minimise the risk concerned.

(3) Once a directive is made under subsection (1), the Agency must cause to be published a public notice of the directive —

- 5           (a) in the *Gazette*; or  
              (b) in any manner that will secure adequate publicity for the directive,

10 specifying in the public notice the date the ban takes effect, except that where for reasons of national security it is impracticable to publish the directive according to paragraph (a) or (b), the Agency must notify any person or persons that it thinks appropriate or necessary in the circumstances.

15 (4) Every directive made under subsection (1) comes into force immediately upon its being published according to subsection (3)(a) or (b) or, where notified by service on any person under subsection (3), immediately upon giving the notice to that person and in respect of that person only.

20 (5) Any directive made under subsection (1) may be in force for a period not exceeding 90 days unless earlier revoked under subsection (6), and may be renewed by the Agency only once for a further period not exceeding 30 days.

(6) The Agency may, at any time when any directive made under subsection (1) is in force, revoke the directive by publishing a notice of that revocation —

- 25           (a) in the *Gazette*; or  
              (b) in any manner that will secure adequate publicity for the revoking of the directive.

(7) A directive made under subsection (1) prevails so far as the directive is in force even if inconsistent with any provision of —

- 30           (a) this Act;  
              (b) the Animals and Birds Act 1965;  
              (c) the Control of Plants Act 1993; or



(d) the Wildlife Act 1965.

(8) Without limiting subsection (7), where a directive made under subsection (1) is made and in force —

- (a) every of the following licences, permits or approvals cease to have effect to the extent that the licence, permit or approval is inconsistent with that directive: 5
  - (i) a licence granted under section 8 of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 to import or tranship any animal or bird;
  - (ii) a permit issued under the Control of Plants Act 1993 to import any live insect-like species or any mollusc that is not a fish; 10
  - (iii) an approval granted under section 9 of the Wildlife Act 1965 to import any living wildlife; and
- (b) an application for any of those licences, permits or approvals mentioned in paragraph (a) must be refused where the licence, permit or approval, if granted or issued, will be inconsistent with that directive. 15

(9) In subsection (2), “relevant live food producing animal” means a live food producing animal that is neither — 20

- (a) an insect-like species; nor
- (b) a mollusc that is not a fish.

### **Regulations for inspection schemes**

71.—(1) The Agency, with the approval of the Minister, may make regulations establishing one or more inspection schemes applicable to any controlled item to which this Part applies — 25

- (a) identifying controlled items of particular kinds as controlled items of a kind that if imported, exported or transhipped must be inspected, or inspected and analysed, for the purposes of this Part; 30
- (b) identifying controlled items of particular kinds as controlled items that if imported, exported or transhipped

must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate for the purposes of this Part; or

(c) classifying controlled items of particular kinds into particular categories.

5 (2) Without limiting subsection (1), inspection scheme regulations may —

(a) prescribe conditions in relation to the import, export or transshipment of controlled items to which this Part applies, or the import from or export to a specified country of  
10 controlled items to which this Part applies, that are required to be complied with in respect of matters or things related to the controlled items themselves;

(b) specify circumstances in which a controlled item is taken to be failing;

15 (c) specify circumstances in which a controlled item is to be taken to be failing because of its relationship to another controlled item that is found to be failing;

(d) set out the circumstances and manner in which a controlled item, other than a controlled item that is the subject of a holding order, is to be held pending the outcome of an  
20 inspection, or inspection and analysis; and

(e) require the keeping and retention of records for a period prescribed in the regulations, where the records are relevant to a matter that is relevant to monitoring or  
25 evaluating, compliance with the requirements of this Part.

### **Inspection advice**

72.—(1) After a controlled item that is required under this Part to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, upon import or before export, has been so inspected, or inspected and analysed, an authorised  
30 officer or a food inspector must issue a written advice (called in this Act an inspection advice) —

(a) to the owner of the controlled item; and

(b) if the controlled item is under customs control — to the person having possession of the controlled item at the time, stating —

(c) whether the whole or a part of the controlled item dealt with in the advice is identified as failing, and in respect of a controlled item that is so identified, how the controlled item is to be dealt with; or

(d) whether the consignment comprising the controlled item dealt with in the advice is identified as not conforming to any identifying detail of the consignment that is stated in the consignment permit, and in respect of a consignment that is so identified, how the consignment is to be dealt with.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), an inspection advice issued under this section may indicate that a controlled item identified as failing —

(a) must be destroyed in accordance with the requirements under section 74(3) or (4);

(b) must either be destroyed or re-exported from Singapore in accordance with the requirements under that section; or

(c) must, if not treated by the owner in accordance with the requirements under section 74(2) —

(i) be destroyed; or

(ii) be destroyed or re-exported from Singapore,

in accordance with the requirements of section 74.

(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), the owner of a controlled item identified in an inspection advice as failing may, in the circumstances specified in the inspection scheme regulations, apply, in writing, to an authorised officer or a food inspector for the issue of a further inspection advice in respect of a part of that controlled item.

## (4) Neither —

(a) the fact that a controlled item identified as failing under an inspection advice may be the subject of an application under subsection (3) for a further inspection advice; nor

5 (b) the making of an application under subsection (3) for a further inspection advice in respect of the controlled item,

causes the controlled item to cease to be failing on the basis of the original inspection advice but, if the original inspection advice indicates that the controlled item must be treated, destroyed or re-exported, the controlled item is not required to be so treated,  
10 destroyed or re-exported unless —

(c) the circumstances permitting the application for the further inspection advice cease to exist; or

(d) an application is made under subsection (3) and rejected.

15 (5) If the owner of a controlled item identified in an inspection advice as failing, makes an application under subsection (3) for the issue of a further inspection advice in respect of a part of the controlled item, the owner must, if the controlled item to which the application relates is under customs control, inform the person having  
20 possession of the controlled item that the owner had made that application.

(6) If an application is made under subsection (3), an authorised officer or a food inspector must —

25 (a) if he or she is not satisfied that the application is made in accordance with the requirements of the inspection scheme regulations, reject the application and give notice to the applicant of that rejection and of the reasons for the rejection; and

30 (b) in any other case, consider the application and issue to the applicant a further inspection advice in respect of the controlled item the subject of the application.

(7) If a further inspection advice is issued in respect of the controlled item the subject of an application, this Act has effect as if —

- (a) that further inspection advice were substituted for the initial inspection advice issued in respect of that controlled item under subsection (1); and
- (b) subsection (3) were not included.

### **Holding orders**

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#### **73.—(1) If —**

- (a) an inspection, or inspection and analysis, of examinable matter of a particular kind indicates the examinable matter, or a part of the examinable matter, to be failing;
- (b) an authorised officer or a food inspector is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that an examinable matter of a particular kind would, on inspection, or on inspection and analysis, be so identified as failing;
- (c) it is unclear to an authorised officer or a food inspector that an examinable matter of a particular kind is not failing and there are discrepancies, either —
  - (i) in the documents accompanying a consignment comprising the examinable matter itself; or
  - (ii) between the documents accompanying a consignment comprising the examinable matter and the examinable matter,

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that suggest that it may be unwise for the authorised officer or food inspector to rely on the documents; or

- (d) an authorised officer or a food inspector has reasonable grounds to believe that the integrity of the examinable matter covered by an import consignment permit, an export consignment permit or a transshipment consignment permit (as the case may be) cannot be ensured,

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the authorised officer or food inspector may, by writing, make a holding order —

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- (e) stating that, until the revocation of the holding order, the following must be held in a place to be approved in writing

by the same or another authorised officer or food inspector, until an inspection, or an inspection and analysis, required under the inspection scheme regulations has been completed:

- 5           (i) that consignment comprising the examinable matter;
- (ii) any controlled item of that same kind as the examinable matter that is imported into Singapore after the making of the holding order;
- 10           (iii) if the authorised officer or food inspector states that the holding order is being made in connection with the end of another order under subsection (3) — any controlled item of that same kind that is being held immediately before the end of the other order; and
- 15           (f) specifying the circumstances in which the holding order will be revoked.

(2) If the authorised officer or food inspector is satisfied, in respect of a holding order made under subsection (1), that the circumstances specified for its revocation have occurred, the authorised officer or food inspector must, by writing, immediately revoke the holding order.

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(3) If —

- 25           (a) an authorised officer or a food inspector is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a controlled item may, on inspection, or on inspection and analysis, be so identified as failing; and
- (b) the authorised officer or food inspector is satisfied that the risk is serious,

the authorised officer or food inspector may, by writing, make a holding order —

- 30           (c) stating that, until the holding order ends, a controlled item of the same kind that is or is to be imported into Singapore or that is to be exported or transhipped (as the case may be) after the making of the holding order must be held in a

place approved in writing by an authorised officer or a food inspector;

(d) stating that the holding order ends at the earlier of the following times:

(i) at the end of the period of 28 days beginning on the day the holding order is made or, if that period is extended, the end of the extended period;

(ii) the time when the holding order is revoked; and

(e) specifying the circumstances in which the holding order will be revoked.

(4) The Agency may, by writing, extend the 28-day period mentioned in subsection (3)(d)(i) by a further period of up to 28 days, and the Agency may make more than one extension.

(5) Subsection (1) or (3) does not prevent an authorised officer or a food inspector from giving a person an approval to deal with a controlled item of a kind covered by a holding order under that subsection while the holding order is in force.

### **Treatment, destruction or re-export of failing food, etc.**

74.—(1) This section applies to a controlled item that —

(a) has been identified in an inspection advice as failing; and

(b) is required, under that advice, to be treated, destroyed or re-exported from Singapore.

(2) If an inspection advice, given in respect of a controlled item to which this section applies, permits the treatment of the controlled item so as to bring it into compliance with this Act or to enable its use for a purpose other than human consumption, an authorised officer or a food inspector may, by written notice given to the owner of the controlled item —

(a) require the owner to treat the controlled item in a specified manner or in a manner to be agreed between the owner and the authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) so as to enable it to be brought into compliance with

this Act or to be so used for a purpose other than human consumption; or

(b) if the owner is unable or unwilling to so treat the controlled item, require either —

(i) the destruction of the controlled item in a manner specified in the notice or in a manner to be agreed between the owner and the authorised officer or food inspector; or

(ii) the re-export of the controlled item.

(3) If an inspection advice requires the destruction of a controlled item to which this section applies, an authorised officer or a food inspector may, by written notice given to the owner of the controlled item, require its destruction in a manner specified in the notice or in a manner to be agreed between the owner and the authorised officer or food inspector.

(4) If an inspection advice requires the destruction or re-export of a controlled item to which this section applies, an authorised officer or a food inspector may, by written notice given to the owner of the controlled item, require either —

(a) its destruction in a manner specified in the notice or in a manner to be agreed between the owner and the authorised officer or food inspector; or

(b) its re-export.

(5) A permission to treat or a requirement to destroy or re-export a controlled item in a written notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4) must specify a period (having regard to the reasons why the controlled item has been identified as failing and to any difficulties associated with arranging for its treatment, destruction or re-export) within which that treatment, destruction or re-export is to be completed.

(6) If the owner of a controlled item that is required in a written notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4) to be treated, destroyed or re-exported arranges for a treatment, destruction or re-export in accordance with the written notice, that treatment, destruction or



re-export may be supervised by an authorised officer or a food inspector.

(7) If the owner of a controlled item that is required in a written notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4) to be destroyed or re-exported refuses or fails to arrange for the destruction or re-export of the controlled item in accordance with the written notice, the Agency may —

- (a) carry out or cause to be carried out the destruction or re-export required in that written notice; and
- (b) recover all expenses reasonably incurred by the Agency in the exercise of the powers under this subsection from the person in default.

(8) Without limiting the right of the Agency to exercise any power under subsection (7), the owner of a controlled item that is required in a written notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4) to be destroyed or re-exported commits an offence if the owner intentionally refuses or fails to comply with the requirement to destroy or re-export that controlled item.

(9) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (8) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(10) Subsection (8) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

(11) In this section —

“owner”, in relation to a controlled item that is permitted to be treated or required to be destroyed or re-exported, means a person having a beneficial interest in the controlled item other than a person who has such an interest only because he or she has been given a mortgage or charge, or has a lien, over the goods;

“repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under this section, means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under this section.

### **Recognised foreign government certificates, etc.**

75.—(1) The Agency may determine, in writing, that a report, certificate or other document —

(a) issued by or under the authority of —

(i) a specified foreign government of a particular foreign country; or

(ii) a foreign food authority of a specified foreign country; and

(b) stating that food of a specified kind meets an applicable standard or a requirement of this Act,

is a recognised foreign government certificate.

(2) The Agency may make a determination under subsection (1) in relation to a particular foreign country if the Agency is satisfied —

(a) that there is in force an agreement between Singapore and that foreign country; or

(b) based on an assessment of the food safety systems of Singapore and that foreign country, that —

(i) Singapore and the foreign country have equivalent food safety systems; or

(ii) the foreign country has schemes for periodic inspection and evaluation, or does conduct equivalent monitoring, of the food or primary production activities in the foreign country. 5

(3) The Agency may revoke a determination under subsection (1) if the Agency has reason to doubt the continued reliability of a statement made in any certificate to which the determination relates. 10

### *Division 6 — Licensing*

#### **Types of licences and permits**

76.—(1) A licence may be granted by the Agency under this Part authorising, for a period, the holder of the licence — 15

(a) to import in the course of business an import-controlled item stated in the licence; or

(b) to export in the course of business an export-controlled item stated in the licence.

(2) An import consignment permit may be granted by the Agency under this Part for a consignment comprising import-controlled items of a particular kind (according to the Agency's classification) stated in the permit. 20

(3) An export consignment permit may be granted by the Agency under this Part for a consignment comprising export-controlled items of a particular kind (according to the Agency's classification) stated in the permit. 25

(4) A transshipment consignment permit may be granted by the Agency under this Part for a consignment comprising transshipment-controlled items of a particular kind (according to the Agency's classification) stated in the permit. 30

(5) A consignment permit may cover only one consignment comprising a controlled item of one particular kind (according to the Agency's classification).

**Application of Division 4 of Part 14 (general licensing procedures)**

77. Division 4 of Part 14 applies to every application for a licence or consignment permit, and to every licence or consignment permit granted under this Part, subject to the modifications in this Part.

**Criteria for grant, etc., of licence**

78.—(1) This section applies where the Agency is deciding any of the following:

- (a) whether an applicant should be granted a licence;
- (b) the conditions to impose on a licence;
- (c) whether to modify any condition of a licence.

(2) When making a decision mentioned in subsection (1), the Agency must have regard, and give such weight as the Agency considers appropriate, to all of the following matters:

- (a) whether the applicant or licensee, or an associate of the applicant or licensee, is or was disqualified by section 298 from holding the same licence or another licence;
- (b) whether regulatory action under section 83 has been or is being taken or is contemplated against the applicant or licensee;
- (c) any available information as to whether or not the applicant or licensee has been convicted or found guilty of any relevant offence within the meaning of section 83(3) (whether or not the offence was committed before, on or after the commencement of this section);
- (d) the applicant's or licensee's compliance history with any of the following so far as that relates to the trading activity to be authorised or authorised by the licence:

- (i) the provisions of this Act or of a code of practice applicable to the applicant or licensee (as the case may be) with respect to that trading activity;
  - (ii) the conditions of any similar licence granted to the applicant or licensee; 5
  - (iii) the requirements of a holding order under section 73;
  - (iv) a written notice under section 74(2), (3) or (4) requiring a controlled item to be treated, destroyed or re-exported;
- (e) whether there are other grounds for considering that the applicant or licensee is likely in the future to fail to comply with any provision of this Act in connection with the trading activity to be authorised or authorised by the licence; 10
- (f) the applicant's or licensee's compliance history with Part 2, where applicable; 15
- (g) whether and how the applicant or licensee prepares to deal with the occurrence of a disruptive event affecting the supply in Singapore of the import-controlled item covered or to be covered by the licence, including (and not limited to) having a procurement plan for that import-controlled item; 20
- (h) whether it is otherwise not in the public interest of Singapore for the applicant to be granted a licence.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies to an applicant or a licensee which is an entity with the following modifications: 25
- (a) paragraph (a) of that subsection must be read as if the paragraph refers only to the officers of the entity instead of the entity;
  - (b) paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of that subsection must be read as if they refer to the entity and its officers. 30
- (4) To avoid doubt, the Agency is not confined to consideration of the matters specified in subsection (2) and may take into account any other matters and evidence that may be relevant.

(5) The Agency may require an applicant for a licence to amend and re-submit a procurement plan, for the purpose of assessing the application by the applicant.

5 (6) In granting a person a licence to import in the course of business an import-controlled item stated in the licence, the Agency accepts the person's procurement plan submitted under subsection (2)(g).

### **Criteria for grant, etc., of consignment permit**

79.—(1) This section applies where the Agency is deciding any of the following:

- 10 (a) whether an applicant should be granted a consignment permit;
- (b) the conditions to impose on a consignment permit;
- (c) whether to modify any condition of a consignment permit.

15 (2) When making a decision mentioned in subsection (1), the Agency must have regard, and give such weight as the Agency considers appropriate, to all of the following matters:

- 20 (a) in the case of an import consignment permit, whether the import-controlled item to be imported is a kind of food that is identified under any inspection scheme regulations as one that, if imported, must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate;
- (b) whether any regulatory action under section 83 or 84 has been or is being taken or is contemplated against the applicant;
- 25 (c) whether there has been a serious failure or repeated failures by the applicant to comply with —
- (i) the conditions of any previous consignment permit granted to the applicant; or
- 30 (ii) a written notice under section 74(2), (3) or (4) requiring a controlled item to be treated, destroyed or re-exported;

(d) whether it is otherwise not in the public interest of Singapore for the permit to be granted in respect of the consignment which is the subject of the application.

(3) To avoid doubt, the Agency is not confined to consideration of the matters specified in subsection (2) and may take into account any other matters and evidence that may be relevant. 5

(4) If the owner of a controlled item that is required in a written notice under section 74(2), (3) or (4) to be treated, destroyed or re-exported fails to comply with the requirement to treat, destroy or re-export the controlled item, the Agency may refuse to grant a consignment permit in respect of any other controlled item imported or to be imported into Singapore by or on behalf of that owner. 10

### **Conditions of licence or consignment permit**

**80.** Without limiting section 294, in granting a licence or consignment permit to any person, the Agency may impose conditions — 15

(a) restricting the import of any import-controlled item from any foreign country;

(b) restricting —

(i) the export of any export-controlled item to any foreign country; or 20

(ii) the transshipment of any transshipment-controlled item, to any foreign country, or from any foreign country;

(c) requiring the licensee to prepare to deal, and to deal, with any disruptive event affecting the supply in Singapore of the import-controlled item covered by the licence in accordance with a procurement plan with which the Agency accepts; or 25

(d) requiring the furnishing of a performance bond, guarantee or any other form of security of such amount and on such terms and conditions as the Agency may determine — 30

(i) to secure compliance by the licensed importer or licensed exporter with any condition attached to the licence or any consignment permit granted to that licensed importer or licensed exporter;

5 (ii) to meet any financial penalty arising out of any regulatory action under section 83 or 84 against the licensed importer or licensed exporter; or

(iii) for both sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii).

### **Validity of licence and consignment permit**

10 **81.**—(1) Every licence granted under this Part is in force for the period (not exceeding 5 years) specified in the licence —

(a) except when it is wholly suspended under section 83(2); and

(b) unless it is earlier revoked under section 83(1).

15 (2) Every consignment permit granted under this Part is in force for the period stated in the permit unless —

(a) it is earlier cancelled under section 84; or

(b) the consignment covered by the permit has been imported, exported or transhipped, as the case may be.

### **20 Modifying conditions of licence**

**82.** Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, it is lawful for the Agency to modify the conditions of a licence without compensating the licensed importer or licensed exporter concerned.

### **Regulatory action concerning licence**

25 **83.**—(1) Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, if the Agency is satisfied that —

(a) a licensed importer or licensed exporter is contravening or not complying with, or has contravened or failed to comply with —

30 (i) any of the conditions of its licence;



(ii) any provision of this Act applicable to the licensed importer or licensed exporter so far as that relates to trading activity, the contravention of or non-compliance with which is not an offence under this Act;

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(iii) any provision of a code of practice applicable to the licensed importer or licensed exporter so far as that relates to trading activity authorised by the licence;

(iv) any direction given to the licensee under subsection (2)(e) or (f); or

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(v) any requirement in section 88 applicable to the licensee;

(b) the licensed importer or licensed exporter has ceased to undertake the trading activity authorised by its licence;

(c) the licensed importer or licensed exporter, or any officer of the licensed importer or licensed exporter, is convicted of a relevant offence committed during the term of the licence or an immediately prior licence;

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(d) there is or has been a serious failure of the operations of the licensed importer or licensed exporter, or there are or have been other matters, that cast doubt on the safety of the food imported, exported or transhipped by the licensed importer or licensed exporter;

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(e) the licence had been obtained by the licensee by fraud or misrepresentation; or

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(f) the public interest of Singapore requires,

the Agency may revoke (without any compensation) the licence of the licensed importer or licensed exporter, with or without forfeiting any performance bond, guarantee or other form of security furnished by the licensed importer or licensed exporter (as the case may be) under this Act.

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(2) However, the Agency may, in lieu of revoking under subsection (1) the licence of a licensed importer or licensed

exporter, do (without any compensation) one or more of the following:

(a) censure the licensed importer or licensed exporter in writing;

5 (b) direct the licensed importer or licensed exporter to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing that is specified in a direction to rectify any contravention or non-compliance that constitutes the ground for regulatory action;

10 (c) suspend (in whole or in part) the licence for not more than 6 months;

(d) modify any condition of the licence;

15 (e) direct the licensed importer or licensed exporter to pay, within a period specified in a direction, a financial penalty of any amount that the Agency thinks fit, but not exceeding \$5,000 for each contravention of or failure to comply with any matter in subsection (1)(a) or for each other ground of regulatory action;

20 (f) direct the furnishing by the licensed importer or licensed exporter of any performance bond, guarantee or other form of security, or an additional performance bond, guarantee or other form of security, for all or any of the following:

(i) to secure compliance by the licensed importer or licensed exporter with any condition attached to the licence;

25 (ii) to secure compliance by the licensed importer or licensed exporter with any code of practice applicable to the licensed importer or licensed exporter so far as that relates to trading activity authorised by the licence;

30 (iii) for the purpose of meeting any financial penalty arising out of any regulatory action started or likely to start against the licensed importer or licensed exporter.

(3) In subsection (1)(c), “relevant offence” means —

(a) an offence under section 45, 47, 51, 55, 57, 61 or 63, or under section 59 or 65 (involving unsafe food only) or under section 256 (involving a foreign government certificate only);

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(b) an offence under section 139 in relation to any food or food contact article imported by the licensee concerned;

(c) an offence under section 257 in relation to any trading activity of the licensed importer or licensed exporter;

(d) an offence under —

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(i) section 28 or 28A of the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act 1995 in relation to any import-controlled item, export-controlled item or transshipment-controlled item imported, exported or transhipped by the licensee concerned; or

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(ii) the Regulation of Imports and Exports (Chewing Gum) Regulations (R 4); or

(e) an offence —

(i) under section 8(3) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 for importing any egg that is food without a licence under that Act, where the current offence involves any egg;

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(ii) under section 7(4) of the Control of Plants Act 1993 for importing fresh fruits and vegetables without a licence under that Act;

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(iii) under section 5(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 for importing any meat product or fish product without a licence under that Act; or

(iv) under any other repealed law which corresponds to an offence mentioned in paragraph (a).

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(4) Subsection (2)(e) does not apply where the ground of regulatory action is subsection (1)(c).

### **Cancelling consignment permit**

5 **84.** Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, the Agency may cancel (without any compensation) an import consignment permit, an export consignment permit or a transshipment consignment permit granted to a licensed importer or licensed exporter if —

(a) in the case of an import consignment permit, the Agency is of the opinion that —

(i) the food to be imported under that permit is or may be unsafe or unsuitable or is or may be defined food;

10 (ii) the type of regulated food contact article to be imported under that permit has or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe; or

15 (iii) the animal feed to be imported under that permit is or may be not fit for purpose;

(b) the Agency reasonably believes that the integrity of the controlled items covered by the import consignment permit, export consignment permit or transshipment consignment permit (as the case may be) cannot be ensured;

(c) the Agency reasonably believes that the licensed importer or licensed exporter made a false, misleading or incomplete statement in an application for the consignment permit in question;

25 (d) the licensed importer or licensed exporter is or is about to be the subject of regulatory action under section 83; or

(e) the public interest of Singapore requires.

### **Post-revocation, etc., of licence or permit**

**85.—**(1) This section applies where —

30 (a) the licence of a licensed importer or licensed exporter is revoked or wholly suspended under section 83; or

(b) a consignment permit granted to a licensed importer or licensed exporter for a consignment is cancelled under section 84.

(2) The Agency may, in any of the circumstances described in subsection (1), direct as follows:

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(a) direct that any controlled item imported, or handled under any of the operations of the former licensed importer or former licensed exporter or the licensed importer or licensed exporter (as the case may be) affected by the revocation, suspension or cancellation (as the case may be) must not be sold;

10

(b) direct the former licensed importer or former licensed exporter or the licensed importer or licensed exporter (as the case may be) to take appropriate action to deal with the controlled item affected by the revocation, suspension or cancellation, as the case may be.

15

(3) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (2) commits an offence if the person fails to comply with the direction, and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

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(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

25

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(4) Subsection (3) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

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(5) In subsection (3), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (3), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under that subsection.

*Division 7 — Traceability obligation for importers*

**Application of this Division**

86.—(1) This Division applies only to a licensed importer who imports any of the following import-controlled items:

- (a) any of the following food:
- (i) meat and meat products;
  - (ii) fish and fish products;
  - (iii) fresh fruits and vegetables;
  - (iv) eggs;
  - (v) any other food except a food additive as such;
- (b) any prepacked food additive preparation;
- (c) any regulated food contact article;
- (d) any animal feed.

(2) This Division applies only in respect of the import made on or after the commencement of this Division of an import-controlled item mentioned in subsection (1).

**Information licensed importer must keep or have ready access to**

87.—(1) If an import-controlled item to which this Division applies is imported, the licensed importer concerned must keep, or have ready access to, the information described in subsection (2) for no shorter than the period prescribed for that import-controlled item.

(2) The information is —

(a) the prescribed identity particulars and prescribed contact details of the supplier of the import-controlled item;

(b) the prescribed identity particulars and prescribed contact details of —

(i) the manufacturer or primary producer of the import-controlled item which is food (other than a food additive as such) or any prepacked food additive preparation; or

(ii) the manufacturer of the import-controlled item which is a regulated food contact article or an animal feed;

(c) a description of the identity of the import-controlled item by commodity, brand (if any) and lot (if any); and

(d) any other information that is prescribed.

(3) A licensed importer who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(4) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (3).

(5) In this section, “prescribed” means prescribed by any regulations made under Part 15.

### **Identification, location and tracing of import-controlled items**

**88.**—(1) A licensed importer must have procedures for —

(a) identifying and locating imported import-controlled items to which this Division applies; and

(b) tracing imported import-controlled items to which this Division applies so that the imported import-controlled item can be traced —

- (i) from the supplier of the import-controlled item to the licensed importer;
- (ii) while it is under the licensed importer's control; and
- (iii) from the licensed importer to the next person to whom responsibility for the import-controlled item has passed (other than the ultimate consumer).

(2) A licensed importer must ensure that imported import-controlled items are identified, located and traced in accordance with those procedures.

(3) The information required under subsection (1) must be accurate.

(4) The information required under subsection (1) must also be sufficient to allow an effective recall to be carried out under Part 7.

(5) A licensed importer must —

(a) have procedures for recalling —

(i) food (other than a food additive as such) or any prepacked food additive preparation supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be unsafe or unsuitable or whose safety or suitability is in doubt;

(ii) regulated food contact articles supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be or might be dangerous to use with food; or

(iii) animal feed supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be not fit for purpose or whose fitness for purpose is in doubt;

(b) conduct simulations or other tests of those procedures if required by the Agency; and

(c) recall, in accordance with those procedures —

(i) food (other than a food additive as such) or any prepacked food additive preparation supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be unsafe or unsuitable or whose safety or suitability is in doubt;



- (ii) regulated food contact articles supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be or might be dangerous to use with food; or
- (iii) animal feed supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be not fit for purpose or whose fitness for purpose is in doubt.

(6) If the licensed importer decides to recall any imported import-controlled item to which this Division applies on the ground that —

- (a) the food (other than a food additive as such) or any prepacked food additive preparation is or might be unsafe or unsuitable;
- (b) the regulated food contact article is or might be dangerous to use with food; or
- (c) the animal feed is or might be not fit for purpose,

the importer must notify the Agency of the following as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after making the decision:

- (d) the import-controlled item affected by the recall;
- (e) the reason for the recall.

### **Providing information — importer**

**89.**—(1) When requested to do so by an authorised officer or a food inspector, a licensed importer is bound to state truly what the licensed importer is requested, and must give information about the matters in section 87(1) —

- (a) in a readily accessible format; and
- (b) within 24 hours after the request, or within any reasonable shorter period specified by the authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be.

(2) Where any information which is required by subsection (1) to be given to an authorised officer or a food inspector is not given or is not given within the time delimited under subsection (1)(b), then the

licensed importer requested to give the information shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the person required to give the information has a reasonable excuse.

(4) The ordinary meaning of “reasonable excuse” is affected by sections 258 and 259.

## PART 4

### FOOD BUSINESSES

#### *Division 1 — Interpretive provisions*

#### **Definitions for Part 4**

**90.** In this Part —

“accepted”, in relation to a farm management plan or food control plan, means such a plan which the Agency last accepts under this Part;

“application”, for a food business licence, means an application for or to renew the food business licence;

“farm management plan”, for a licensable food business that involves undertaking primary production activity, means a plan identifying how the proprietor of the food business will undertake the primary production activity with reference to all or any of the following matters as the Agency considers relevant:

(a) the species of animal to be farmed or plants to be cultivated;

(b) the quantity of animals to be farmed or plants to be cultivated;

- (c) the area of land or waters on or in which the animals are to be farmed or plants are to be cultivated;
- (d) the method of farming the animals or cultivating the plants;
- (e) the primary production equipment to be used; 5
- (f) proposed stocking densities;
- (g) the carrying capacity of the area to be used for farming the food producing animals;
- (h) for aquaculture —
  - (i) the water quality (including discharged water quality) and relevant response protocols; 10
  - (ii) the sediment quality and relevant response protocols; and
  - (iii) maximum nutrient loads and response thresholds; 15
- (i) disease testing, pest monitoring and relevant response protocols in connection with diseases and pests;
- (j) farm waste management protocols;
- (k) biosecurity and quarantine; 20
- (l) the audit mechanisms for the farm management plan;
- (m) the keeping of records which are sufficient to allow the Agency, an authorised officer or a food inspector to assess whether the accepted farm management plan has been complied with; 25

“food control plan”, for a licensable food business that does not involve undertaking any primary production activity, means a plan identifying how the proprietor of the food business will carry on the particular licensable food business with reference to all or any of the following matters as the Agency considers relevant: 30

- (a) the knowledge, skill, health and hygiene requirements for the people handling food in the course of the licensable food business;
- 5 (b) the design, construction, maintenance and cleanliness of the following used, or intended to be used, for the licensable food business:
- (i) the premises (including layout, fittings and fixtures) at which food is handled;
  - 10 (ii) the plant or equipment (including regulated food contact articles and single-use items) used to handle food;
  - (iii) the conveyances used to transport food;
- 15 (c) the systematic identification of the potential hazards that may be reasonably expected to occur in each food handling operation that is to be, or that is being, carried out in the course of the licensable food business;
- 20 (d) how and where each hazard identified under paragraph (c) can be controlled and the means of control;
- (e) the systematic monitoring of those controls in paragraph (d), and the appropriate corrective action when each hazard identified under paragraph (c) is found not to be under control;
- 25 (f) the procedures and practices established by the proprietor so as to monitor and ensure the compliance by the proprietor, and the employees or workers of the proprietor, with —
- 30 (i) the requirements of this Act with respect to the food business;
  - (ii) any applicable standard as is applicable to the food business;
  - (iii) the conditions of the food business licence relating to the food business, if granted; and

- (iv) the food control plan accepted by the Agency when granting that food business licence;
- (g) the keeping of records which are sufficient to allow the Agency, an authorised officer or a food inspector to assess whether the accepted food control plan has been complied with. 5

*Division 2 — Food business licence for licensable food business*

**Application of Division 4 of Part 14 (general licensing procedures)** 10

**91.**—(1) Division 4 of Part 14 applies to every application for a food business licence to use any premises to carry on a licensable food business, and to every food business licence granted under this Part, subject to the modifications in this Part.

(2) In addition, every application for a food business licence to use any premises to carry on a licensable food business must (if required by regulations made under Part 15) be accompanied by — 15

- (a) a farm management plan, if the food business involves any primary production activity; or
- (b) a food control plan, if the licensable food business is not a food business in paragraph (a) but is prescribed in a food safety scheme as requiring a food control plan. 20

(3) The Agency may require an applicant for a food business licence to amend and re-submit a farm management plan or a food control plan, for the purpose of assessing the application by the applicant. 25

**Criteria for grant of food business licence**

**92.**—(1) This section applies where the Agency is deciding any of the following:

- (a) whether an applicant should be granted a food business licence; 30
- (b) the conditions to impose on a food business licence;

(c) whether to modify any condition of a food business licence.

(2) When making a decision mentioned in subsection (1), the Agency must have regard, and give such weight as the Agency considers appropriate, to all of the following matters:

(a) whether the applicant or food business licensee, or an associate of the applicant or food business licensee, is or was disqualified by section 298 from holding the same licence or another licence;

(b) whether the applicant or food business licensee is a suitable person to be involved in the management or operation of the licensable food business in the application;

(c) whether regulatory action under section 96 has been or is being taken or is contemplated against the applicant or food business licensee;

(d) any available information as to whether or not the applicant or food business licensee has been convicted or found guilty of any relevant offence within the meaning of section 96(3) (whether or not the offence was committed before, on or after the commencement of this section);

(e) whether the premises at which the licensable food business is or is to be carried on are fit to be used for that type of licensable food business;

(f) whether —

(i) the written permission or authorisation required by the Planning Act 1998 for the use of the premises for that licensable food business has been granted or deemed granted; and

(ii) the requirements under any other written law for provisioning of sanitary conveniences in those premises have been complied with;

(g) whether the applicant or food business licensee has, and will keep and maintain, the following plans relating to the licensable food business:

- (i) an accepted farm management plan, where the licensable food business involves any primary production activity;
    - (ii) an accepted food control plan, where the licensable food business is a food business mentioned in section 91(2)(b);
  - (h) the applicant's or food business licensee's compliance history with Part 2, where applicable;
  - (i) whether and how the applicant or food business licensee prepares to deal with any disruptive event occurring;
  - (j) whether it is otherwise not in the public interest of Singapore for the applicant to be granted a food business licence.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies to an applicant or food business licensee which is an entity with the following modifications:
- (a) paragraph (a) of that subsection must be read as if the paragraph refers only to the officers of the entity instead of the entity;
  - (b) paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of that subsection must be read as if they refer to the entity and its officers.
- (4) For the purpose of determining whether or not a person is a suitable person under subsection (2)(b) for a particular licensable food business that is the subject of an application for a food business licence, the Agency must have regard to all of the following matters:
- (a) the person's compliance history with any of the following so far as that relates to the carrying on of that licensable food business:
    - (i) the provisions of this Act and any predecessor law about requirements in respect of manufacturing, preparing or handling to ensure safe and suitable food or in respect of primary production activity to ensure safe primary produce;
    - (ii) the conditions of any food business licence granted to the person;

(iii) the provisions of any code of practice applicable to the person;

(iv) a Part 7 direction;

5 (b) the person's relevant knowledge, competency and experience in identifying, controlling, managing, and eliminating or minimising hazards for the purpose of achieving safe and suitable food in carrying on that licensable food business.

10 (5) To avoid doubt, the Agency is not confined to consideration of the matters specified in subsection (2) and may take into account any other matters and evidence that may be relevant.

(6) In this section, "predecessor law" means any of the following:

(a) the Animals and Birds Act 1965, so far as that Act relates to food producing animals;

15 (b) the Control of Plants Act 1993, so far as that Act relates to cultivation of plants intended for human consumption;

(c) Part 4 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987;

(d) the Fisheries Act 1966, so far as that Act relates to cultivation of fish intended for human consumption;

20 (e) the Sale of Food Act 1973 repealed by this Act;

(f) the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 repealed by this Act.

### **Conditions of food business licence**

25 **93.**—(1) Without limiting section 294, in granting a food business licence to any person, the Agency may impose conditions requiring the food business licensee —

30 (a) to meet all the standards prescribed for the maintenance, cleanliness, sanitation and hygiene of the licensable food business authorised by the licence, or specified in the licence in so far as the standards are not prescribed;



- (b) to comply with procedures prescribed to achieve the safety and suitability of food or the safety of primary produce, including document control and recording;
  - (c) to prepare itself for the following ends:
    - (i) to deal with any disruptive event occurring; 5
    - (ii) to prevent any intentional engaging in conduct, by any individual, so as to jeopardise the safety of food which is manufactured, prepared or otherwise handled or of primary produce which is produced at the food premises of the food business, including any attempt to do so, 10
      - by establishing and maintaining procedures and plans directed to those ends, and conducting simulations or other tests of those procedures and plans (where necessary) to give effect to those procedures and plans; 15
  - (d) to carry on the licensable food business authorised by the licence in accordance with an accepted farm management plan or an accepted food control plan; or
  - (e) to furnish or further furnish a performance bond, guarantee or any other form of security of such amount and on such terms and conditions as the Agency considers appropriate. 20
- (2) In granting a person a food business licence for a licensable food business, the Agency accepts —
- (a) where the food business involves any primary production activity, the person’s farm management plan relating to that food business; or 25
  - (b) in any other case, the person’s food control plan relating to that food business.

### **Validity of food business licence**

**94.**—(1) Every food business licence granted under this Part is to be in any form that the Agency may determine. 30

(2) Every food business licence granted under this Part is in force for the period (not exceeding 5 years) specified in the licence —

- (a) except when it is wholly suspended under section 96(2); or
- (b) unless it is earlier revoked under section 96(1).

(3) To avoid doubt, a licence to use more than one premises for a licensable food business does not cease only by reason that one of the premises to which it relates stops being used for the licensable food business.

### **Modifying conditions of food business licence**

**95.** Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, it is lawful for the Agency to modify the conditions of a food business licence without compensating the food business licensee concerned.

### **Regulatory action concerning food business licence**

**96.—(1)** Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, if the Agency is satisfied that —

- (a) a food business licensee is contravening or not complying with, or has contravened or failed to comply with —
  - (i) any of the conditions of its food business licence;
  - (ii) any provision of this Act applicable to the food business licensee so far as that relates to the carrying on of the licensable food business stated in its food business licence, the contravention of or non-compliance with which is not an offence under this Act;
  - (iii) any provision of a code of practice applicable to the food business licensee so far as that relates to the carrying on of the licensable food business authorised by the food business licence;
  - (iv) any direction given to the food business licensee under subsection (2)(e) or (f); or
  - (v) any requirement in section 100 applicable to the food business licensee;
- (b) a food business licensee has ceased to carry on the food business authorised by the food business licence;

- (c) a food business licensee, or any officer of a food business licensee, is convicted of a relevant offence committed during the term of the food business licence or an immediately prior food business licence;
- (d) a food business licensee is suffering from a prescribed infectious disease, or knowingly employs or engages to handle food in the course of the licensee’s licensable food business an individual —
  - (i) who is or is suspected to be suffering from a prescribed infectious disease; or
  - (ii) who refuses to be immunised against a prescribed infectious disease where a direction under section 130 is given in relation to the licensee’s licensable food business;
- (e) the continued use of the premises for a food business under a food business licence would constitute an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare or wellbeing of customers of that licensable food business at the premises;
- (f) there is or has been a serious failure of the operations of a food business licensee, or there are or have been other matters, that cast doubt on the safety of the primary produce produced, or the safety and suitability of the food manufactured, prepared or supplied, by the food business licensee;
- (g) a food business licence had been obtained by a food business licensee by fraud or misrepresentation; or
- (h) the public interest of Singapore requires,

the Agency may revoke (without any compensation) the food business licence of the food business licensee, with or without forfeiting any performance bond, guarantee or other form of security furnished by the food business licensee under this Act.

(2) However, the Agency may, in lieu of revoking under subsection (1) the food business licence of a food business

licensee, do (without any compensation) one or more of the following:

- (a) censure the food business licensee in writing;
- 5 (b) direct the food business licensee to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing that is specified in a direction to rectify any contravention or non-compliance that constitutes the ground for regulatory action;
- (c) suspend (in whole or in part) the food business licence for not more than 6 months;
- 10 (d) modify any condition of the food business licence;
- (e) direct the food business licensee to pay, within a period specified in a direction, a financial penalty of any amount that the Agency thinks fit, but not exceeding \$5,000 for each contravention of or failure to comply with any matter in subsection (1)(a) or for each other ground of regulatory action;
- 15 (f) direct the furnishing by the food business licensee of any performance bond, guarantee or other form of security, or an additional performance bond, guarantee or other form of security, for all or any of the following:
  - (i) to secure compliance by the food business licensee with any condition attached to the food business licence;
  - 25 (ii) to secure compliance by the food business licensee with any code of practice applicable to the food business licensee so far as that relates to the carrying on of the licensable food business authorised by the food business licence;
  - (iii) for the purpose of meeting any financial penalty arising out of any regulatory action started or likely to start against the food business licensee.
- 30

(3) In this section, “relevant offence” means —

- (a) an offence under section 102, 103(1) or (2), 106, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 162, 179, 180 or 182;

- (b) an offence under section 139, 140, 253, 256 or 257 in relation to any food business of the food business licensee concerned;
- (c) an offence under section 272, 273 or 284 of the Penal Code 1871 involving food or drinking water; or
- (d) an offence under a repealed law which is prescribed in regulations, being an offence corresponding to any offence in paragraph (a).

(4) Subsection (2)(e) does not apply where the ground of regulatory action is subsection (1)(c).

### **Post-revocation, etc., of food business licence**

97.—(1) Where the food business licence of a food business licensee is revoked or suspended (in whole or in part) under section 96, the Agency may direct as follows:

- (a) direct that —
  - (i) any food handled; or
  - (ii) any primary produce from any primary production activity,

under any of the operations of the food business licensee affected by the revocation or suspension must not be sold or supplied;
- (b) direct the food business licensee or former food business licensee (as the case may be) to take appropriate action to destroy or otherwise dispose of or deal with the affected food or primary produce mentioned in paragraph (a).

(2) A food business licensee or former food business licensee to whom a direction under subsection (1) is given commits an offence if the food business licensee or former food business licensee (as the case may be) fails to comply with the direction.

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (2) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(4) Subsection (2) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

(5) In subsection (3), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (2), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, an offence under subsection (2).

*Division 3 — Traceability obligations for  
licensable food businesses*

**Application of this Division**

**98.**—(1) This Division applies only to a licensable food business that is prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, as subject to this Division.

(2) Where any licensable food business is prescribed in any order made under subsection (1), this Division does not apply to or in relation to the carrying on of the licensable food business before the date the order comes into force.

**Information food business proprietor must keep or have ready access to**

**99.**—(1) Every proprietor of a licensable food business to which this Division applies must keep, or have ready access to, the information described in subsection (2) for no shorter than the prescribed period after the date that the food is supplied by the proprietor. 5

(2) The information is —

(a) the prescribed identity particulars and prescribed contact details of the person to whom the food was supplied by the proprietor; 10

(b) the prescribed identity particulars and prescribed contact details of —

(i) the manufacturer or primary producer of the food; or

(ii) the person from whom the proprietor acquired the food; 15

(c) a description of the identity of the food by commodity, brand (if any) and lot (if any); and

(d) any other information that is prescribed.

(3) A proprietor of a licensable food business who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction — 20

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or 25

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(4) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (3).

(5) In this section, “prescribed” means prescribed by any regulations made under Part 15. 30

### **Identification, location and tracing of food**

**100.**—(1) A proprietor of a licensable food business to which this Division applies must have procedures for —

(a) identifying and locating food supplied, handled or produced by the proprietor; and

(b) tracing food so that the food can be traced —

(i) from the supplier of the food to the proprietor;

(ii) while the food is under the proprietor's control; and

(iii) from the proprietor to the next person to whom responsibility for the food has passed (other than the ultimate consumer).

(2) A proprietor of a licensable food business to which this Division applies must ensure that food is identified, located and traced in accordance with those procedures.

(3) The information required under subsection (1) must be accurate.

(4) The information required under subsection (1) must also be sufficient to allow an effective recall to be carried out under Part 7.

(5) A proprietor of a licensable food business must —

(a) have procedures for the recalling of food supplied in Singapore by the proprietor of the licensable food business that the proprietor considers to be unsafe or unsuitable or whose safety or suitability is in doubt;

(b) conduct simulations or other tests of those procedures if required by the Agency; and

(c) recall, in accordance with those procedures, food supplied in Singapore by the proprietor of the licensable food business that the proprietor considers to be unsafe or unsuitable or whose safety or suitability is in doubt.

(6) If the proprietor of a licensable food business to which this Division applies decides to recall any food on the ground that the food is or might be unsafe or unsuitable, the proprietor must notify the



Agency of the following as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after making the decision:

- (a) the food affected by the recall;
- (b) the reason for the recall.

**Providing information — food business proprietor**

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**101.**—(1) When requested to do so by an authorised officer or a food inspector, a proprietor of a licensable food business to which this Division applies is bound to state truly what the proprietor of a licensable food business is requested, and must give information about the matters in section 99(1) —

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- (a) in a readily accessible format; and
- (b) within 24 hours after the request, or within any reasonable shorter period specified by the authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be.

(2) Where any information which is required by subsection (1) to be given to an authorised officer or a food inspector is not given or is not given within the time delimited under subsection (1)(b), then the proprietor of a licensable food business requested to give the information shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

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- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

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(3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the person required to give the information has a reasonable excuse.

(4) The ordinary meaning of “reasonable excuse” is affected by sections 258 and 259.

*Division 4 — Offences***Unlicensed licensable food business, etc.**

**102.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person is an owner or an occupier of any premises;
- 5 (b) the person uses, or allows the premises to be used, to carry on a licensable food business; and
- (c) the person is not one of the following:
  - (i) a holder of a current licence to carry on that licensable food business at the premises;
  - 10 (ii) a person exempt from this section under section 320 or 321 in relation to carrying on that licensable food business at the premises.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- 15 (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- 20 (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

25 (3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- 30 (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately

before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —

- (i) under this section;
- (ii) under section 41A of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 for contravening section 32(1) of that Act; 5
- (iii) under section 41A of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 for contravening section 33 or 34(1) of that Act involving any food;
- (iv) under section 24 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 for contravening section 21 of that Act; or 10
- (v) under section 11(2) or 12(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section. 15

(5) However, a person is not guilty of an offence under subsection (1) if the person proves, on a balance of probabilities, that the person —

- (a) had no knowledge and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained that the premises was used to carry on a licensable food business; and 20
- (b) as soon as practicable after becoming aware that the premises was used to carry on a licensable food business, took all reasonable steps to stop that use. 25

### **Deployment of untrained food workers**

**103.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person is the holder of a food business licence for a licensable food business;
- (b) the person causes or allows an individual to carry out any work as a food worker in the course of the operations of the licensable food business; 30

(c) the individual is not registered as a food worker, generally or in respect of that licensable food business; and

(d) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the individual is not registered as a food worker, generally or in respect of that licensable food business.

(2) An individual commits an offence if —

(a) the individual is the holder of a food business licence for a licensable food business;

(b) the individual carries out any work as a food worker in the course of the operations of the licensable food business;

(c) the individual is not registered as a food worker, generally or in respect of that licensable food business; and

(d) the individual knows, or ought reasonably to know, that he or she is not registered as a food worker, generally or in respect of that licensable food business.

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(4) In subsection (3), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under this section, means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under this section. 5

### **Disallowed activities for non-licensable food business**

**104.**—(1) A proprietor of a food business which is not a licensable food business commits an offence if —

- (a) the proprietor engages in conduct, or causes or permits an individual to engage in conduct — 10
- (i) in the course of carrying on the food business at any premises, which is prescribed in any regulations made under Part 15 as prohibited conduct for that food business; or
  - (ii) in certain circumstances in the course of carrying on the food business at any premises, which are prescribed in any regulations made under Part 15 as disallowed circumstances for that food business; and 15
- (b) the proprietor knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the conduct — 20
- (i) is prescribed in those regulations as prohibited conduct for that food business; or
  - (ii) is engaged in circumstances which are prescribed in those regulations as disallowed circumstances for that food business, 25
- as the case may be.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

## PART 5

## DEFINED FOOD AND PRE-MARKET APPROVAL

**Meaning of “pre-market approval”**

5     **105.** In this Part, “pre-market approval” means an approval granted under this Part for a novel food or a genetically modified food to be available for consumption as food by the general public, after the Agency makes an assessment of the public health and safety considerations having regard to —

- 10     (a) the potential for adverse effects in humans;
- (b) the composition or structure of the novel food or genetically modified food;
- (c) the process by which the novel food or genetically modified food has been prepared;
- 15     (d) the source from which the novel food or genetically modified food is derived;
- (e) the likely patterns and levels of consumption of the novel food or genetically modified food; and
- (f) any other relevant matters.

**Supplying defined food**

20     **106.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person supplies any food in Singapore;
- (b) the food is a defined food; and
- (c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the food is a defined food.

25     (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

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(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

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(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

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(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

**Supplying defined food — strict liability**

**107.—**(1) A person commits an offence if —

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(a) the person supplies any food in Singapore; and

(b) the food is a defined food.

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

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(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

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(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

### **Defence of due diligence**

5 **108.**—(1) In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 106 or 107, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the commission of the offence was due to —

(i) an act or omission of another person; or

10 (ii) an accident or some other cause outside the control of the person charged; and

(b) the person charged took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence by the person, or by another person under the control of the person charged.

15 (2) In subsection (1)(a), another person does not include a person who was at the time of the commission of the offence —

(a) an employee or agent of the person charged; or

(b) if the person charged is an entity, an officer of the entity.

20 (3) Section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 does not apply in relation to a strict liability offence under this Part.

### **Application for pre-market approval**

25 **109.** Without limiting section 292(4), the Agency may refuse to consider an application for pre-market approval with respect to a novel food or a genetically modified food if the application does not contain sufficient information for the Agency to make an assessment as to the public health and safety considerations as described in section 105.

### **Grant of pre-market approval**

30 **110.**—(1) Without limiting section 294, in granting a pre-market approval in respect of a novel food or a genetically modified food, the Agency may impose any conditions that the Agency considers



requisite or expedient to ensure that the novel food or genetically modified food, as the case may be —

- (a) is what it says it is; and
- (b) is safe, and after having regard to the public health and safety considerations as described in section 105. 5

(2) The Agency may, at the request of an applicant for pre-market approval in respect of a novel food or a genetically modified food, grant the pre-market approval subject to an exclusive use condition.

### **Validity of pre-market approval**

**111.** A pre-market approval granted in respect of a novel food or a genetically modified food has effect until — 10

- (a) the approval is cancelled under section 112; or
- (b) in the case of a novel food, it earlier ceases to be a novel food.

### **Cancelling pre-market approval** 15

**112.** Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, the Agency may cancel (without any compensation) a pre-market approval in respect of a novel food or a genetically modified food if the Agency is satisfied that —

- (a) the pre-market approval had been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation; 20
- (b) any condition of the pre-market approval is contravened or not complied with;
- (c) after the grant of the pre-market approval, there has been a material change to — 25
  - (i) the method by which the novel food or genetically modified food is manufactured, prepared, preserved, packaged or stored; or
  - (ii) any other information relating to the novel food or genetically modified food which was provided in connection with the application for the pre-market approval; or 30

- (d) the public interest of Singapore requires the cancellation of the pre-market approval.

### **Restrictions on transfer of pre-market approval**

5 **113.**—(1) Every pre-market approval, and any rights, benefits or privileges under the pre-market approval, are not transferable or assignable to any other person unless —

(a) the pre-market approval contains a condition authorising the transfer or assignment; and

10 (b) the Agency consents in writing to the transfer or assignment.

(2) Any consent under subsection (1) may be given subject to compliance with any conditions that the Agency thinks fit to impose, which may include conditions modifying, or requiring or otherwise providing for the making of modifications to, the conditions of the pre-market approval.

15 (3) A transfer or an assignment, or a purported transfer or assignment, of a pre-market approval, or of any rights, benefits or privileges under the pre-market approval, is void and of no effect —

20 (a) if the pre-market approval is not capable of transfer or assignment;

(b) if the transfer or assignment, or purported transfer or assignment, is in breach of a condition of the pre-market approval licence; or

25 (c) if there has, before the transfer or assignment or purported transfer or assignment, been a contravention of a condition imposed under subsection (2).

PART 6

PROVISION OF NON-PACKAGED DRINKING WATER

**Definitions for Part 6**

**114.—(1)** In this Part, section 312 and the Part 6 Regulations —

“alter”, in relation to water, does not include —

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- (a) chilling or otherwise changing the temperature of the water;
- (b) adding fluoride to drinking water only to the extent necessary to promote good oral health;
- (c) where drinking water is supplied using a reticulation system, the addition to drinking water of any contaminant or substance due solely to the contact between the drinking water and any network infrastructure of the reticulation system during the water’s passage; or
- (d) conditioning or purifying drinking water using filters or other devices to improve the quality or aesthetic aspects of the drinking water;

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“drinking water producer” means a person who carries on drinking water production in the course of business;

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“drinking water production” means an undertaking that involves —

- (a) any of the following:
  - (i) water harvesting or collection (including, for example, water storage by means of a tank or other infrastructure);
  - (ii) recovering water from a water resource not supplied by a reticulated water system;
  - (iii) extracting groundwater or water from the air; and

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(b) treating or recycling the water harvested, collected, recovered or extracted in paragraph (a) to obtain drinking water;

“drinking water service” means a service that involves —

- 5           (a) drinking water production; and
- (b) supplying to another the drinking water obtained from drinking water production in paragraph (a) —
- (i) by a reticulation system; or
- (ii) in bulk;

10       “in bulk”, in relation to supply of drinking water, means to supply an amount of drinking water through the use of a vehicle, being an amount exceeding a volume prescribed by any Part 6 Regulations;

15       “network infrastructure” means the pipes, pumps, tanks, equipment and other elements of a reticulation system;

“reticulation system” means a network for distributing drinking water, or for monitoring or controlling the distribution of drinking water, to premises for human consumption or use;

20       “supply”, in relation to drinking water, means to make available drinking water either by using a reticulation system or in bulk, and includes —

- (a) to cause or permit the supply of drinking water; and
- (b) to offer to supply drinking water;

“water resource” means —

- 25           (a) a river, creek or other natural watercourse (whether modified or not) in which water is contained or flows, whether permanently or from time to time;
- (b) a lake or reservoir; or
- (c) the sea.

30       (2) Despite subsection (1), the term “drinking water service” does not include a service involving —

- (a) the supply of drinking water to a vessel, the supply of which is regulated under the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Act 1996;
- (b) the supply to a Singapore ship of drinking water, the supply of which is regulated under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995; 5
- (c) the supply by a drinking water producer, of drinking water obtained by the drinking water producer from its drinking water production to the Public Utilities Board, and to no other person; or 10
- (d) the supply by a person to another of drinking water that has been directly obtained from a drinking water producer subject to this Part, provided that the drinking water from the drinking water producer is not altered or altered to any material degree by the supplier. 15

(3) This Part does not apply to the supply of packaged drinking water, and any reference in this Part to drinking water and its supply does not include a reference to the supply of packaged drinking water.

### **Offence of supplying unwholesome drinking water**

**115.**—(1) A drinking water producer providing a drinking water service commits an offence if any drinking water supplied in the course of providing that service is unwholesome. 20

(2) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) —

- (a) it is not necessary for the prosecution to prove that a person charged knew or had reason to believe that the drinking water is unwholesome; but 25
- (b) it is a defence to the charge for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person charged took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence by the person charged and by any person under the control of the person charged. 30

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 and, in the

case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$1,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(4) For the purposes of this Part, drinking water is unwholesome unless the water —

(a) conforms to the prescribed requirements in any Part 6 Regulations concerning the quality, purity and general appearance of drinking water; and

(b) does not, based on any prescribed methodology or assessment in any Part 6 Regulations, contain any contaminant, substance or organism, either alone or in any combination, at a concentration or value that constitutes a potential danger to human health.

(5) In subsection (4), “general appearance”, in relation to drinking water, includes the colour and clarity of the water.

#### **Direction for unwholesome drinking water incident, etc.**

**116.**—(1) The Director-General may, in any of the circumstances described in subsection (2), give a written direction under this section to all or any of the following:

(a) a proprietor of a food business, whether or not a food business licensee;

(b) a drinking water producer providing a drinking water service;

(c) a person who supplies drinking water that has been directly obtained from the Public Utilities Board or another drinking water producer;

(d) a person who has a duty to control, manage and administer any common property comprising any network infrastructure for distributing drinking water from the Public Utilities Board or another drinking water producer to occupants of premises in a subdivided building; and common property has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act 2004.

(2) A written direction may be given under subsection (1) where the Director-General reasonably believes that —

- (a) drinking water supplied, or to be supplied, by a drinking water producer as part of a drinking water service is unwholesome, or may be the means by which an illness is being, has been, or will be, transmitted; or 5
- (b) a direction is necessary for the purposes of averting, eliminating or minimising a risk, or a perceived risk, to human health among the general public in relation to drinking water. 10

(3) A written direction under subsection (1) may require the person to whom it is addressed to do or not to do any thing reasonably required for the purpose for which the direction is given, including one or more of the following:

- (a) a requirement that the person discontinue, or not start — 15
  - (i) supplying any drinking water; or
  - (ii) any other specified activity,

for a specified period or until further notice is given by an authorised officer;
- (b) a requirement that the person not supply any drinking water or not carry on a specified activity, except subject to specified conditions; 20
- (c) a requirement that the person take specified action in a specified way, and within a specified period or at specified times or in specified circumstances; 25
- (d) a requirement that the person take action to prevent, eliminate, minimise or control any specified risk to the general public in relation to drinking water, or to control any specified activity;
- (e) a requirement that the person comply with any standard in any Part 6 Regulations, or any guideline or code in relation to drinking water which is prepared or published by the Agency and referred to in the direction; 30

(f) a requirement that the person undertake specified tests or monitoring in relation to drinking water;

(g) a requirement that the person provide an authorised officer referred to in the direction or to the Agency specified results or reports;

(h) a requirement that the person prepare, in accordance with specified requirements and to the satisfaction of the Agency, a plan of action to secure compliance with a relevant requirement or to prevent, eliminate, minimise or control any specified risk to human health among the general public in relation to drinking water;

(i) in the case of a drinking water producer providing a drinking water service, a requirement to notify affected consumers that drinking water supplied by the drinking water producer as part of its drinking water service should be boiled, or treated in some other way, before drinking.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), a written direction under subsection (2) takes effect when it is given to the person to whom it is addressed, and continues in force until the earlier of the following occurs:

(a) the expiry date stated in the direction is reached;

(b) the Director-General revokes the direction.

(5) Where the Director-General gives a written direction under subsection (2) requiring a person —

(a) to discontinue, or not start, supplying any drinking water; or

(b) to not supply any drinking water except subject to specified conditions,

because the Director-General has reasonable grounds to believe that the direction is necessary or desirable to prevent or control a threat (actual or imminent) to public health or an imminent risk of death or serious illness, that direction takes effect in accordance with subsection (4) but expires on (and including) the 10th day after that date it takes effect.



(6) However, the cessation of a written direction under subsection (1) having effect (whether or not by revocation) does not prevent another written direction being made and given by the Director-General if the Director-General is satisfied that the circumstances warrant it under subsection (1).

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(7) A reference in subsection (1) to the Director-General includes a reference to an authorised officer duly appointed by the Director-General to act for him or her for the purpose of this section.

**Offence of not complying with section 116 direction**

**117.—(1)** A person to whom a section 116 direction is addressed and given commits an offence if the person —

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- (a) intentionally carries on an activity in contravention of the direction;
- (b) neglects or refuses to comply with the direction; or
- (c) fails to comply with a condition specified in the direction.

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(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

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- (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

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(3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

(4) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

30

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

## PART 7

### FOOD SAFETY AND SUSTAINABLE PRIMARY PRODUCTION MEASURES

#### *Division 1 — General provisions*

#### **Persons acting in name of Director-General**

**118.** A reference in this Part to the Director-General includes a reference to an authorised officer duly appointed by the Director-General to act for him or her for the purposes of this Part.

#### **Persons to whom Part 7 directions may be given**

**119.—(1)** Subject to section 130, the Director-General may give a direction under Division 2 of this Part to all or any of the following, individually or as a class:

- (a) a proprietor of a food business, whether or not a food business licensee;
- (b) a licensed importer under Part 3 of an import-controlled item other than animal feed;
- (c) a manufacturer or supplier of a regulated food contact article;
- (d) a person carrying on a business of selling or supplying (by wholesale or retail) any regulated food contact article;
- (e) a person in control of, or reasonably appearing to be in control of, food or anything that may become food.

(2) The Director-General may give a direction under Division 3 of this Part to all or any of the following, individually or as a class:

- (a) a producer of an animal feed, whether or not a licensee under Part 11;
- (b) a licensed importer under Part 3 of an animal feed;
- (c) a proprietor of a food business involved in a primary production activity; 5
- (d) a proprietor of a food business that involves the slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products;
- (e) a person in control of, or reasonably appearing to be in control of, any animal feed.

### **Content and effect of Part 7 directions — general** 10

**120.**—(1) A Part 7 direction is binding on —

- (a) the person to whom it is addressed and given; and
- (b) if applicable, the personal representatives, successors and assignees of the person to whom it is addressed and given, to the same extent as it applies to that person. 15

(2) A Part 7 direction must be in writing, or be confirmed in writing as soon as practicable after being given orally.

(3) In making a Part 7 direction, it is not necessary for the Director-General to give any person who may be affected by the direction a chance to be heard before the direction is given. 20

(4) A Part 7 direction must state —

- (a) whether the person to whom it is given must —
    - (i) advise the Director-General of the details of the manner in which the person proposes to comply with the direction; 25
    - (ii) keep information about the matters that are the subject of the direction;
    - (iii) regularly notify the Director-General about the steps being taken towards compliance with the direction; 30
- or

(iv) give written notice to the Director-General when the person has complied with the direction;

(b) that it is an offence under this Act to fail to comply with the direction;

5 (c) that if the person to whom the direction is given fails to comply with it, the Director-General may carry out the direction; and

10 (d) that if the Director-General carries out the direction, the Agency may recover the costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the Director-General in carrying out the direction from the person to whom the direction was given.

(5) A Part 7 direction may —

(a) be amended or revoked at any time; and

15 (b) be extended or renewed, if the Director-General is satisfied that the circumstances warrant it.

(6) If a person to whom the direction is given fails or refuses to comply with it, the Director-General may carry out the direction, and the Agency may recover the costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the Director-General in carrying out the direction as a debt due from the person to whom the direction was given.

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(7) If satisfied that a Part 7 direction has been complied with, the Director-General must —

(a) revoke the direction; and

25 (b) give written notice of the revocation in the same manner in which the direction was given or served.

(8) Subject to section 141, no compensation is payable in respect of any animal which is destroyed as required by a Part 7 direction.

### **Service of Part 7 directions**

30 **121.**—(1) A Part 7 direction that is addressed to a person is sufficiently given —

(a) if it is given in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) or (3) or section 304; or

- (b) if the name and address of the intended recipient is unknown, when it is affixed to —
- (i) the food premises concerned, or the premises where the regulated food contact article is manufactured or sold, as the case may be; or 5
  - (ii) in the case of a direction under Division 3, the food premises concerned, or the premises where the animal feed is produced, as the case may be.
- (2) A Part 7 direction that is addressed to a class of persons is sufficiently given if it is — 10
- (a) given to each of the persons in the class in accordance with subsection (1); or
  - (b) published both —
    - (i) in a daily newspaper circulating in Singapore, or on radio and on television, or in any other way that, in the opinion of the Director-General, will be most likely to bring the direction to the attention of the persons who belong to the class; and 15
    - (ii) on the Agency’s official online location.
- (3) A Part 7 direction that is addressed to a public authority is sufficiently given if it is given to the chief executive (however called) of the public authority in accordance with section 304(2). 20

### **When Part 7 direction takes effect**

- 122.**—(1) Subject to subsections (2), (3) and (4), a Part 7 direction takes effect when it is given to the person to whom it is addressed, and continues in force until the earlier of the following occurs: 25
- (a) the expiry date stated in the direction is reached;
  - (b) for a direction under section 130 relating to an individual employed or engaged as a food worker by a food business licensee, the date the individual permanently ceases to be employed or engaged as a food worker by a food business licensee; 30

(c) the Director-General revokes the direction.

(2) A Part 7 direction that is given —

(a) in accordance with section 121(1) takes effect when it is given;

5 (b) in accordance with section 121(2)(a) takes effect when it is given to all the persons in the class in question; and

(c) in accordance with section 121(2)(b) takes effect at the beginning of the day after the date on which section 121(2)(b) has been complied with.

10 (3) However, for a direction under section 123 or 124 if the name and address of the proprietor of the food premises or the food vending machine or other equipment is unknown, the direction takes effect when a copy of it is affixed to a conspicuous part of the premises, food vending machine or other equipment (as the case may be) as  
15 ordered under section 123(4)(a) or 124(4)(a), whichever being applicable.

(4) Where the Director-General gives —

(a) a movement control direction under section 125 prohibiting or restricting —

20 (i) any movement or relocation by the recipient of any specified food or primary produce within Singapore or into or out of a stated area in Singapore; or

(ii) any undertaking by the recipient of any activity involving the supply of any specified food or primary  
25 produce in Singapore;

(b) a direction under section 128 to recall food that is unsafe or unsuitable or is a defined food, or whose safety or suitability is in doubt; or

30 (c) a direction under section 134(1) requiring the recipient to do any thing mentioned in section 134(2)(a), (b) or (c),

because the Director-General has reasonable grounds to believe that the direction is necessary or desirable to prevent or control a threat (actual or imminent) to public health or an imminent risk of death or

serious illness, or to prevent or control a significant threat (actual or imminent) to supply sources of food for the general public, that direction takes effect in accordance with subsection (2) but expires on (and including) the 10th day after that date it takes effect.

(5) However, the cessation of a Part 7 direction under a provision in this Part having effect (whether or not by revocation) does not prevent another Part 7 direction being made and given by the Director-General if the Director-General is satisfied that the circumstances warrant it under that same provision.

### *Division 2 — Food safety directions*

#### **Direction relating to food premises**

**123.**—(1) The Director-General may give a direction described in subsection (2) if satisfied (whether or not from the report of an authorised officer or a food inspector) —

- (a) that any food premises is in an unclean or unsanitary condition or in a state of disrepair;
- (b) that the slaughtering of animals to produce meat or meat products or the meat processing is carried on in any food premises in a manner that makes the meat or meat products unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable;
- (c) that primary production activity is undertaken in any food premises in a manner that makes the primary produce unsafe, or likely to be unsafe; or
- (d) that any food is supplied or handled in any food premises in a manner that makes the food unsafe or unsuitable,

(2) The Director-General may direct the proprietor of the food premises to, within a specified time in the direction, do all or any of the following things:

- (a) take steps, to the satisfaction of an authorised officer or a food inspector, for either or both of the following:

(i) to put the food premises (including any machinery or equipment in it) into a clean and sanitary condition, which may include disinfection;

(ii) to alter or improve the food premises;

5 (b) take specified steps to ensure that —

(i) any meat or meat products from the slaughtering of animals to produce meat or meat products, or from meat processing in the food premises are not unsafe and not unsuitable;

10 (ii) any primary produce from primary production activity undertaken in the food premises is not unsafe; or

(iii) any food supplied or handled in the food premises is not unsafe and not unsuitable.

15 (3) The Director-General may, in a direction made under this section, direct that until the matters referred to in subsection (2) are complied with, the proprietor of the food premises concerned —

(a) must stop using those premises, or a specified area of those premises, to carry out such activity mentioned in subsection (2)(b) as is specified in the direction; or

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(b) must not remove, and must prevent and disallow the removal of, any meat or meat product, primary produce or food specified in the direction from those premises for any purpose except with the prior consent of an authorised officer or a food inspector.

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(4) If a direction under this section includes a direction under subsection (3)(a) or (b), the Director-General —

(a) may order that a copy of the direction be affixed to a conspicuous part of the food premises concerned in such a manner that the direction can be read by a member of the general public from outside those premises;

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(b) may, by notice published in a daily newspaper circulating in Singapore, on radio and on television, or by any other



appropriate means, inform the general public that the direction has been made and the terms of the direction; and

- (c) if the Director-General is not the licensing authority for the premises, must notify the licensing authority of the making of the direction, and any appeal made under Part 12 against the direction and the outcome of the appeal.

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### **Direction for food vending machines and other equipment**

**124.**—(1) This section applies if the Director-General is satisfied from the report of an authorised officer or a food inspector that —

- (a) a food vending machine is in such an unclean or unsanitary condition as to make any food obtained from the machine unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable; or

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- (b) an equipment used in —

- (i) any slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products;

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- (ii) any manufacturing of food;

- (iii) any primary production activity; or

- (iv) the supply or handling of food,

is in such an unclean or unsanitary condition or a state of disrepair, as to make the resulting meat or meat products, primary produce or food (as the case may be) unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable.

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(2) The Director-General may, in a direction given to the owner of the food vending machine or other equipment mentioned in subsection (1), direct the owner to do within a specified time all or any of the following things to the satisfaction of an authorised officer or a food inspector:

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- (a) put the food vending machine or other equipment into a clean and sanitary condition, which may include disinfection;

30

- (b) alter, repair or improve the food vending machine or other equipment.

(3) The Director-General may, in a direction made under this section, further direct that until the matters referred to in subsection (2) are complied with, the owner of the vending machine or other equipment mentioned in subsection (1) concerned —

(a) must stop using, and must prevent and disallow the use of, the food vending machine; or

(b) must stop using, and must prevent and disallow the use of, the other equipment in connection with any slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products, any meat processing, any primary production activity or any supply or handling of food,

as is specified in the direction.

(4) If the Director-General makes a direction that includes a further direction under subsection (3), the Director-General —

(a) may order that a copy of the direction be affixed to a conspicuous part of the food vending machine or other equipment concerned in such a manner that the direction can be read by an individual who may intend to use the food vending machine or other equipment; and

(b) if the Director-General is not the licensing authority for the food vending machine or other equipment, must notify the licensing authority of the making of the direction, and any appeal made under Part 12 against either direction and the outcome of the appeal.

(5) Except with the express approval of an authorised officer, a person must not remove the copy of a direction affixed under subsection (4)(a) to a food vending machine or other equipment while that direction remains in force.

### **Direction to deal with hazard or source of contamination**

**125.**—(1) Where the Director-General —

(a) reasonably suspects (whether or not from the report of an authorised officer or a food inspector) the existence of a

hazard or a source of contamination that may adversely affect —

- (i) any primary produce or food;
- (ii) any live food producing animal or other thing that may become food; or
- (iii) any regulated food contact article; and

- (b) is satisfied on reasonable grounds that a direction under section 126 or 127 is necessary to minimise, manage or eradicate, over a limited period or over an indefinite period, the risk to human health created by the suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination,

the Director-General may give a direction described in section 126 (called a movement control direction), a direction described in section 127 (called a declaration direction), or both those directions, to any person described in section 119(1).

(2) In this section and sections 126 and 127 —

“biosecurity carrier” means any animal or plant, or part of any animal or plant, or any other thing —

- (a) that is capable of moving a biosecurity matter attached to, or contained in, the animal, plant or other thing from a place to another place;

- (b) that contains a biosecurity matter that may attach to or enter another animal or plant, or part of another animal or plant, or another thing; or

- (c) that —

- (i) is infected with a disease or is reasonably believed to be infected with disease; or

- (ii) may have been in contact with another animal or bird which is infected with disease, or may have been exposed to disease,

but excludes a human or part of a human;

“biosecurity matter” means —

- (a) a living thing, other than a human or part of a human;
- (b) a pathogen that can cause disease in —
  - (i) an animal; or
  - (ii) a human, by the transmission of the pathogen from an animal to the human; or
- (c) a disease;

“hazard” means an adverse or injurious health effect on humans that arises or may have the potential to arise from any of the following:

- (a) a biosecurity matter, a chemical substance or other matter that —
  - (i) is in primary produce, food or a regulated food contact article;
  - (ii) has the potential to be in primary produce, food or a regulated food contact article;
  - (iii) is a condition of primary produce, food or a regulated food contact article; or
  - (iv) has the potential to affect the condition of primary produce, food or a regulated food contact article;
- (b) a biosecurity carrier;
- (c) a dealing with a biosecurity matter or a biosecurity carrier;
- (d) a plant pesticide or a residue thereof;
- (e) a failure to comply with an applicable requirement of this Act relating to the slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products, meat processing, primary production activity, or the supplying or handling of food;

“manage”, in relation to the risk to human health from a hazard or a source of contamination, includes prevent or control the transmission or spread of the hazard or contamination;

“movement”, in relation to any thing or individual, includes —

- (a) the transport of the thing by any conveyance; 5
- (b) the deployment of equipment in more than one premises; and
- (c) the deployment of the individual to work or attend in person in more than one premises or workplaces;

“thing” — 10

- (a) means a thing, whether alive, dead or inanimate; and
- (b) includes a human.

### **Movement control direction — content**

**126.**—(1) Every movement control direction must include reference to — 15

- (a) the suspected hazard or suspected source of contamination, such as (but not limited to) —
  - (i) a thing or an activity;
  - (ii) a particular premises (where, for example, there may be contamination from the land or the environment); 20  
or
  - (iii) a particular person, or a particular food business or a specified class of food businesses (where, for example, the contamination may have been caused by a human act or omission); and 25
- (b) the area or areas in Singapore to which the movement or related controls in the movement control direction apply.

(2) Every movement control direction must state the movement or related controls, which may relate to all or any of the following:

- (a) any activity involving —
- (i) any slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products;
  - (ii) any meat processing;
  - 5 (iii) any primary production activity;
  - (iv) any supply or handling of food; or
  - (v) any manufacturing, or supply or use, of a regulated food contact article for use with food;
- (b) any premises;
- 10 (c) any food;
- (d) any live food producing animal or other thing that may become food, whether or not a biosecurity carrier;
- (e) any food business;
- (f) any regulated food contact article, or any thing that may become a regulated food contact article;
- 15 (g) any food worker;
- (h) any biosecurity matter;
- (i) any thing else that the Director-General suspects relates to the suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination.
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(3) The movement or related controls in a movement control direction may —

- (a) prohibit or restrict the movement or relocation of any thing described in subsection (2) within Singapore or into or out of or within a stated area in Singapore;
- 25 (b) prohibit or restrict the completion of a movement or relocation of a type mentioned in paragraph (a) if the movement or relocation is already in progress when the direction under this section is made;
- 30 (c) prohibit or restrict the undertaking of an activity described in subsection (2) within a stated area in Singapore;

- (d) require the taking of specific actions —
- (i) to confirm the presence, or find out the extent of the presence, in the area to which the direction applies, of the suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination to which the direction relates; 5
  - (ii) to confirm the absence, in the area to which the direction applies, of the suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination to which the direction relates;
  - (iii) to monitor the effects of measures taken to minimise, manage or eradicate the risk to human health; or 10
  - (iv) to monitor compliance with any prohibition or restriction in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) which is imposed by the direction; or
- (e) require the taking of specific actions or measures as are reasonably necessary to minimise, manage or eradicate the risk to human health created by the suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination. 15
- (4) A movement control direction may also —
- (a) direct the keeping of information about the matters that are the subject of the direction; 20
  - (b) direct the provision of reports to the Director-General about the matters that are the subject of the direction; and
  - (c) direct the person to whom the direction is given to notify the Director-General when — 25
    - (i) the hazard, or source of contamination, has been identified;
    - (ii) the hazard, or source of contamination, has been minimised or eradicated; or
    - (iii) no hazard, or source of contamination, has been identified. 30

**Declaration direction — content**

127.—(1) Every declaration direction must include reference to the suspected hazard or suspected source of contamination, such as (but not limited to) —

- 5           (a) a thing or an activity;
- (b) a particular premises (where, for example, there may be contamination from the land or the environment); or
- (c) a particular person, or a particular food business or a specified class of food businesses (where, for example, the contamination may have been caused by a human act or omission).

10           (2) Every declaration direction must state the information the person to whom the direction is given must complete and give to the Director-General, which may relate to all or any of the following information:

- 15           (a) matters relating to the history of the primary produce, food or a regulated food contact article in question, including, if appropriate —
  - 20           (i) identification or details of any owner or previous owner of the primary produce, food or regulated food contact article in question, or any person who presented or supplied it to the person required to make the declaration; and
  - 25           (ii) identification or details of the area or place where the primary produce, food or regulated food contact article in question was kept, or was taken or procured from, and any surrounding area or place at which it was stored;
- 30           (b) matters relating to treatments or applications applied by way of veterinary drugs or agricultural compounds during production of the primary produce or food in question;
- (c) information relating to the feeding of an animal, if the primary produce or food in question contains an animal product;



- (d) information relating to the possible exposure of the primary produce, food or regulated food contact article in question to hazards;
- (e) the place the primary produce, food or regulated food contact article in question is being moved from, the place it is being moved to, and any previous place it has been moved from;
- (f) matters relating to the movement of the primary produce, food or regulated food contact article in question.

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(3) Every declaration direction must also state that the information must be completed and given to the Director-General within a reasonable period specified in that direction.

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(4) To avoid doubt, this does not affect any duties imposed under Part 2, Division 7 of Part 3, Division 3 of Part 4 and Subdivision (2) of Division 2 of Part 11.

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### **Direction to recall food or regulated food contact article**

**128.**—(1) The Director-General may give a direction in subsection (2) to any person described in section 119(1) —

- (a) for the purpose of examining, rectifying, controlling or disposing of food or a regulated food contact article, after taking into account any relevant information or warnings about the food or regulated food contact article that the Director-General has received from any authorised officer or food inspector, any international organisation or any foreign food authority; or
- (b) if the Director-General has reasonable grounds to believe that the direction is necessary to prevent or reduce the likelihood of physical harm being caused to humans or to mitigate the adverse consequences of that likelihood.

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(2) The direction is any of the following:

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- (a) to recall food that is unsafe or unsuitable or is a defined food, or whose safety or suitability is in doubt;

5 (b) to recall a regulated food contact article that has, when used with food, caused food to be no longer safe or suitable, or for which there is doubt about whether food remains safe or suitable when the regulated food contact article is used with food;

(c) to recall a regulated food contact article if there is doubt about whether it may contaminate food;

(d) to recall food or a regulated food contact article that is mislabelled or incorrectly identified;

10 (e) to take food or a regulated food contact article recalled under paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) to —

(i) any premises specified in the direction; or

(ii) any premises agreed to between the Director-General and the person to whom the direction is given.

15 (3) A direction to recall food or a regulated food contact article may specify the manner in which, and must specify the period within which, the recall is to be conducted and completed.

20 (4) A person who is required by a direction to recall food or a regulated food contact article must give written notice to the Director-General of the completion of the recall as soon as practicable after that completion.

(5) If a person to whom the direction is given fails or refuses to comply with it —

25 (a) the Director-General may take any reasonable steps necessary to ensure control of the food or regulated food contact article; and

30 (b) the Agency may recover the costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the Director-General in ensuring control of the food or regulated food contact article as a debt due from the person to whom the direction was given.

(6) This section does not prevent the Director-General exercising his or her power under section 129, 131 or 132.

**Direction to manage food, regulated food contact article, etc.**

**129.**—(1) The Director-General may give a direction in subsection (2) to any person described in section 119(1) if the Director-General —

- (a) reasonably believes — 5
  - (i) that food or a regulated food contact article which is already the subject of a direction under section 126 is unsafe or unsuitable, or is a defined food, and further controls are required; or
  - (ii) that a live food producing animal, which is already 10  
the subject of a movement control direction, is a biosecurity carrier; or
- (b) recalls food or a regulated food contact article under section 128.

(2) The direction may be about doing or not doing all or any of the following to the food, regulated food contact article or live food producing animal: 15

- (a) condemning or destroying it;
- (b) disposing of or re-exporting it;
- (c) identifying it; 20
- (d) processing and handling it or re-processing it;
- (e) labelling or relabelling it;
- (f) storing it;
- (g) transporting it;
- (h) examining, sampling or testing it; 25
- (i) advertising or selling it.

**Direction relating to food workers in licensable food business**

**130.**—(1) Where the Director-General reasonably believes that —

- (a) an individual who is a food business licensee carrying on a licensable food business; or 30

- (b) an individual employed or engaged as a food worker by a food business licensee in connection with a licensable food business carried on by the licensee,

is engaging or has engaged in conduct, in the course of carrying on that licensable food business, that is a contravention of or that constitutes non-compliance with an applicable requirement of this Act relating to the handling of food intended for supply, the Director-General may give a direction described in subsection (2) or (3) to all or any of the following:

- (c) the food business licensee who is a proprietor of the licensable food business (whether or not an individual);
- (d) the individual;
- (e) any other individual employed or engaged as a food worker by the food business licensee in connection with the same licensable food business.

(2) A direction under this section may require —

- (a) a particular individual or particular individuals employed or engaged as a food worker or food workers in connection with a licensable food business to do one or more of the following within a period stated in the direction:

- (i) to stop handling food in the course of the licensable food business;
- (ii) to undergo training or retraining in food safety and food handling specified by the Director-General, and be assessed as competent in each subject of the training or retraining;
- (iii) to alter or improve the method of handling of food by that individual while in the course of the licensable food business; or

- (b) a food business licensee to do one or more of the following within a period stated in the direction:

- (i) to take specified steps to change or improve the method of handling food by food workers in the

course of carrying on the licensee's licensable food business;

- (ii) to stop one or more individuals handling food in the course of the licensee's licensable food business if the individual is given a direction described in subsection (3), until the individual complies with the direction he or she is given. 5

(3) A direction under this section may also require a particular individual as follows:

- (a) to stop handling food in the course of a licensable food business unless or until he or she — 10

- (i) is diagnosed by a medical practitioner as not suffering from a prescribed infectious disease or other condition that is liable to render food handled as unsafe or unsuitable; or 15

- (ii) is immunised against a prescribed infectious disease;

- (b) to engage in conduct, or to refrain from engaging in conduct, specified in a direction relating to his or her personal hygiene and health practices when handling food as a food worker employed or engaged in a licensable food business, including (but not limited to) — 20

- (i) not expectorating;

- (ii) wearing an attire or accessory for the purpose of protecting food that he or she handles against contamination; and 25

- (iii) ensuring that the individual is, or his or her clothing is kept, in a clean and sanitary condition.

(4) A direction under this section must be for all or any of the following purposes:

- (a) to ensure the continued competence of a particular individual or particular individuals employed or engaged as a food worker or food workers in a licensable food business in handling food in such a way that does not make 30

the food unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable;

(b) to minimise or prevent the future personal conduct of a particular individual or particular individuals that makes or is likely to make food unsafe or unsuitable when the individual is or individuals are employed or engaged as a food worker or food workers in a licensable food business.

(5) An individual who is registered as a food worker by the Agency ceases to be registered when the registration expires or a direction is earlier given to the individual under this section.

### **Direction to publish statement**

**131.**—(1) The Director-General may give to persons described in section 119(1) a direction to publish in Singapore a statement to the general public, or to a class of persons specified in the direction, for the purpose of protecting the general public or class of persons, as the case may be.

(2) The Director-General may specify that the statement must include all or any of the following:

(a) the nature of the problem, including (where applicable) —

(i) the particular food or kind of food or regulated food contact article to be recalled or disposed of;

(ii) the reasons why the food or regulated food contact article is considered to be unsafe; and

(iii) the circumstances in which the consumption of the food is unsafe;

(b) the remedy that the person will provide;

(c) the way or ways in which the person will prevent the problem from arising in future.

(3) The Director-General may specify the actual words to be used in the statement or any part of it.

(4) The Director-General may specify all or any of the following:

(a) who must publish the statement;

- (b) where the statement must be published;
- (c) the date on which the statement must be published.

(5) Statements published in accordance with this section are protected by absolute privilege.

### **Privileged statements**

5

**132.**—(1) The Agency may publish in Singapore a statement for the purpose of protecting human health or informing the general public.

(2) The statement may be about all or any of the following:

- (a) the safety or suitability of food or a regulated food contact article; 10
- (b) anything contained or implied in advertisements about food or a regulated food contact article, generally or in a particular advertisement, or in a class or classes of advertisements;
- (c) the performance or non-performance of any function or duty imposed on any person by any provision of this Act. 15

(3) The statement is protected by qualified privilege.

(4) This is not a delegable function of the Agency.

### **General preventative or corrective action direction**

**133.**—(1) Without limiting any other provision in this Division, the Director-General may give a direction in subsection (2) to any of the persons described in section 119(1) if the Director-General is satisfied (whether or not from the report of an authorised officer or a food inspector) that an applicable requirement of this Act with respect to primary produce, food or a regulated food contact article is or has been contravened or not complied with. 20 25

(2) The direction must be about the taking of preventative or corrective action in respect of primary produce, food or a regulated food contact article that the Director-General reasonably believes is necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act. 30

*Division 3 — Animal feed and primary production directions***Direction to impose movement controls, etc., for animal feed**

5 **134.**—(1) The directions mentioned in sections 123, 124 and 125 may be given by the Director-General under this section in relation to an animal feed if the Director-General —

(a) reasonably suspects (whether or not from the report of an authorised officer or a food inspector) the existence of a hazard or a source of contamination that may affect the animal feed; and

10 (b) is satisfied on reasonable grounds that any such direction is necessary to minimise, manage or eradicate, over a limited period or over an extended or indefinite period, the risk to health of any food producing animals created by the suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination.

15 (2) For the purpose of this section, sections 123, 124 and 125 apply as follows:

(a) any reference in those sections to food must be read as a reference to animal feed;

20 (b) any reference in those sections to equipment used in meat processing, in any primary production activity or in the supply or handling of food must be read as a reference to equipment used in the production of animal feed;

25 (c) any reference in those sections to meat processing, primary production activity or supplying or handling food must be read as a reference to producing animal feed;

(d) any reference in those sections to unsafe food, unsuitable food, or food likely to be unsafe or unsuitable must be read as a reference to animal feed that is not fit for purpose or is likely to be not fit for purpose;

30 (e) any reference in the definition of “hazard” in section 125(2) to an adverse or injurious health effect on humans must be read as a reference to an adverse or injurious health effect on any food producing animals.



## Direction to recall animal feed

**135.**—(1) The Director-General may give a direction in subsection (2) to any person described in section 119(2) —

- (a) for the purpose of examining, rectifying, controlling or disposing of any animal feed, after taking into account any relevant information or warnings about the animal feed being not fit for purpose that the Director-General has received from any authorised officer or food inspector, any international organisation or any foreign food authority; and
- (b) if the Director-General has reasonable grounds to believe that the direction is necessary —
  - (i) to prevent or reduce the possibility of a serious danger to the health of any food producing animals; or
  - (ii) to mitigate the adverse consequences of a serious danger to the health of any food producing animals.

(2) The direction is any of the following:

- (a) to recall an animal feed that is not fit for purpose, or whose fitness for purpose is in doubt;
- (b) to recall an animal feed that is mislabelled or incorrectly identified;
- (c) to take an animal feed recalled under paragraph (a) or (b) to —
  - (i) any premises specified in the direction; or
  - (ii) any premises agreed to between the Director-General and the person to whom the direction is given.

(3) A direction to recall an animal feed may specify the manner in which, and must specify the period within which, the recall is to be conducted and completed.

(4) A person who is required by a direction to recall an animal feed must give written notice to the Director-General of the completion of the recall as soon as practicable after that completion.

(5) If a person to whom the direction to recall is given fails or refuses to comply with it —

(a) the Director-General may take any reasonable steps necessary to ensure control of the animal feed; and

5 (b) the Agency may recover the costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the Director-General in assuming control of the animal feed as a debt due from the person to whom the direction was given.

10 (6) This section does not prevent the Director-General exercising his or her power under section 136.

### **Direction to manage animal feed**

**136.**—(1) The Director-General may give a direction in subsection (2) to any person described in section 119(2) if the Director-General —

15 (a) reasonably believes that an animal feed that is already the subject of a direction under section 134 containing movement or related controls, is not fit for purpose, and further controls are required; or

(b) recalls an animal feed under section 135.

20 (2) The direction may be about doing or not doing any of the following to the animal feed:

(a) condemning or destroying it;

(b) disposing of or re-exporting it;

(c) identifying it;

25 (d) processing and handling it or re-processing it;

(e) labelling or relabelling it;

(f) storing it;

(g) transporting it;

(h) sampling or testing it;

30 (i) advertising or selling it.

**Direction to address threats to primary production, etc.**

**137.**—(1) The Director-General may give a biosecurity direction in subsection (2) to any person described in section 119(2) if the Director-General considers that —

- (a) an event — 5
  - (i) has happened or is happening; and
  - (ii) has had or is having an adverse effect on —
    - (A) the production of primary produce in any part of Singapore; or
    - (B) the health of food producing animals or to their 10 habitats in any part of Singapore;
- (b) the event was or is being caused by, or may be or may have been caused by a biosecurity matter; and
- (c) it is necessary to exercise powers under this section to mitigate or prevent a significant threat or likely significant 15 threat to securing or maintaining consumer confidence in supply sources of safe and suitable food for the general public.

(2) A direction under this section may require the recipient to do all or any of the following, at stated premises within the part of 20 Singapore mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(ii) and within a stated period of time:

- (a) prohibit or restrict the movement or relocation of any biosecurity matter or biosecurity carrier —
  - (i) out of or within the stated premises; or 25
  - (ii) into the stated premises;
- (b) prohibit or restrict the completion of a movement or relocation of a type mentioned in paragraph (a) if the movement or relocation is already in progress when the direction under this section is made; 30
- (c) isolate a biosecurity matter or a biosecurity carrier at the stated premises in a stated way;

- (d) cull or otherwise destroy, or cause the culling or destruction of, a biosecurity matter or a biosecurity carrier at the stated premises in a stated way;
- 5 (e) dispose of a biosecurity matter or a biosecurity carrier in a stated way, including by burning or burying it or by depositing it at a place where waste is deposited or disposed of;
- 10 (f) treat in a stated way, or refrain from treating, a biosecurity carrier of a biosecurity matter so as to control the biosecurity matter, or to stop the spread or lessen the risk of the spread of the biosecurity matter;

*Illustration*

Vaccinate animals not culled.

- 15 (g) clean or disinfect the stated premises, or part of the stated premises, an individual at those premises, or anything on the individual or a biosecurity carrier at those premises, in a stated way;
- (h) stop or restrict using the stated premises, or part of the stated premises, for a stated purpose or a stated period, or until a stated action is taken;
- 20 (i) take such measures as are reasonably necessary or desirable to prevent the further introduction or spread of any biosecurity matter which is the subject of the direction.

*Illustration*

To keep daily records about the movement of animals not culled.

(3) In addition, the Director-General may direct a food business licensee undertaking any primary production activity —

- 30 (a) to revise the licensee's farm management plan to prevent or mitigate any significant hazard relating to the primary production activity, or to food producing animals or to their habitats; and
- (b) to submit the revised farm management plan for acceptance by the Agency.

(4) In this section —

“movement”, in relation to any thing, includes —

- (a) the transport of the thing by any conveyance; and
- (b) the deployment of equipment in more than one premises;

5

“thing” means a thing, whether alive, dead or inanimate.

### **General preventative or corrective action direction**

**138.** The Director-General may give a direction to the persons described in section 119(2) about the taking of preventative or corrective action in respect of —

10

- (a) the primary production activity; or
- (b) the production of animal feed,

that the Director-General reasonably believes is necessary to ensure compliance with an applicable requirement of this Act with respect to that primary production activity or that production of animal feed.

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### *Division 4 — Miscellaneous*

#### **Non-compliance with Part 7 direction**

**139.—(1)** A person to whom a Part 7 direction (except a declaration direction) is addressed and given commits an offence if the person —

- (a) carries on an activity in contravention of the direction;
- (b) neglects or refuses to comply with the direction; or
- (c) fails to comply with a condition specified in the direction.

20

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —

25

- (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

5 (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

10 (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under  
15 subsection (1).

(4) Where any information which is required by a declaration direction to be given to the Director-General is not given or is not given within the time delimited under section 127(3), then the person  
20 given the direction shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

25 (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(5) Subsections (1) and (4) do not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

(6) The ordinary meaning of “reasonable excuse” is affected by  
30 sections 258 and 259.

### **Tampering with affixed copy of Part 7 direction**

**140.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person —

- (a) intentionally removes or causes to be removed;
- (b) intentionally alters or causes to be altered; or
- (c) intentionally defaces or causes to be defaced,

5

a copy of any direction that is affixed to any premises, food vending machine or other equipment under section 121(1)(b) or as ordered under section 123(4)(a) or 124(4)(a), while that direction remains in force.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

10

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

15

### **Compensation**

**141.**—(1) A person bound by a Part 7 direction who suffers loss as a result of the making of the direction may apply to the Agency for compensation if the person considers that there were insufficient grounds for the making of the direction.

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(2) If there were insufficient grounds for the making of the Part 7 direction, the Agency is to pay just and reasonable compensation to the applicant.

(3) The Director-General must give written notice of the Agency's determination as to the payment of compensation under this section to each applicant for the payment of compensation.

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(4) If the Agency has not determined an application for compensation under this section within 28 days after receiving the application, the Agency is taken to have refused to pay any compensation.

30

(5) An applicant for the payment of compensation under this section who is dissatisfied with a determination by the Agency as to the refusal to pay compensation or as to the amount of compensation may apply to the District Court for a review of the determination —

- 5           (a) within 28 days after the day on which notification of the determination was received; or
- (b) in a case to which subsection (4) applies, within 28 days after the end of the 28-day period referred to in that subsection.
- 10          (6) If the amount of compensation sought exceeds the jurisdictional limit of the District Court, the application under subsection (5) is to be made to the General Division of the High Court.

## PART 8

### OFFENCES RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

15           *Division 1 — Application and interpretive provisions*

#### **Application of Part 8**

**142.** It does not matter in this Part that the food concerned was supplied or intended for supply outside Singapore.

#### **Meaning of “hazardous food contact article”**

- 20          **143.** In this Part, a “hazardous food contact article” means a food contact article that, if used for the purposes for which it was designed or intended to be used —
- (a) would render or be likely to render food unsuitable; or
- 25           (b) would put another food contact article, or would be likely to put another food contact article, in such a condition that, if the other food contact article were used for the purposes for which it was designed or intended to be used, the other food contact article would render, or be likely to render, food unsuitable.



*Division 2 — Offences***Handling food in unsafe manner**

**144.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person handles any food intended for supply in a way that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food unsafe. 5

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or 10

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — 15

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who — 20

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence — 25

(i) under subsection (1); or

(ii) under section 20 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 for contravening section 19 of that Act.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section. 30

### **Handling food in unsafe manner — strict liability**

**145.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person handles any food intended for supply in a way that makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food unsafe.

5 (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

10 (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

### **Supplying unsafe food**

15 **146.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person supplies any food that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, is unsafe.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

20 (i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

25 (i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

30 (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —

- (i) under subsection (1); 5
- (ii) under section 41A of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 for contravening section 40(1) of that Act;
- (iii) under section 20 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 for contravening section 15 of that Act; or 10
- (iv) under section 23(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 involving any meat or fish product for which is diseased, adulterated or unfit for human consumption.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii), (iii) or (iv) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section. 15

### **Supplying unsafe food — strict liability**

**147.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person supplies any food that is unsafe. 20

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or 25
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

### **Handling food making it unsuitable**

**148.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person handles any food intended for supply in a way that the person knows, or ought 30

reasonably to know, makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food unsuitable.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- 5           (a) where the person is an individual —
- (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- 10           (b) where the person is not an individual —
- (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

15           (3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
  - (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —
    - (i) under subsection (1); or
    - (ii) under section 20 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 for contravening section 19 of that Act.
- 25

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section.

30           (5) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

### **Handling food making it unsuitable — strict liability**

**149.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person handles any food intended for supply in a way that makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food unsuitable.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction — 5

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$8,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$15,000. 10

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

(5) In this section, “handle”, in relation to food, excludes the following: 15

(a) transporting or delivering the food;

(b) supervising the transporting or delivering of food by another individual.

### **Supplying unsuitable food** 20

**150.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person supplies any food; and

(b) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the food is unsuitable food.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction — 25

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —

(i) under subsection (1); or

(ii) under section 20 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 for contravening section 15 of that Act.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section.

(5) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

### **Supplying unsuitable food — strict liability**

**151.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person supplies any unsuitable food.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$8,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

5

### **Handling food making it defined food**

**152.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person handles any food intended for supply in a way that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food a defined food.

10

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

15

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

20

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

25

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

30

(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

**Handling food making it defined food — strict liability**

5 **153.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person handles any food intended for supply in a way that makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food a defined food.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

10 (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$8,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

15 (4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

**Unsafe primary produce from primary production activity**

**154.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person undertakes any primary production activity;

20 (b) the primary produce resulting from the primary production activity is unsafe; and

(c) the person, when undertaking the primary production activity, knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the primary produce resulting from that primary production activity would or would likely be unsafe.

25 (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

30 (i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or



(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or

5

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

10

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

15

**Unsafe primary produce from primary production activity — strict liability**

**155.—**(1) A person commits an offence if the person undertakes any primary production activity resulting in primary produce that is unsafe.

20

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

25

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

## **Producing primary produce that is unsuitable food**

**156.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person undertakes any primary production activity;
- (b) the primary produce resulting from the primary production activity is unsuitable food; and
- (c) the person, when undertaking the primary production activity, knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the primary produce resulting from that primary production activity would or would likely be unsuitable food.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the primary produce concerned is safe.

**Producing primary produce that is unsuitable food — strict liability**

**157.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person undertakes any primary production activity resulting in primary produce that is unsuitable food. 5

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$8,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or 10

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the primary produce concerned is safe. 15

**Producing primary produce that is defined food**

**158.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person undertakes any primary production activity;

(b) the primary produce resulting from the primary production activity is a defined food; and 20

(c) the person, when undertaking the primary production activity, knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the primary produce resulting from that primary production activity would or would likely be a defined food.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction — 25

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or 30

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

5 (3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

10 (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

15 (4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the primary produce concerned is safe.

(5) Subsection (1) does not apply if the defined food is not made available for consumption as food by the general public.

### **Producing primary produce that is defined food — strict liability**

20 **159.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person undertakes any primary production activity, resulting in primary produce that is a defined food.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

25 (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$8,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

30 (3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the primary produce concerned is safe.

(5) Subsection (1) does not apply if the defined food is not made available for consumption as food by the general public.

### **Supplying food imported for private consumption**

**160.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person supplies any food; 5
- (b) the food is none of the following:
  - (i) a prohibited food;
  - (ii) a food of higher regulatory concern mentioned in section 44(4);
- (c) the food was imported; 10
- (d) the food was imported on the basis that it was for private consumption only; and
- (e) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the food was imported on the basis that it was for private consumption only. 15

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or 20
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or 25
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

### **Supplying food imported for private consumption — strict liability**

**161.**—(1) A person shall be guilty of an offence if —

- (a) the person supplies any food;
- (b) the food is none of the following:
  - (i) a prohibited food;
  - (ii) a food of higher regulatory concern mentioned in section 44(4);
- (c) the food was imported; and
- (d) the food was imported on the basis that it was for private consumption only.

(2) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

### **Supplying hazardous food contact article**

**162.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person supplies an object in the course of a business;
- (b) the object is a hazardous food contact article; and

(c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object is a hazardous food contact article.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

5

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 24 months or to both; or

10

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

15

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

20

**Supplying hazardous food contact article — strict liability**

**163.—**(1) A person commits an offence if —

25

(a) the person supplies an object in the course of a business; and

(b) the object is a hazardous food contact article.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

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(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

### *Division 3 — Defences*

#### **General defence of due diligence**

**164.**—(1) In a prosecution of a person for an offence under this Part involving a food or a regulated food contact article, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the commission of the offence was due to —

(i) an act or omission of another person; or

(ii) an accident or some other cause outside the control of the person charged; and

(b) the person charged took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence by the person, or by another person under the control of the person charged.

(2) In subsection (1)(a), another person does not include a person who was at the time of the commission of the offence —

(a) an employee or agent of the person charged; or

(b) if the person charged is an entity, an officer of the entity.

(3) However, this defence does not apply if the person charged imported the food or regulated food contact article.

(4) This section is additional to any other defence available to the defendant under the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act 2024 apart from this section.



### Defence in respect of handling food

**165.** In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 144, 145, 148, 149, 152 or 153, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person charged caused the food to which the offence relates to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of immediately after the food was handled in the manner that was likely to render it unsafe or unsuitable or a defined food.

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### Defence of relying on warranty, etc.

**166.—(1)** In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 146, 147, 150, 151, 162 or 163 involving a food or a food contact article, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

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(a) the person charged bought the food or food contact article from another person (*P*) in reliance on a written statement as to the nature of the food or a food contact article that was given by or on behalf of *P*;

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(b) the supply of the food or food contact article would not have constituted the offence with which the person charged is charged if the food or food contact article (as the case may be) had in fact conformed to the written statement;

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(c) when the person charged supplied the food or food contact article, it was in the same condition as it was when the person charged bought it; and

(d) at the time of the commission of the offence —

(i) a reasonable person would have had no reason to suspect that the food or food contact article (as the case may be) did not conform to the written statement; and

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(ii) the person charged had no reason to believe the written statement to be inaccurate and the person charged did in fact believe in its accuracy.

30

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), in a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 146, 147, 150 or 151 involving a food, it is a

defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the person charged bought the food in a package and supplied it in the same package and in the same condition as it was in when the person charged bought it; and

(b) the person charged could not reasonably have found out that supplying the food would constitute the offence with which the person is charged.

(3) The defence under subsection (1) is only available if the person charged, not later than 14 clear days before the date of the hearing —

(a) gives the prosecution written notice of the intention of the person charged to rely on the written statement together with a copy of the written statement; and

(b) gives a copy of the written notice in paragraph (a) to *P* and informs *P* that the person charged intends to rely on the written statement.

(4) *P* (the person by whom the written statement is alleged to have been given by or on behalf of) is entitled to appear at the hearing and to give evidence.

## **Defence in respect of food for export**

**167.**—(1) In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 146, 147, 150 or 151 involving a food, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the food in question is to be exported to another country; and

(b) the food complies with the laws (if any) in force at the time of the alleged offence in the country to which the food is to be exported, being laws that deal with the same subject matter as the provision of this Act is concerned.

(2) This section does not apply to food that was originally intended for export but was supplied in Singapore.

### **Defence in respect of hazardous food contact article**

**168.** In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 162 or 163, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person charged reasonably believed that the food contact article concerned was not intended for use in connection with the handling of food.

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### **Defence for offence by employer**

**169.—(1)** If an employee commits an offence under this Part, his or her employer is taken to have committed the same offence.

(2) An employer may be proceeded against and convicted under a provision in this Part pursuant to this section whether or not the employee has been proceeded against or been convicted under that provision.

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(3) In proceedings against an employer by virtue of subsection (1) for an offence under this Part, it is a defence for the employer who is charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the employer could not, by the exercise of due diligence, have prevented the commission of the offence.

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### **Liability of employees and agents**

**170.—(1)** Except as provided by subsection (2), it is no defence in proceedings for an offence under this Part that the person charged was, at the time of the commission of the offence, an employee or agent of another person.

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(2) In any proceedings for an offence under this Part, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person was under the personal supervision of —

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- (a) the proprietor of the food business in relation to which the offence was committed;
- (b) the owner or person in charge of the premises, in relation to which the offence was committed; or
- (c) another person representing that proprietor, owner or person in charge.

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## Non-defences

171.—(1) For the purposes of this Act —

(a) it is not a defence to allege that the person instituting the prosecution is not the person who caused any analysis to be made for the purposes of the prosecution; and

(b) where the prosecution or proceeding relates to any food purchased for analysis, it is not a defence that the part of the food retained for future comparison has from spontaneous natural causes deteriorated, perished or undergone a material change in its constitution.

(2) It is not a defence that the purchaser bought any food or appliance for analysis or examination and therefore was not prejudiced.

(3) Section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 does not apply in relation to a strict liability offence under this Part.

## PART 9

### FOOD AND HEALTH PROMOTION

#### Definitions for Part 9

172. In this Part —

“non-communicable disease of public health interest” means a non-communicable disease determined under section 173;

“Part 9 offence” means an offence under any subsidiary legislation made under section 174;

“population” means the population in Singapore;

“target food”, in relation to a non-communicable disease of public health interest, means one or more identifiable foods the consumption of which contributes, or might, based on the available scientific evidence, contribute, to the occurrence of a non-communicable disease of public health interest.

### **Non-communicable disease of public health interest**

**173.**—(1) The Minister may determine a disease as a non-communicable disease of public health interest where the Minister is satisfied —

- (a) that one or more identifiable foods consumed contributes to the occurrence of that disease; and 5
- (b) that the disease —
  - (i) is likely to adversely affect the health of the population over a period of time;
  - (ii) causes or is likely to cause significant chronic disease, disability or mortality in the population; 10
  - (iii) interferes with or is inconsistent with the goals of public health; or
  - (iv) is associated with poor health outcomes in the population. 15

(2) A determination under subsection (1) may be made after consulting the Director-General of Health.

(3) Once a determination is made under subsection (1), the Minister must cause to be published a notice of the making of the determination without delay either — 20

- (a) in the *Gazette*; or
- (b) in any other manner that will secure adequate publicity for the fact of making of the determination.

(4) However, failure to publish a notice under subsection (3) in respect of any determination does not invalidate the determination. 25

(5) A determination made under subsection (1) may be revoked at any time by the Minister; and the Minister must cause the giving of notice of the revocation in the same manner in which the notice of the making of the determination was first given.

## Part 9 Regulations

174.—(1) The Minister may make regulations in relation to —

- 5 (a) one or more identifiable foods which are target foods related to the occurrence of a non-communicable disease of public health interest, for the purpose of preventing or reducing the occurrence of that disease in Singapore;
- 10 (b) any identifiable foods, for the purpose of informing individuals adequately about the food, and influencing and assisting them, to make food choices affecting their health and wellbeing and that of their families; or
- (c) the advertising of identifiable food or how it is promoted for sale, for the purpose of promoting public health.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), those regulations may —

- 15 (a) prohibit the import of target foods or restrict the import of any food;
- (b) restrict or prohibit the way target foods are manufactured, prepared, distributed or supplied, or used in the manufacture or preparation of other foods, including the composition, contents and additives of those target foods;
- 20 (c) restrict or prohibit the way the general public, or certain members of the general public, may acquire or obtain access to target food;
- (d) restrict or prohibit the content used in advertising or labelling of food for supply, including (but not limited to) —
  - 25 (i) requiring, or prohibiting, specified content in any advertisement or label relating to that food; and
  - 30 (ii) prescribing the form of the content required under sub-paragraph (i), including (but not limited to) its size and colour, or the size, colour and font type of the content and how it is displayed;

- (e) require warnings to be included in content used in advertising, or content of labels, relating to target foods for supply, including —
    - (i) requiring a warning label that is intended to inform the general public of the danger of a link between consuming a target food and the non-communicable disease of public health interest; and 5
    - (ii) prescribing the form of the warning required under sub-paragraph (i), including (but not limited to) its size and colour, or the size, colour and font type of the warning, or the size, colour and font type of the content, and how it is displayed; 10
  - (f) require the placement or display (including in a menu) at food premises in connection with the sale of food at those premises, of prescribed dietary and nutritional information about the food; 15
  - (g) restrict or prohibit the medium or way food is advertised or sponsored or is promoted for sale, including requiring or prohibiting advertising in relation to the food at specified times or at specified premises; 20
  - (h) create offences for a contravention of any provision of the regulations, the penalty for which on conviction may be a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both;
  - (i) specify the Part 9 offences that may be compounded; and 25
  - (j) provide for any saving, transitional and other consequential, incidental and supplemental provisions that are necessary or expedient.
- (3) Regulations made under this section may apply —
- (a) in respect of all food businesses or particular categories of food businesses, whether or not the food business is licensable; 30
  - (b) in respect of all food premises or particular categories of food premises;

- (c) in respect of all persons who engage in conduct to promote the sale of food or particular categories of such persons;
- (d) in respect of all advertising or particular media, content or nature of advertising;
- 5 (e) in respect of all foods or particular categories of food;
- (f) in respect of all methods of supply of any food mentioned in paragraph (e) or particular methods of supply of that food; or
- 10 (g) in respect of the population generally or particular communities in the population.

### **Part 9 enforcement officers**

**175.**—(1) The Director-General of Health may, in relation to —

- (a) any provision of this Part or Part 13;
- (b) any Part 9 Regulations; or

15 (c) any provision in Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations, appoint any individual in subsection (2) as a Part 9 enforcement officer for the purpose of that provision and in relation to one or more Part 9 offences.

20 (2) Any of the following individuals may be appointed under subsection (1) as a Part 9 enforcement officer if he or she is suitably trained to properly exercise the powers of a Part 9 enforcement officer:

- (a) a public officer;
- (b) an employee or officer of a public authority;
- 25 (c) any auxiliary police officer.

(3) The Director-General of Health may, for any reason that appears to the Director-General of Health to be sufficient, at any time revoke an individual's appointment under subsection (1) as a Part 9 enforcement officer.

30 (4) The Director-General of Health must issue to each Part 9 enforcement officer an identification card (in physical or digital form)



which must be carried at all times by the Part 9 enforcement officer when the Part 9 enforcement officer is exercising any power under any provision of Part 13 in relation to a Part 9 offence.

(5) Every Part 9 enforcement officer whose appointment as such ceases must return without delay to the Director-General of Health any identification card issued to him or her under subsection (4). 5

(6) A former Part 9 enforcement officer who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with subsection (5) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both. 10

(7) In the case of an identification card issued in a digital form, a former Part 9 enforcement officer is taken to comply with subsection (5) only after he or she removes the digital identification card from each mobile communication device or other electronic device in his or her possession on which the digital identification card is capable of being displayed. 15

### **Remedial notices**

**176.**—(1) This section applies if a Part 9 enforcement officer reasonably believes — 20

(a) a person —

(i) is contravening a provision of any Part 9 Regulations; or

(ii) has contravened a provision of any Part 9 Regulations in circumstances that make it likely the contravention will continue or be repeated; 25

(b) a matter relating to the contravention can be remedied; and

(c) it is appropriate to give the person an opportunity to remedy the matter.

(2) The Part 9 enforcement officer may give the person in subsection (1)(a) a remedial notice requiring the person to remedy the contravention or have the contravention remedied. 30

(3) The remedial notice must state all of the following:

(a) that the Part 9 enforcement officer reasonably believes the person the notice is addressed to —

(i) is contravening a provision of any Part 9 Regulations; or

(ii) has contravened a provision of any Part 9 Regulations in circumstances that make it likely the contravention will continue or be repeated;

(b) the provision the Part 9 enforcement officer believes is being, or has been, contravened (called the relevant provision);

(c) briefly, how it is believed the relevant provision is being, or has been, contravened;

(d) the period in which the person must remedy the contravention or have the contravention remedied;

(e) that it is an offence to fail to comply with the remedial notice unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

(4) The remedial notice may also state the reasonable steps that the Part 9 enforcement officer considers necessary to remedy the contravention, or to avoid further contravention, of the relevant provision.

*Examples of reasonable steps*

Withdrawing or rectifying advertisements of foods, publishing in Singapore a rectification notice to inform the general public of non-compliant advertisements, or suspending the sale or supply of a specific food.

(5) A Part 9 enforcement officer must keep a copy of every remedial notice given under this section.

(6) The person to whom a remedial notice is given must comply with the remedial notice unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

(7) A person who contravenes subsection (6) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(8) If a remedial notice is given under this section in relation to a contravention by a person of a relevant provision and the contravention is an offence, the person cannot be prosecuted for that offence unless the person fails to comply with the remedial notice and does not have a reasonable excuse for the non-compliance. 5

(9) A person may be prosecuted for the contravention of a relevant provision without a Part 9 enforcement officer first giving a remedial notice for the contravention. 10

## PART 10

### MISLEADING OR DECEPTIVE CONDUCT AND OTHER MARKETING OFFENCES

#### **Definitions for Part 10**

177.—(1) In this Part — 15

“composition”, in relation to food, includes information about the ingredients or other constituents, or the proportion of ingredients or other constituents, of the food;

“relevant advertising regulations” means —

(a) the provisions of any regulations made under Part 15 that relate to advertisements; or 20

(b) the provisions of the Part 9 Regulations that relate to advertisements;

“relevant regulations” means any of the following that are not relevant advertising regulations: 25

(a) the standards or any other regulations made under Part 15;

(b) the Part 9 Regulations;

“representation” means —

(a) an express or implied claim or promise; or 30

(b) an express or implied statement made in any way,  
and includes an advertisement or the content of any label.

(2) In this Part, an advertising of an advertisement is  
Singapore-linked if the person who publishes, or causes or  
5 authorises the publishing, in Singapore of the advertisement is —

(a) an individual physically present in Singapore when he or  
she publishes, or causes or authorises the publishing, in  
Singapore of the advertisement;

10 (b) an entity which is registered in Singapore (even if  
incorporated outside Singapore), or is incorporated,  
under any written law, when the entity publishes, or  
causes or authorises the publishing, in Singapore of the  
advertisement; or

15 (c) a corporation sole or corporation aggregate established  
under a private Act when it publishes, or causes or  
authorises the publishing, in Singapore of the  
advertisement.

### **Meaning of “falsely describe” in relation to food**

20 **178.** For the purposes of this Part, food that is falsely described  
includes food to which any one or more of the following paragraphs  
apply:

(a) the food is represented as being of a particular composition  
or nature for which there is an applicable standard and the  
food does not comply with that standard;

25 (b) any content used on the packaging or in the labelling in or  
with which the food is packed, labelled or offered for  
supply would create a false impression as to the  
composition, effect, nature or origin of the food, in the  
mind of a reasonable person;

30 (c) the food is not of the composition, effect, nature or origin  
represented by the manner in which the food is advertised,  
packed, labelled or offered for supply;

- (d) the description of the food conceals the fact that the food is unsafe or unsuitable.

### **Misleading or deceptive conduct in the course of food business**

**179.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person, in the course of carrying on a food business, engages in conduct that is misleading or deceptive or is likely to mislead or deceive, in relation to —

- (a) the packaging or labelling of food intended for supply; or  
(b) the supply of food.

#### *Illustration*

Making a false or misleading representation about a particular food that purports to be a testimonial by any person relating to the food offered for supply.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

- (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or  
(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

- (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or  
(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence —

- (i) under subsection (1); or
- (ii) under section 20 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 for contravening section 17 of that Act.

5 (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (3)(b)(ii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section.

(5) This section does not apply to publication in Singapore of an advertisement relating to food.

(6) Nothing in sections 180, 181 and 182 limits subsection (1).

## 10 **Supplying falsely described food**

**180.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person, in the course of carrying on a food business, supplies food that is packed or labelled in a way that falsely describes the food; and
- 15 (b) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the packaging or labelling falsely describes the food.

(2) A person commits an offence if the person —

- (a) supplies in the course of carrying on a food business, any food to another person;
- 20 (b) gives the other person a false warranty for the food; and
- (c) when giving the warranty, knows or ought reasonably to know, that the warranty is false.

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable on conviction —

- 25 (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term
- 30 not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(4) In subsection (3), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1) or (2), means a person who — 5

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence — 10

(i) under that same subsection as the current offence; or

(ii) under section 20 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 for contravening section 17 of that Act. 15

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4), the conviction or finding of guilt for an offence referred to in subsection (4)(b)(ii) may be before, on or after the commencement of this section.

### **Supplying falsely described food — strict liability**

**181.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person, in the course of carrying on a food business — 20

(a) supplies to another person food that is packed or labelled in a way that falsely describes the food; or

(b) supplies food to another person and gives that person a false warranty for the food. 25

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or 30

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) —

(a) it is not necessary for the prosecution to prove that a person charged knew or had reason to believe that the food is falsely described, or that the warranty is false, as the case may be; but

(b) it is a defence to the charge for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person charged —

(i) did not know and could not reasonably have been expected to know, that the food was falsely described when supplied; or

(ii) when giving the warranty, had reason to believe that the assertions or statements contained in the warranty were true.

### **Meat substitution**

**182.**—(1) A person must not, during the slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products or during meat processing, do something to the meat —

(a) with the intention of deceiving someone else about the species of animal the meat is from; or

(b) that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, is likely to result in someone else being deceived about the species of animal the meat is from.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or



(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and 5
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1). 10

(4) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the meat concerned is safe.

### **Mislabelling food for supply**

**183.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person labels, or causes to be labelled, any food in connection with — 15

- (a) the supply or possible supply of the food in the course of carrying on a food business; or
- (b) the promotion of the supply or use of the food in the course of carrying on a food business, 20

in a way that —

- (c) contains any content which is prohibited by any relevant regulations for that food;
- (d) does not contain any content which is required by any relevant regulations to be used in relation to that food; or 25
- (e) contains content in a form contrary to any relevant regulations as they apply in relation to that food.

(2) A person commits an offence if the person supplies, in the course of carrying on a food business, any food that —

- (a) is labelled in a way that — 30
  - (i) contains any content which is prohibited by any relevant regulations for that food;

(ii) does not contain any content which is required by any relevant regulations to be used in relation to that food; or

(iii) contains content in a form contrary to any relevant regulations as they apply in relation to that food; or

(b) does not bear any label where such a label is required by any relevant regulations in relation to that food.

(3) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) or (2), it is not necessary for the prosecution to prove that a person charged knew or had reason to believe that the label —

(a) contains any content which is prohibited by any relevant regulations for that food;

(b) does not contain any content which is required by any relevant regulations to be used in relation to that food; or

(c) contains content in a form contrary to any relevant regulations as they apply in relation to that food.

(4) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (2), it is not necessary for the prosecution to prove that a person charged knew or had reason to believe that the food does not bear any label where such a label is required by any relevant regulations in relation to that food.

(5) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

### **Offences involving non-compliant advertising**

**184.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person publishes, or causes or authorises to be published, in Singapore any advertisement about a food or a regulated food contact article;

(b) the advertisement contains any content that —

(i) contravenes any requirement of the relevant advertising regulations that are applicable to the food or regulated food contact article; or

(ii) is or contains a false description of the food, or is false as to the suitability of the regulated food contact article; and

(c) the advertising of the advertisement is Singapore-linked.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (1), it is not necessary for the prosecution to prove that a person charged knew or had reason to believe that the advertisement about a food or a regulated food contact article contains any content that —

(a) contravenes any requirement of the relevant advertising regulations that are applicable to the food or regulated food contact article; or

(b) is or contains a false description of the food, or is false as to the suitability of the regulated food contact article.

(4) Without limiting subsection (1)(b)(i), an advertisement containing any content that is any of the following, is to be treated as contravening any requirement of the relevant advertising regulations that is applicable to a food or a regulated food contact article:

(a) content that is prohibited by a relevant advertising regulation applicable to the food or regulated food contact article from being made in an advertisement in relation to, or being marked or attached to, the food or regulated food contact article;

(b) content that expressly or impliedly qualifies, or is contrary to, content required by a relevant advertising regulation to be made in relation to, or to be marked or attached to the food or regulated food contact article;

5 (c) content that fails to include content required by a relevant advertising regulation to be made in an advertisement relating to the food or regulated food contact article.

(5) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (1)(b)(ii), an advertisement is taken to be false or to contain a false description of the food or to be false as to the suitability of the regulated food contact article, unless evidence is adduced by the accused to the contrary.

(6) To avoid doubt, subsection (5) does not —

15 (a) have the effect that, merely because such evidence to the contrary is adduced, the advertisement is not false as to the relevant matter in subsection (1)(b)(ii); or

(b) have the effect of placing on any person the onus of proving that the advertisement is not false as to the relevant matter in subsection (1)(b)(ii).

20 **Advertising defined food**

**185.—**(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person advertises any food;

(b) the food is a defined food at the time of the advertising; and

(c) the advertising of the advertisement is Singapore-linked.

25 (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

30 (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) For the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

### **General defence of due diligence**

**186.**—(1) In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 179, 180, 181, 182 or 183, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the commission of the offence was due to —

(i) an act or omission of another person; or

(ii) an accident or some other cause outside the control of the person charged; and

(b) the person charged took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence by the person, or by another person under the control of the person charged.

(2) In subsection (1)(a), another person does not include a person who was at the time of the commission of the offence —

(a) an employee or agent of the person charged; or

(b) if the person charged is an entity, an officer of the entity.

(3) Section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 does not apply in relation to a strict liability offence under this Part.

### **Defence in respect of food for export**

**187.**—(1) In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 183 involving a food, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the food in question is to be exported to another country; and

(b) the food complies with the laws (if any) in force at the time of the alleged offence, of the country to which the food is to be exported, being laws that deal with the same subject matter as the provision of this Act is concerned.

(2) This section does not apply to food that was originally intended for export but was supplied in Singapore.

### **Defence relating to advertising**

5 **188.**—(1) In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 184 or 185 in relation to publishing an advertisement about a food or a regulated food contact article, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person was acting in the course of a business of delivering, transmitting or broadcasting information or material (in whatever form or by  
10 whatever means) or making data available, and the nature of the business is such that persons undertaking it have no control over the nature or content of the information or material or data.

(2) In a prosecution of a person for an offence under section 184 or 185 in relation to publishing an advertisement about a food or a  
15 regulated food contact article, it is also a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the advertisement about the food or regulated food contact article was so published as an accidental or incidental accompaniment to the publication of any other matter not forming part of any promotion of the food or regulated  
20 food contact article in question; and

(b) the person does not receive any direct or indirect benefit (whether financial or not) for publishing that advertisement, in addition to any direct or indirect  
25 benefit that the person receives for publishing that other matter.

(3) In addition, in any proceedings for an offence under section 184 or 185 in relation to publishing an advertisement about a food or a regulated food contact article, it is a further defence for the person  
30 charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person —

(a) is a person whose business is to publish or arrange for the publication of advertisements and that the person received the advertisement for publication in the ordinary course of business; and

(b) has no financial interest in the food or regulated food contact article featured in the advertisement.

(4) However, subsections (1), (2) and (3) do not apply if the person charged for an offence under section 184 or 185 in relation to publishing an advertisement about a food or a regulated food contact article —

5

(a) had previously been informed in writing by the Agency or a Part 9 enforcement officer that publishing the advertisement or a similar advertisement in Singapore would constitute an offence under this Part;

10

(b) ought reasonably to have known that the publishing of the advertisement in Singapore was an offence under this Part; or

(c) is the proprietor of a food business or is otherwise engaged in the conduct of a food business for which the advertisements concerned were published.

15

(5) To avoid doubt, nothing in this Act limits the operation of section 26 of the Electronic Transactions Act 2010 in relation to network service providers.

PART 11

20

CERTAIN AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTION INPUTS

*Division 1 — Application and interpretive provisions*

**Definitions for Part 11**

**189.**—(1) In this Part and sections 303, 313 and 314 —

“accepted”, in relation to a feed control plan, means such a plan which the Agency last accepts under this Part;

25

“active constituent”, in relation to a proposed or existing plant pesticide product, means the substance that is, or one of the substances that together are, primarily responsible for the biological or other effect identifying the product as a plant pesticide;

30

“animal feed production licensee” means the holder of an animal feed production licence;

5 “application”, for an animal feed production licence or an appointment as a certified pesticide operator, means an application for or to renew the animal feed production licence or appointment, as the case may be;

“approved label”, in relation to a registered plant pesticide product, means any label approved under section 205(2)(a) for or in respect of the plant pesticide product;

10 “constituent”, in relation to plant pesticide product, means any constituent of the product (whether an active constituent or not) and includes a chemical or a living thing (other than a human or part of a human);

15 “container” includes anything by which or in which a plant pesticide or an animal feed is, or is to be, covered, enclosed, contained or packaged, but does not include a container (such as a shipping container) in which other containers of plant pesticides or animal feed are, or are to be, placed for the purpose of being transported;

20 “feed control plan” means a plan identifying how an animal feed production licensee will carry on the production of animal feed in the course of a business with reference to all or any of the following matters as the Agency considers relevant:

25 (a) the knowledge, skill, health and hygiene requirements for the people involved in producing the animal feed;

(b) the details of the animal feed produced and the feed production processes involved;

30 (c) the design, construction, maintenance and cleanliness of the following used, or intended to be used, for the production of the animal feed:

(i) the premises (including layout, fittings and fixtures) at which animal feed is produced;



- (ii) the plant or equipment used to produce animal feed;
  - (iii) the conveyances used to transport animal feed;
  - (d) the systematic identification of the potential hazards that may be reasonably expected to occur in each operation that is to be, or that is being, carried out in the course of producing the animal feed; 5
  - (e) how and where each hazard identified under paragraph (d) can be controlled and the means of control; 10
  - (f) the systematic monitoring of those controls in paragraph (e), and the appropriate corrective action when each hazard identified under paragraph (d) is found not to be under control;
  - (g) the procedures and practices established by the licensee so as to monitor and ensure the compliance by the animal feed production licensee, and the employees or workers of the licensee, with — 15
    - (i) the requirements of this Act with respect to the licensee’s production of animal feed; 20
    - (ii) any applicable standard as is applicable to the licensee’s production of animal feed;
    - (iii) the conditions of the animal feed production licence, if granted; and
    - (iv) the accepted feed control plan; 25
  - (h) the keeping of records which are sufficient to allow the Agency, an authorised officer or a food inspector to assess whether the accepted feed control plan has been complied with;
- “keep”, in relation to a plant pesticide, means — 30
- (a) have possession or be in control of the plant pesticide, such as (but not limited to) keeping within any

container owned or in the care, control or management of, the person so keeping;

(b) have the plant pesticide in the control or management of another person, including storing it with that other person; or

(c) drive or otherwise operate (even by remote control) any conveyance conveying or otherwise carrying the plant pesticide,

and includes exhibit;

“meets the labelling criteria”, for a plant pesticide product, has the meaning given by section 207;

“non-target plant”, in relation to the use of a plant pesticide product, means any plant that is not specified on the approved label for or in the application for registration of the product as being a plant in respect of which the product may be used;

“pest”, in relation to a plant, means any invertebrate, plant or other living thing (other than a human) that injuriously affects or is capable of injuriously affecting the physical condition, worth or utility of the firstmentioned plant;

“prescribed pesticide work” means the carrying out of any of the following kinds of activities in such circumstances, or by such means, as may be prescribed (if any) by the pesticide control regulations:

(a) the supply or use of plant pesticides for a fee or reward;

(b) the piloting or use of aircraft in connection with the supply or use of plant pesticides (whether or not for a fee or reward);

(c) the carrying on of a business involving any of the activities referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), including the employment or engagement of individuals to carry out any of those activities for that business;

“produce”, as a verb in relation to any animal feed, includes all or any of the following:

- (a) the breeding or rearing of animals for the purpose of feeding them directly to any food producing animal;
- (b) the hydrolysing, heating, mixing or blending together of any substances to make the animal feed for sale;
- (c) the storing, packing or labelling of unpackaged animal feed for sale; 5

“registered”, in relation to a plant pesticide product, means registered or deemed registered under this Part but not when the registration of the plant pesticide product is not in force;

“relevant instruction”, for a plant pesticide product, means an instruction that relates to any of the following matters: 10

- (a) any restriction (however expressed) as to the use of the plant pesticide product (for example, a direction not to use the product for any purpose, or in any manner, contrary to the approved label unless authorised by written law); 15
- (b) the situation in which the use of the plant pesticide product is permitted (for example, the type of crop);
- (c) the pest to be controlled by the plant pesticide product; 20
- (d) the rate, concentration, frequency or timing, number, volume, or other similar limitation, in respect of which the plant pesticide product may or may not be used;
- (e) the equipment by means of which the plant pesticide product may be used; 25
- (f) the preparation and mixing of the plant pesticide product;
- (g) withholding periods;
- (h) any restraints on the use of the plant pesticide product (for example, weather conditions, entry to treated areas, distance restrictions); 30

- (i) the protection of livestock, crops, wildlife or non-target plants;
- (j) the protection of the environment;
- (k) avoidance of spray drift or vapour movement;
- 5 (l) storing or disposal of the plant pesticide product;
- (m) safety directions and other human-health related matters;
- (n) expiry dates or dates in which use is permitted;
- 10 (o) any other matter that may be prescribed by the pesticide control regulations;

“residue”, in relation to an active constituent for a proposed or existing plant pesticide product, or in relation to a plant pesticide product, means any remains, persisting in or on any particular premises (including a plant, crop or pasture in those premises in relation to which the product was used),  
 15 of —

- (a) the active constituent, or the active constituents in the plant pesticide product; or
- 20 (b) any derivatives, metabolites, or degradation products, of the active constituent or of the active constituents in the plant pesticide product;

“withholding period”, in relation to the use of a plant pesticide product, means the minimum period that needs to elapse between —

- 25 (a) the last use of the product in relation to a crop; and
- (b) the harvesting or cutting of the crop,

in order to ensure that the residues from the plant pesticide product fall to or below the maximum limit that the pesticide control regulations permit.

30 (2) For the purposes of this Part, a plant pesticide continues to be regarded as a plant pesticide even when it is mixed with some other substance (whether or not the other substance is a plant pesticide).

## Application of Part 11

**190.**—(1) Division 2 does not apply to producing animal feed —

- (a) in the course of any research and development activity undertaken directly by the person; or
- (b) for feeding directly to any food producing animal that the person keeps as a pet. 5

(2) In subsection (1), “research and development activity” means systematic, investigative or experimental activities that involve innovation and are carried on either wholly or partly within Singapore for the purpose of — 10

- (a) increasing or acquiring new knowledge (whether or not that knowledge will have specific practical application); or
- (b) creating new or improved materials, products, devices, processes or services.

(3) Division 3 does not apply to the use of any plant pesticide in — 15

- (a) the cultivation of —
  - (i) any plant which is not an edible plant;
  - (ii) any edible plant which is not for supply, such as for domestic and home gardening; or
  - (iii) any edible plant for the primary purpose of the retail sale of the whole edible plant in a pot; or 20
- (b) the raising or producing of an animal.

### *Division 2 — Animal feed*

#### *Subdivision (1) — Licensing of animal feed production*

## **Application of Division 4 of Part 14 (general licensing procedures)** 25

**191.**—(1) Division 4 of Part 14 applies to every application for an animal feed production licence, and to every animal feed production licence granted under this Part, subject to the modifications in this Part. 30

(2) In addition, every application for an animal feed production licence must be accompanied by a feed control plan.

5 (3) The Agency may require an applicant for an animal feed production licence to amend and re-submit a feed control plan, for the purpose of assessing the application by the applicant.

### **Criteria for grant, etc., of animal feed production licence**

**192.**—(1) This section applies where the Agency is deciding any of the following:

- 10 (a) whether an applicant should be granted an animal feed production licence;
- (b) the conditions to impose on an animal feed production licence;
- (c) whether to modify any condition of an animal feed production licence.

15 (2) When making a decision mentioned in subsection (1), the Agency must have regard, and give such weight as the Agency considers appropriate, to all of the following matters:

- 20 (a) whether the applicant or animal feed production licensee, or an associate of the applicant or animal feed production licensee, is or was disqualified by section 298 from holding an animal feed production licence;
- 25 (b) whether the applicant or animal feed production licensee is a suitable person to be involved in the management or operation of the production of animal feed which is the subject of the application;
- (c) whether regulatory action under section 196 has been or is being taken or is contemplated against the applicant or animal feed production licensee;
- 30 (d) any available information as to whether or not the applicant or animal feed production licensee has been convicted or found guilty of any relevant offence within the meaning of section 196(3) (whether or not the offence was committed before, on or after the commencement of this section);

- (e) whether there are other grounds for considering that the applicant or animal feed production licensee is likely in the future to fail to comply with any provision of this Act in connection with the production of animal feed to be authorised or authorised by the licence; 5
  - (f) whether the premises at which the production of animal feed is or is to be carried on are fit to be used for that type of activity;
  - (g) whether the written permission or authorisation required by the Planning Act 1998 for the use of the premises for the production of animal feed has been granted or deemed granted; 10
  - (h) whether the applicant or animal feed production licensee has, and will keep and maintain, an accepted feed control plan relating to the applicant's or licensee's production of animal feed; 15
  - (i) the applicant's or animal feed production licensee's compliance history with Part 2, where applicable;
  - (j) whether and how the applicant or animal feed production licensee prepares to deal with any disruptive event occurring; 20
  - (k) whether it is otherwise not in the public interest of Singapore for the applicant to be granted an animal feed production licence.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies to an applicant or animal feed production licensee which is an entity with the following modifications: 25
- (a) paragraph (a) of that subsection must be read as if the paragraph refers only to the officers of the entity instead of the entity;
  - (b) paragraphs (b) and (c) of that subsection must be read as if they refer to the entity and its officers. 30
- (4) For the purpose of determining whether or not a person is a suitable person under subsection (2)(b) for a particular animal feed production licence that is the subject of an application for an animal

feed production licence, the Agency must have regard to all of the following matters:

(a) the person's compliance history with all of the following so far as that relates to the production of animal feed in the course of a business:

(i) the provisions of this Act and any predecessor law about standards and requirements to ensure animal feed which is fit for purpose;

(ii) the conditions of any animal feed production licence granted to the person;

(iii) the provisions of any code of practice applicable to the person;

(iv) a Part 7 direction;

(b) the person's relevant knowledge, competency and experience in identifying, controlling, managing, and eliminating or minimising hazards for the purpose of achieving animal feed which is fit for purpose when producing animal feed.

(5) To avoid doubt, the Agency is not confined to consideration of the matters specified in subsection (2) and may take into account any other matters and evidence that may be relevant.

(6) In this section, "predecessor law" means the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 as in force before it is first amended by this Act.

### **Conditions of animal feed production licence**

**193.**—(1) Without limiting section 294, in granting an animal feed production licence to any person, the Agency may impose conditions requiring the animal feed production licensee —

(a) to meet all the applicable standards prescribed in the animal feed regulations, or specified in the licence in so far as the standards are not prescribed, for —

(i) the maintenance, cleanliness and sanitation of the premises where animal feed is produced; and



- (ii) the hygiene of individuals at work in those premises;
- (b) to establish and maintain, and undertake production of animal feed, in accordance with an accepted feed control plan;
- (c) to comply with procedures prescribed in the animal feed regulations to achieve the fitness for purpose of the animal feed produced, including document control and recording; 5
- (d) to prepare itself for the following ends:
  - (i) to deal with any disruptive event occurring;
  - (ii) to prevent any intentional engaging in conduct, by any individual, so as to jeopardise the fitness for purpose of animal feed which is produced at the premises occupied by the animal feed production licensee, including any attempt to do so, 10
    - by establishing and maintaining procedures and plans directed to those ends, and conducting simulations or other tests of those procedures and plans (where necessary) to give effect to those procedures and plans; and 15
- (e) to furnish or further furnish a performance bond, guarantee or any other form of security of such amount and on such terms and conditions that the Agency considers appropriate. 20

(2) In particular, in granting an animal feed production licence, the Agency may impose conditions requiring the animal feed production licensee concerned to label packages of animal feed produced by the animal feed production licensee as specified by the Agency in the particular case. 25

### **Validity of animal feed production licence**

**194.**—(1) Every animal feed production licence granted under this Part is to be in the form that the Agency determines. 30

(2) Every animal feed production licence granted under this Part is in force for the period (not exceeding 5 years) specified in the licence —

- (a) except when it is wholly suspended under section 196(2);  
or
- (b) unless it is earlier revoked under section 196(1).

### **Modifying conditions of animal feed production licence**

5     **195.** Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, it is lawful for the Agency to modify the conditions of an animal feed production licence without compensating the animal feed production licensee concerned.

### **Regulatory action concerning animal feed production licence**

10    **196.**—(1) Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, if the Agency is satisfied that —

- (a) an animal feed production licensee is contravening or not complying with, or has contravened or failed to comply with —
  - 15       (i) any of the conditions of its animal feed production licence;
  - (ii) any provision of this Act applicable to the animal feed production licensee so far as that relates to the production of animal feed in the course of business, the contravention of or non-compliance with which is not an offence under this Act;
  - 20       (iii) any provision of a code of practice applicable to the animal feed production licensee so far as that relates to the production of animal feed in the course of business;
  - 25       (iv) any direction given to the animal feed production licensee under subsection (2)(e) or (f); or
  - (v) any requirement in section 200 applicable to the animal feed production licensee;
- 30    (b) an animal feed production licensee has ceased to produce animal feed in the course of a business;
- (c) an animal feed production licensee, or any officer of an animal feed production licensee, is convicted of a relevant

offence committed during the term of the animal feed production licence or an immediately prior animal feed production licence;

(d) there is or has been a serious failure of the operations of an animal feed production licensee, or there are or have been other matters, that cast doubt on the fitness for purpose of the animal feed produced by the licensee; 5

(e) an animal feed production licence had been obtained by an animal feed production licensee by fraud or misrepresentation; or 10

(f) the public interest of Singapore so requires,

the Agency may revoke (without any compensation) the animal feed production licence of the animal feed production licensee, with or without forfeiting any performance bond, guarantee or other form of security furnished by the animal feed production licensee under this Act. 15

(2) However, the Agency may, in lieu of revoking under subsection (1) the animal feed production licence of an animal feed production licensee, do (without any compensation) one or more of the following: 20

(a) censure the animal feed production licensee in writing;

(b) direct the animal feed production licensee to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing that is specified in a direction to rectify any contravention or non-compliance that constitutes the ground for regulatory action; 25

(c) suspend (in whole or in part) the animal feed production licence for not more than 6 months;

(d) modify any condition of the animal feed production licence;

(e) direct the animal feed production licensee to pay, within a period specified in a direction, a financial penalty of any amount that the Agency thinks fit, but not exceeding \$5,000 for each contravention of or failure to comply with 30

any matter in subsection (1)(a) or for each other ground of regulatory action;

5 (f) direct the furnishing by the animal feed production licensee of any performance bond, guarantee or other form of security, or an additional performance bond, guarantee or other form of security, for all or any of the following:

10 (i) to secure compliance by the animal feed production licensee with any condition of the animal feed production licence;

15 (ii) to secure compliance by the animal feed production licensee with any code of practice applicable to the animal feed production licensee so far as that relates to the production of animal feed in the course of business;

(iii) for the purpose of meeting any financial penalty arising out of any regulatory action started or likely to start against the animal feed production licensee.

20 (3) In this section, “relevant offence” means any of the following offences:

(a) an offence under section 202 or 203;

(b) an offence under section 139, 140, 256 or 257 in relation to production of animal feed by the animal feed production licensee concerned;

25 (c) an offence under a repealed law which is prescribed in the animal feed regulations, being an offence corresponding to any offence in paragraph (a).

(4) Subsection (2)(e) does not apply where the ground of regulatory action is subsection (1)(c).

### 30 **Post-revocation of licence directions**

**197.**—(1) Where the animal feed production licence of an animal feed production licensee is revoked under section 196(1), the Agency may direct as follows:

- (a) direct that any animal feed produced under any of the operations of the former animal feed production licensee affected by the revocation must not be sold by that former licensee;
- (b) direct the former animal feed production licensee to take appropriate action to destroy or otherwise dispose of or deal with the affected animal feed. 5
- (2) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) commits an offence if the person fails to comply with the direction, and shall be liable on conviction — 10
- (a) where the person is an individual —
- (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
- (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or 15
- (b) where the person is not an individual —
- (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
- (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000. 20
- (3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —
- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1). 25
- (4) Subsection (2) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse. 30

*Subdivision (2) — Traceability obligations for  
animal feed production*

**Application of this Subdivision**

5     **198.** This Subdivision applies only to an animal feed production licensee in respect of the production of animal feed by the animal feed production licensee, even if the animal feed is not supplied or is for export or exported.

**Information animal feed production licensee must keep or have ready access to**

10    **199.**—(1) Every animal feed production licensee must keep, or have ready access to, the information described in subsection (2) for no shorter than the prescribed period after the date that the animal feed is produced by the animal feed production licensee.

(2) The information is —

15       (a) the prescribed identity particulars and prescribed contact details of the person to whom the animal feed was supplied or exported by the animal feed production licensee, if supplied or exported;

20       (b) the prescribed identity particulars and prescribed contact details of —

(i) the producer of the animal feed; or

(ii) the person from whom the animal feed production licensee acquired the animal feed;

25       (c) a description of the identity of the animal feed by commodity, brand (if any) and lot (if any); and

(d) any other information that is prescribed.

(3) An animal feed production licensee who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

30       (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(4) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (3).

(5) In this section, “prescribed” means prescribed by any regulations made under Part 15.

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**Identification, location and tracing of animal feed**

**200.**—(1) An animal feed production licensee must have procedures for —

(a) identifying and locating animal feed produced, supplied or exported by the animal feed production licensee; and

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(b) tracing animal feed so that the animal feed can be traced —

(i) from the supplier of the animal feed to the animal feed production licensee;

(ii) while the animal feed is under the animal feed production licensee’s control; and

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(iii) from the animal feed production licensee to the next person to whom responsibility for the animal feed has passed.

(2) An animal feed production licensee must ensure that animal feed is identified, located and traced in accordance with those procedures.

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(3) The information required under subsection (1) must be accurate.

(4) The information required under subsection (1) must also be sufficient to allow an effective recall to be carried out under Part 7.

(5) An animal feed production licensee must —

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(a) have procedures for the recalling of animal feed supplied in Singapore by the animal feed production licensee that the licensee considers to be not fit for purpose or whose fitness for purpose is in doubt;

(b) conduct simulations or other tests of those procedures if required by the Agency; and

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(c) recall, in accordance with those procedures, animal feed supplied in Singapore by the animal feed production licensee that the licensee considers to be not fit for purpose or whose fitness for purpose is in doubt.

5 (6) If an animal feed production licensee decides to recall any animal feed on the ground that the animal feed is or might be not fit for purpose, the licensee must notify the Agency of the following as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after making the decision:

- 10 (a) the animal feed affected by the recall;  
 (b) the reason for the recall.

### **Providing information — animal feed production licensee**

15 **201.**—(1) When requested to do so by an authorised officer or a food inspector, an animal feed production licensee is bound to state truly what the animal feed production licensee is requested, and must give information about the matters in section 199(1) —

- (a) in a readily accessible format; and  
 (b) within 24 hours after the request, or within any reasonable shorter period specified by the authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be.
- 20

(2) Where any information which is required by subsection (1) to be given to an authorised officer or a food inspector is not given or is not given within the time delimited under subsection (1)(b), then the animal feed production licensee requested to give the information shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

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- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or  
 (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.
- 30

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the person required to give the information has a reasonable excuse.



(4) The ordinary meaning of “reasonable excuse” is affected by sections 258 and 259.

*Subdivision (3) — Animal feed offences*

**Unauthorised production of animal feed**

**202.**—(1) A person commits an offence if — 5

(a) the person produces in Singapore in the course of a business any animal feed; and

(b) the person is not one of the following:

(i) a holder of a current animal feed production licence;

(ii) a person exempt from this section under section 320 or 321 in relation to producing animal feed. 10

(2) A person commits an offence if the person produces in Singapore in the course of a business any animal feed at or on any premises that is not specified in an animal feed production licence granted to the person. 15

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or 20

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 8 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$20,000; or 25

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$40,000.

(4) In subsection (3), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1) or (2), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under that same subsection.

**Producing animal feed that is not fit for purpose**

**203.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person produces in Singapore any animal feed that is not fit for purpose; and
- (b) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the animal feed is not fit for purpose.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$12,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$25,000.

**Producing animal feed that is not fit for purpose — strict liability**

**204.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person produces in Singapore any animal feed that is not fit for purpose.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$8,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1).

*Division 3 — Plant pesticides*

*Subdivision (1) — Registration of plant pesticide products*

**Registration of plant pesticide products**

**205.**—(1) An application to register a plant pesticide product must —

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- (a) be in the form and manner the Agency specifies;
- (b) be accompanied by an application fee, if prescribed;
- (c) contain —
  - (i) an address in Singapore at which notices and other documents under this Act for the applicant may be served; or
  - (ii) the name and address of one or more persons in Singapore authorised by the applicant to accept on the applicant's behalf service of notices and other documents under this Act; and
- (d) be accompanied by the information prescribed in the pesticide control regulations, and any other additional information that the Agency requires to decide on the application.

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(2) Upon receiving an application under subsection (1), the Agency may —

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- (a) upon receiving a registration fee (if prescribed in the pesticide control regulations) —
  - (i) register the plant pesticide product; and
  - (ii) approve a label for the plant pesticide product which meets the labelling criteria; or
- (b) refuse to register the plant pesticide product.

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(3) To avoid doubt, the Agency must not approve a label for an unregistered plant pesticide.

### **Evaluation of plant pesticide product for registration**

**206.**—(1) In order to ascertain that a plant pesticide product is suitable for registration under this Act, the Agency may —

5           (a) subject samples of the product to an evaluation by an analyst;

          (b) require the applicant for the registration of the product to send samples of the product for evaluation by an analyst and then submit the evaluation report to the Agency; or

10          (c) consider the evaluation report of any body or organisation, whether in Singapore or elsewhere, that has evaluated the product.

(2) The evaluation of a plant pesticide product must include any tests and examination of the product that the Agency considers necessary to determine any of the following matters:

15           (a) whether the quality, safety or efficacy of the product for the purposes for which it is to be used has been satisfactorily established;

          (b) whether the label to be approved for containers of the product, if registered, meets the labelling criteria;

20           (c) whether the product complies with any requirements that are prescribed in relation to it by any pesticide control regulations;

          (d) any other matters relating to the product as the Agency thinks relevant.

25           (3) All costs reasonably incurred by the Agency for the evaluation of a plant pesticide product under this section must be borne by the applicant for the registration of the product.

### **Evaluation of label for approval — labelling criteria**

30           **207.**—(1) A label for containers of a plant pesticide product meets the labelling criteria if the label contains adequate instructions relating to any of the following that are appropriate:

- (a) the circumstances in which the plant pesticide product should be used;
- (b) how the product should be used;
- (c) the frequency of the use of the product;
- (d) the withholding period after the use of the product; 5
- (e) the re-entry period after the use of the product;
- (f) the disposal of the product when it is no longer required;
- (g) the disposal of containers of the product;
- (h) the safe handling of the product and first aid in the event of an accident caused by the handling of the product; 10
- (i) any matters prescribed by the pesticide control regulations.

(2) For the purposes of being satisfied as to whether a label meets the labelling criteria, the Agency must have regard to all of the following:

- (a) any conditions to which its approval is, or would be, subject; 15
- (b) whether the label conforms, or would conform, to any standard made for the label under the pesticide control regulations to the extent that the standard relates to matters covered by subsection (1); 20
- (c) any matters prescribed by the pesticide control regulations.

(3) In this section —

“adequate”, in relation to instructions on a label for containers of a plant pesticide product, means adequate to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that an active constituent of the plant pesticide product or the plant pesticide product meets all the following safety criteria: 25

- (a) it is not, or would not be, an undue hazard to the safety of people exposed to it during its handling or people using anything containing its residues; 30
- (b) it is not, or would not be, likely to have an effect that is harmful to human beings;

“re-entry period”, in relation to the use of a plant pesticide product in a particular premises (including a use of the product in relation to a crop or pasture in the premises), means the period after that use during which it is unsafe for an individual to enter those premises without wearing appropriate protective clothing or equipment, or both.

### **Validity of registration and approved label**

**208.**—(1) The registration of a plant pesticide product under this Act remains in force for the period prescribed in the pesticide control regulations and for so long as the registration is not cancelled or wholly suspended under section 209.

(2) A label for a registered plant pesticide product ceases to be an approved label when the registration of the product is cancelled or whenever that registration is wholly suspended under section 209(2).

### **Cancellation or suspension of registration**

**209.**—(1) The Agency may cancel the registration of a plant pesticide product if —

- (a) the person who applied to register the registered plant pesticide product (called the registrant) applies for the registration of the product to be cancelled;
- (b) the registrant is convicted of an offence under section 220;
- (c) the Agency is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to stop the use of the plant pesticide product —
  - (i) in the interest of public health; or
  - (ii) because of or to prevent any physical harm or further physical harm, or any risk or further risk of physical harm, to the environment;
- (d) the Agency becomes aware of a circumstance that would have required or permitted the Agency to refuse to register the plant pesticide product, had the Agency been aware of the circumstance immediately before registering the product;

(e) the supply or use in Singapore of the plant pesticide product has stopped for a continuous period exceeding 12 months; or

(f) the use of the plant pesticide product is being or has been advertised in Singapore by a registrant in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive. 5

(2) However, the Agency may, in lieu of cancelling under subsection (1) the registration of a plant pesticide product, suspend the registration of that product for not more than 6 months.

(3) Before exercising any powers under subsection (1) or (2) on any ground except subsection (1)(a), the Agency must give written notice to the registrant — 10

(a) stating that the Agency intends to take action under subsection (1) or (2);

(b) specifying each ground that is the subject of the action; and 15

(c) specifying the time (being not less than 14 days starting the date of service of notice on the registrant) within which written representations may be made to the Agency with respect to the proposed action.

(4) The Agency may, after considering any written representation under subsection (3)(c), decide to cancel or suspend the registration of a plant pesticide product as the Agency considers appropriate. 20

(5) Where the Agency has made any decision under subsection (1) or (2) to cancel or suspend the registration of a plant pesticide product, the Agency must — 25

(a) serve on the registrant concerned a notice of the Agency's decision, specifying in the notice the date the cancellation or suspension (as the case may be) takes effect; and

(b) publish a public notice of the cancellation or suspension (as the case may be) of the registration of the plant pesticide product in any manner that will secure adequate publicity for the cancellation or suspension, specifying in the public notice the date the cancellation or suspension takes effect. 30

(6) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), “convicted”, in addition to its ordinary meaning, has the meaning given by subsection (7).

(7) A person is taken to have been convicted of an alleged offence if —

- 5           (a) the person has not been found guilty of the offence but asks for the offence to be taken into account when being sentenced for another offence; or
- (b) the person has been found guilty of the offence but is discharged without conviction.

10                           *Subdivision (2) — Certified pesticide operators*

**Application of Division 4 of Part 14 (general licensing procedures)**

15           **210.** Division 4 of Part 14 applies to every application to be appointed a certified pesticide operator, and to every certified pesticide operator appointed under this Subdivision, subject to the modifications in this Subdivision.

**Criteria for appointment**

**211.—(1)** This section applies where the Agency is deciding any of the following:

- 20           (a) whether an applicant should be appointed as a certified pesticide operator;
- (b) the conditions to impose upon appointment as a certified pesticide operator;
- 25           (c) whether to modify any condition of an appointment as a certified pesticide operator.

(2) When making a decision mentioned in subsection (1), the Agency must have regard, and give such weight as the Agency considers appropriate, to all of the following matters:

- (a) whether the applicant —
- 30                           (i) possesses the qualifications and practical experience prescribed in the pesticide control regulations; and



- (ii) is a suitable individual to be a certified pesticide operator;
  - (b) the applicant's compliance history with any of the following so far as that relates to the applicant carrying out any prescribed pesticide work to which the applicant's application relates:
    - (i) the conditions of any appointment or previous appointment as a certified pesticide operator;
    - (ii) any provision of this Act applicable to the applicant;
    - (iii) any provision of a code of practice applicable to the applicant;
  - (c) whether regulatory action under section 213 has been or is being taken or is contemplated against the applicant;
  - (d) any available information as to whether or not the applicant has been convicted or found guilty of any relevant offence within the meaning of section 213(3);
  - (e) whether it is otherwise not in the public interest of Singapore for the applicant to be or continue to be a certified pesticide operator.
- (3) To avoid doubt, the Agency is not confined to consideration of the matters specified in subsection (2) and may take into account any other matters and evidence that may be relevant.

### **Tenure of appointment**

- 212.**—(1) Every appointment as a certified pesticide operator under this Subdivision is in force for the period specified in the appointment —
- (a) except when it is suspended under section 213(2); and
  - (b) unless it is earlier cancelled under section 213(1).
- (2) The period specified in any appointment under this Subdivision must not exceed 3 years.

### **Regulatory action concerning certified pesticide operator**

**213.**—(1) Subject to Division 4 of Part 14, if the Agency is satisfied that —

5 (a) a certified pesticide operator is convicted of a relevant offence committed during the term of his or her appointment;

(b) a certified pesticide operator is contravening or not complying with, or has contravened or failed to comply with —

10 (i) any of the conditions of his or her appointment;

(ii) any provision of this Act applicable to the certified pesticide operator so far as that relates to the carrying out of prescribed pesticide work, the contravention of or non-compliance with which is not an offence under this Act;

15 (iii) any provision of a code of practice applicable to the certified pesticide operator so far as that relates to the carrying out of prescribed pesticide work; or

20 (iv) any direction given to the certified pesticide operator under subsection (2)(b);

(c) a certified pesticide operator is carrying out, or causing or permitting to be carried out, any prescribed pesticide work in a careless, incompetent or unsafe manner; or

25 (d) the appointment of a certified pesticide operator had been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation,

the Agency may cancel (without any compensation) the appointment of the certified pesticide operator.

(2) However, the Agency may, in lieu of cancelling under subsection (1) the appointment of a certified pesticide operator, do  
30 (without any compensation) one or more of the following:

(a) censure the certified pesticide operator in writing;

- (b) direct the certified pesticide operator to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing that is specified in a direction, which may include any of the following:
- (i) completing any course, training, assessment, examination or test on prescribed pesticide work as the Agency may require; 5
  - (ii) rectifying any contravention or non-compliance mentioned in subsection (1)(b);
- (c) suspend the appointment for not more than 6 months;
- (d) modify any condition of the appointment. 10
- (3) In this section, “relevant offence” means any of the following:
- (a) an offence under section 214, 215, 217, 219 or 220;
  - (b) an offence under section 256 or 257 in relation to any prescribed pesticide work.

*Subdivision (3) — Plant pesticide offences, defences and presumptions* 15

**Unauthorised individual carrying on prescribed pesticide work**

**214.**—(1) An individual commits an offence if —

- (a) the individual carries on, or causes or permits to be carried on, any prescribed pesticide work for reward; and 20
  - (b) the individual —
    - (i) is not a certified pesticide operator authorised to carry out that kind of prescribed pesticide work;
    - (ii) is not doing so under the direction or supervision of a certified pesticide operator authorised to carry out that kind of prescribed pesticide work; and 25
    - (iii) is not exempt under section 320 or 321 from this section.
- (2) An individual who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction — 30

(a) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(b) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means an individual who —

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the individual is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

### Unregistered plant pesticide use

**215.—**(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person intentionally uses, or causes or permits the use of, any plant pesticide in —

(i) the cultivation of any edible plant; or

(ii) any place where any primary production activity is undertaken;

(b) the plant pesticide is an unregistered plant pesticide; and

(c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the pesticide is an unregistered plant pesticide.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

(ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual —

(i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or

(ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who — 5

(a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1). 10

### **Unregistered plant pesticide use — strict liability**

**216.—**(1) A person commits an offence if — 15

(a) the person intentionally uses, or causes or permits the use of, any plant pesticide in —

(i) the cultivation of any edible plant; or

(ii) any place where any primary production activity is undertaken; and 20

(b) the plant pesticide is an unregistered plant pesticide.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or 25

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1) except subsection (1)(a). 30

## Improper plant pesticide use

217.—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person intentionally uses, or causes or permits the use of, any plant pesticide in the cultivation of any edible plant;
- 5 (b) the plant pesticide is a registered plant pesticide product;
- (c) the use is in contravention of, or is not in compliance with, any relevant instruction on an approved label for the plant pesticide product; and
- 10 (d) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the use is in contravention of, or is not in compliance with, any relevant instruction on an approved label for the plant pesticide product.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- 15 (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- 20 (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

25 (3) In subsection (2), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

- (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and
- 30 (b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found

guilty of the current offence, of an offence under subsection (1).

### **Improper plant pesticide use — strict liability**

**218.**—(1) A person commits an offence if —

- (a) the person intentionally uses, or causes or permits the use of, any plant pesticide in the cultivation of any edible plant; 5
- (b) the plant pesticide is a registered plant pesticide product; and
- (c) the use is in contravention of, or is not in compliance with, any relevant instruction on an approved label for the plant pesticide product. 10

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or 15
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) Strict liability applies to the offence in subsection (1) except subsection (1)(a). 20

### **Keeping plant pesticide in container without approved label**

**219.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person, without reasonable excuse, keeps a registered plant pesticide product in a container that does not bear a label that is identical to the approved label for that product. 25

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or 30
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) In a prosecution for an offence under subsection (1) —

(a) it is not necessary for the prosecution to prove that the person charged knew or had reason to believe that the container of the registered plant pesticide product did not bear a label that is identical to the approved label for that product; but

(b) it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person charged did not know, and could not reasonably have been expected to know, that the plant pesticide product was in the container.

### **Interference with approved labels**

**220.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person, without reasonable excuse —

(a) intentionally removes, alters, defaces or destroys; or

(b) causes or allows to be intentionally removed, altered, defaced or destroyed,

an approved label on a container of a registered plant pesticide product, except in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) A person may remove, alter, deface or destroy a label on a container of a registered plant pesticide product —

(a) in the course of disposing of the container which is empty; or

(b) for the purpose of altering or replacing a label attached to the container containing the registered plant pesticide product in order to meet an applicable requirement of this Act relating to information on approved labels for that product.

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or



(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(4) For the purpose of this section, where anything is attached to a label, or to the container to which a label is affixed, in such a way as to obscure anything printed on the label, the label is taken to be defaced. 5

(5) For the purposes of subsection (1), where any modification is made to the content of any approved label that causes the relevant instructions on the approved label to be less easily legible, the label is taken to be altered.

(6) However, subsection (1) does not apply to an alteration that consists of a modification to the content of an approved label that is prescribed in the pesticide control regulations as not likely to cause the registration of the plant pesticide product to be cancelled or the approval for the label to be cancelled. 10

### **Defence to offence of unregistered plant pesticide use** 15

**221.**—(1) In proceedings for an offence under section 215(1) or 216(1), it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the person did not cultivate the edible plant as food, or for the purpose of supplying it as food; 20

(b) the person had, in the course of supplying or offering or exposing for supply by retail, any edible plant, displayed or caused to be displayed, conspicuously within the premises or place where the plant was supplied or offered or exposed for supply, such number of warning notices stating that the edible plant is not cultivated or supplied as food as will give any customer in the premises or place adequate notice of that fact; 25

(c) the person cultivated the edible plant in the course of, or for the purpose of, that plant being exported; or 30

(d) a contract or arrangement has been entered into, or an understanding has been arrived at, for the edible plant to be exported, whether or not the person charged is a party to that contract, arrangement or understanding.

(2) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 or any other exception in Chapter 4 of that Code.

### **Defence to offence of improper plant pesticide use**

5 **222.**—(1) In proceedings for an offence under section 217(1) or 218(1), it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

(a) the person complied with the relevant instructions on an approved label for a registered plant pesticide product (being an approved label that, at the time of the alleged offence, was affixed or attached to, or appeared on, the container of the plant pesticide product that was used); or

(b) the person —

(i) used a registered plant pesticide product at a concentration or rate lower than that specified in the relevant instructions on an approved label for the plant pesticide product (provided that the lower concentration or rate was not prohibited by the relevant instructions); and

(ii) otherwise complied with the relevant instructions on the approved label.

(2) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 or any other exception in Chapter 4 of that Code.

### **Presumption as to use of plant pesticide**

25 **223.** In proceedings for an offence under section 215(1), 216(1), 217(1) or 218(1) involving the use, or causing or permitting the use of, any plant pesticide in the cultivation of any edible plant on any premises, where it is proved that —

(a) the premises are those on which a police officer or an authorised officer as authorised under this Act to enter those premises, finds upon entering those premises at that particular time —

(i) any container on the premises containing at least 10 grams (or 10 millilitres) of plant pesticide; or

(ii) any individual in those premises intentionally concealing, intentionally removing or intentionally destroying, any container containing at least 10 grams (or 10 millilitres) of plant pesticide; and

(b) the premises are used (in whole or in part) at the particular time by any person to undertake any primary production activity involving the cultivation of any edible plant,

every adult occupier of those premises at that particular time is presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have at that particular time the intent to keep the plant pesticide to apply, spray, spread or disperse the plant pesticide by any means on the edible plant in paragraph (b).

## PART 12

### APPEALS

#### Right of appeal to Minister

**224.**—(1) A person specified in column 3 in the table below opposite an appealable decision in column 2 in the table may appeal to the Minister against the decision:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Column 2 Appealable decision</i>	<i>Column 3 Appellant</i>
1.	A trigger notice given under section 23.	The entity to whom the trigger notice is given.
2.	A refusal under section 293(1)(b) read with section 78 to grant an import licence or export licence unless the applicant is disqualified under section 298 to hold that licence.	The applicant for the import licence or export licence.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Appealable decision</i>	<i>Column 3</i> <i>Appellant</i>
5 3.	A refusal under section 293(1)(b) read with section 79 to grant an import consignment permit, an export consignment permit or a transshipment consignment permit.	The applicant for the import consignment permit, export consignment permit or transshipment consignment permit.
10 4.	A decision under section 80 imposing a condition on an import licence, an export licence or a consignment permit.	The holder of the import licence, export licence or consignment permit.
15 5.	A decision under section 82 modifying a condition of an import licence or an export licence.	The holder of the import licence or export licence.
20 6.	A decision under section 83 to take regulatory action against a licensed importer or licensed exporter.	The holder or former holder (as the case may be) of the import licence or export licence.
25 7.	A decision under section 84 to cancel an import consignment permit, an export consignment permit or a transshipment consignment permit.	The licensed importer or licensed exporter who held the import consignment permit, export consignment permit or transshipment consignment permit cancelled.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Column 2 Appealable decision</i>	<i>Column 3 Appellant</i>
8.	A refusal under section 293(1)(b) read with section 92 to grant a food business licence unless the applicant is disqualified under section 298 to hold that licence.	The applicant for the food business licence.
9.	A decision under section 93 imposing a condition on a food business licence.	The holder of the food business licence.
10.	A decision under section 95 modifying a condition of a food business licence.	The holder of the food business licence.
11.	A decision under section 96 to take regulatory action against a food business licensee.	The holder or former holder (as the case may be) of the food business licence who is the subject of the decision.
12.	A refusal to grant pre-market approval under section 293.	The applicant for the pre-market approval.
13.	A decision under section 112 to cancel a pre-market approval.	The former holder of the pre-market approval cancelled.
14.	A refusal to consent under section 113(1) to a transfer or assignment of a pre-market approval, or any rights, benefits or privileges under the pre-market approval.	The prospective transferee and the holder of the pre-market approval, jointly.
15.	A section 116 direction except an initial direction mentioned in section 116(5).	A person mentioned in section 116(1) to whom the section 116 direction is given.

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<i>Item</i>	<i>Column 2 Appealable decision</i>	<i>Column 3 Appellant</i>
5 16.	A Part 7 direction except an initial Part 7 direction mentioned in section 122(4).	A person mentioned in section 119 to whom the Part 7 direction is given.
10 17.	A refusal under section 293(1)(b) read with section 192 to grant an animal feed production licence unless the applicant is disqualified under section 298 to hold that licence.	The applicant for the animal feed production licence.
15 18.	A decision under section 193 imposing a condition on an animal feed production licence.	The animal feed production licensee.
20 19.	A decision under section 195 modifying a condition of an animal feed production licence.	The animal feed production licensee.
25 20.	A decision under section 196 to take regulatory action against an animal feed production licensee.	The animal feed production licensee or former animal feed production licensee (as the case may be) who is the subject of the decision.
30 21.	A decision refusing to register a plant pesticide product under section 205(2).	The applicant for registration.
22.	A decision under section 209 to cancel or suspend the registration of a plant pesticide product.	The registrant or former registrant (as the case may be) who is the subject of the decision.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Column 2 Appealable decision</i>	<i>Column 3 Appellant</i>
23.	A refusal under section 293(1)(b) read with section 211 to appoint an individual as a certified pesticide operator.	The applicant to be appointed a certified pesticide operator.
24.	A decision under section 213 to take regulatory action against a certified pesticide operator.	The certified pesticide operator or former certified pesticide operator (as the case may be) who is the subject of the decision.
25.	The disqualification period specified in a written order under section 298(2).	The person against whom the written order is made.
26.	A written order made under section 298(2)(a)(ii) or (b).	The person against whom the written order is made.

(2) Any person entitled under subsection (1) to appeal to the Minister against an appealable decision by the Agency, the Director-General or the Director-General, Food Security is called an appellant in this Part.

### **Appeal procedure**

**225.**—(1) An appeal by an appellant must —

- (a) be made in a prescribed manner;
- (b) specify the grounds on which it is made; and
- (c) be made within a prescribed period after the date of receipt of the appealable decision that is appealed against.

(2) The Minister may reject an appeal of an appellant who fails to comply with subsection (1).

(3) In this section, “prescribed” means prescribed in rules made under section 229.

## Decision on appeal

**226.**—(1) It is the function and duty of the Minister to consider and determine an appeal made to the Minister under section 224.

5 (2) However, the Minister is not under any duty to hear, consider or determine any appeal if it appears that the bringing of the appeal is, or the proceedings of the appeal are, frivolous or vexatious.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Minister may determine an appeal made under section 224 by —

10 (a) dismissing the appeal and confirming the decision appealed against;

(b) allowing the appeal and referring the matter back to the maker of the appealable decision to reconsider the case; or

(c) allowing the appeal and substituting or varying the decision appealed against.

15 (4) Subsection (3)(c) does not apply where the decision appealed against is a Part 7 direction or a section 116 direction.

(5) In relation to the Minister determining an appeal under this Part —

20 (a) Part 2 applies as if any reference in that Part to the Director-General, Food Security were a reference to the Minister;

(b) the following apply as if any reference in the respective Part to the Agency or the Director-General were a reference to the Minister:

25 (i) Parts 3 and 4;

(ii) Parts 5 and 6;

(iii) Part 11;

(iv) section 298; or

30 (c) Part 7 applies as if any reference in that Part to the Director-General were a reference to the Minister.

(6) The Minister's decision under subsection (3) is final.



(7) Every appellant must be notified of the Minister’s decision under subsection (3).

### **Effect of appeal on appealable decision**

**227.** An appeal against an appealable decision in section 224 does not affect the operation of the decision appealed against or prevent the taking of any action to implement the decision, and unless otherwise directed by the Minister under this section, the decision appealed against must be complied with until the determination of the appeal.

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### **Designation of others to hear appeals**

**228.—(1)** The Minister may designate any of the following office-holders in his or her Ministry to hear and determine, in the Minister’s place, any appeal made under section 224:

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(a) the Second Minister, if any;

(b) any Minister of State or Senior Minister of State;

(c) any Parliamentary Secretary or Senior Parliamentary Secretary.

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(2) A reference to the Minister in section 224, 225, 226 or 227 includes a reference to a person designated under subsection (1).

### **Rules**

**229.** The Minister may make rules necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Part.

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## **PART 13**

### **MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT**

#### *Division 1 — General provisions*

### **Definitions for Part 13**

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**230.** In this Part —

“civil penalty provision”, for an entity subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product, means —

(a) section 29(1) under which the entity is or may be liable to pay an MSR charge for contravention of the requirement in section 20(b) as it applies to that entity and MSR product; or

5 (b) section 30(1) under which the entity is or may be liable to pay an MSR charge for contravention of the requirement in section 20(a) as it applies to that entity and MSR product;

10 “enter”, in relation to premises which are a conveyance, includes boarding the conveyance so long as the conveyance remains within Singapore;

“evidential material” means any of the following:

(a) any thing with respect to which —

15 (i) an offence under this Act has been committed or is suspected, on reasonable grounds, to have been committed; or

(ii) a civil penalty provision has been contravened or is suspected, on reasonable grounds, to have been contravened;

20 (b) any thing as to which there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that it will afford evidence as to —

(i) the commission of any such offence; or

(ii) the contravention of such a civil penalty provision;

25 (c) any thing as to which there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is intended to be used for the purpose of committing any such offence or contravening such a civil penalty provision;

30 “food security officer” includes the Director-General, Food Security;

“forcible entry” means doing any of the following to gain entry or access into any premises:

- (a) breaking open any outer or inner door or window leading to the premises;
- (b) removing by force any obstruction to the entry or search of the premises;
- (c) forcibly entering the premises;

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“individual in control”, in relation to a conveyance, means —

- (a) a pilot-in-command of an aircraft;
- (b) a master of a train;
- (c) a master of a vessel;
- (d) a driver or rider of a motor vehicle;
- (e) an individual reasonably believed to be involved in operating an unmanned aircraft, unmanned vessel or driverless motor vehicle; or
- (f) a rider of a bicycle or other pedal cycle that is built to be propelled solely by human power and is constructed or adapted for use on roads or public paths;

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“investigating power” means a power mentioned in section 246;

“investigator”, in relation to any provision of Division 3, 4 or 5, means —

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- (a) a food security officer who is appointed under this Act as a food security officer for the purposes of that provision;
- (b) an authorised officer who is appointed under this Act as an authorised officer for the purposes of that provision;
- (c) a food inspector who is appointed under this Act as a food inspector for the purposes of that provision; or
- (d) a Part 9 enforcement officer who is appointed under this Act as a Part 9 enforcement officer for the purposes of that provision;

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“licensable activity” means any of the following:

- (a) the import, export or transshipment of a controlled item for which a licence and a permit under Part 3 is required;
- 5 (b) the carrying on of a type of licensable food business;
- (c) the production of animal feed for which an animal feed production licence is required under Part 11;
- (d) the carrying out of prescribed pesticide work;

“monitoring power” means a power mentioned in section 234;

10 “Part 9 offence” has the meaning given by section 172;

“regulated activity” means any of the following, whether or not it is also a licensable activity:

- (a) the undertaking of any primary production activity;
- (b) the carrying on of a food business;
- 15 (c) the handling of food intended for supply;
- (d) the carrying out of any work as a food worker in the course of the operation of a food business;
- (e) the production of animal feed;
- (f) the carrying out of prescribed pesticide work;
- 20 (g) the provision of non-packaged drinking water, whether or not as a drinking water producer providing a drinking water service;

“relevant material” means any of the following:

- (a) any primary produce;
- 25 (b) any food;
- (c) any animal feed;
- (d) any regulated food contact article;
- (e) any plant pesticide;
- 30 (f) any MSR product that is not in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e);

(g) any non-packaged drinking water;

“seized item” means any relevant material or other thing seized under section 250.

**Saving for other laws**

**231.** Nothing in this Part affects —

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- (a) a police officer’s powers or duties under any provision of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 or other written law; or
- (b) any other power specially vested in a food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer under any other provision of this Act.

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*Division 2 — Monitoring powers*

**Monitoring powers: who can exercise**

**232.** A monitoring power in a provision of this Division is exercisable by a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector, who is appointed under this Act as a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector (as the case may be) for the purposes of that provision.

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**Monitoring powers: why**

**233.—(1)** A food security officer may exercise a monitoring power for one or more of the following purposes, only:

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- (a) to determine whether the minimum stockholding requirement in relation to the MSR product has been, or is being, complied with by an entity that is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to that MSR product;
- (b) to determine for the purposes of section 27 whether a divesting entity’s minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product is being assumed by, or divided with, another receiving entity or entities;

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(c) to determine whether information given in compliance, or purported compliance, with a provision in Part 2 or any Part 2 Rules is correct.

5 (2) An authorised officer or a food inspector may exercise a monitoring power for one or more of the following purposes, only:

(a) to determine for the purposes of section 78, 79, 92, 110, 192, 205 or 211 whether to grant an FSSA authorisation under that section;

10 (b) to determine whether there is any ground to take regulatory action under section 83, 84, 96, 112, 196, 209 or 213;

(c) to determine whether information given in compliance, or purported compliance, with a provision in this Act (other than Part 2 or any Part 2 Rules) is correct.

### **Monitoring powers: what**

15 **234.** The monitoring powers are as follows:

(a) the power in section 236 to enter premises;

(b) any power in section 237 after entering premises;

(c) the powers set out in sections 238, 239, 240, 241, 242 and 243.

### **20 Monitoring powers: where**

**235.—**(1) The premises where a monitoring power may be exercised by a food security officer are as follows:

25 (a) any premises occupied or used by an entity that is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product;

(b) any premises occupied or used by an entity that is an agri-food supply chain participant (but not an ultimate consumer) and is undertaking any MSR activity in relation to an MSR product;

30 (c) any premises (except a private residence) occupied by an individual who is or was an officer of an entity mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b);

- (d) any premises (except a private residence) occupied by an individual who is an employee of an entity mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b);
- (e) any premises where any MSR product is held by an entity mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b). 5

(2) The premises where a monitoring power may be exercised by an authorised officer or a food inspector are as follows:

- (a) any premises (except a private residence) occupied or used by a holder of an FSSA authorisation, or an applicant for an FSSA authorisation, for or in connection with a licensable activity undertaken or to be undertaken by the holder or applicant; 10
- (b) any premises (except a private residence) occupied by an individual who is or was an officer of a person mentioned in paragraph (a); 15
- (c) any premises (except a private residence) occupied by an individual who is an employee of a person mentioned in paragraph (a).

### **Power to enter premises for monitoring**

**236.**—(1) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may, at a reasonable time in the day or night, and without warrant, enter and remain at — 20

- (a) any of the premises mentioned in section 235(1), in the case of a food security officer; or
- (b) any of the premises mentioned in section 235(2), in the case of an authorised officer or a food inspector. 25

(2) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector entering any premises —

- (a) may be accompanied by any number of police officers or other individuals that the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) considers necessary; and 30

(b) may take into or onto the premises any equipment and materials that he or she requires for the purpose of exercising monitoring powers in relation to those premises.

5 (3) If the owner or occupier of the premises is present when a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector seeks to enter the premises under subsection (1), the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) must, before entering —

(a) declare his or her office to the owner or occupier; and

10 (b) show to the owner or occupier his or her identification card as proof of identity.

(4) If the owner or occupier of the premises is not present when entry under subsection (1) or (2) to the premises is sought, but some other individual who appears to be in charge of the premises is present, then subsection (3) applies to that other individual as if that individual were the owner or occupier of the premises.

(5) However, subsections (3) and (4) do not apply if the premises in question are unoccupied at the time of entry.

20 (6) This section does not empower a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector to exercise any power of forcible entry into any premises.

### **Powers after entering premises**

25 **237.**—(1) After entering any premises, a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may exercise all or any of the following powers:

(a) to observe any activity conducted in the premises;

(b) to examine any animal, object or thing in the premises;

(c) to inspect and examine the premises;

30 (d) to make or direct the making of a sketch, photograph or film, or an audio or a video recording, of —



- (i) any part of the premises, and the immediate vicinity of those premises unless the immediate vicinity is or consists of a private residence;
  - (ii) any animal, object or thing in the premises; or
  - (iii) any activity conducted in or on the premises; 5
- (e) to do any of the following:
- (i) to open or require to be opened any door, window, lock, fastener, cupboard, compartment, box, container or any other thing;
  - (ii) if the cupboard, compartment, box, container or other thing appears abandoned but is locked, to use reasonable force, including cutting or breaking open any lock, seal, fastener or other device on or connected to the cupboard, compartment, box, container or other thing so as to open it; 10 15
- (f) to interrupt any regulated activity being carried out in the premises;
- (g) to search any part of the premises;
- (h) to request to inspect, and to inspect, free of charge any document found on the premises; 20
- (i) to exercise any other monitoring power;
- (j) to take into or onto the premises any equipment or materials that the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) reasonably requires for the exercise of a monitoring power; 25
- (k) to request the occupier of the premises, or some other individual who appears to be in charge of the premises and is present, to give the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) reasonable help to exercise the officer's or inspector's powers under paragraphs (a) to (j). 30

(2) Section 238 applies to a request made under subsection (1)(h) with the necessary modifications.

(3) When making a request mentioned in subsection (1)(k), the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) must warn the individual requested that it is an offence to fail to comply with the request, unless the individual has a reasonable excuse.

### **Power to get documents or information**

**238.**—(1) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may require a person who is required under any provision of this Act to keep records —

(a) to provide for inspection any document or information to the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) within the period and in the manner specified by the officer or inspector; and

(b) to allow an inspection and taking of extracts from, or making copies of, any such document or information, free of charge.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), where any document or information is kept in electronic form, the power to inspect the document or information includes the power —

(a) to access any computer or other equipment (including a mobile communication device) in which the document or information is stored; and

(b) to require any person having charge of, or otherwise concerned with the operation of, the computer or equipment to provide assistance in gaining such access to the document or information contained or available to the computer or equipment, including assistance through the provision of any username, password, access code or other authentication information required to gain access to it.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), the power to inspect any document or information includes the power to take possession of the document or any thing containing the information (but not a mobile phone or wearable device (such as a smart watch) designed or capable

of being used for any communicative function) if, in the opinion of a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector concerned —

- (a) the inspection or copying of or extraction from the document or thing cannot reasonably be performed without taking possession; 5
- (b) the document or thing may be interfered with or destroyed unless possession is taken; or
- (c) the document or thing may be evidential material or be required as evidence in any regulatory action instituted or commenced under this Act. 10

(4) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), if any document or information is in an electronic form contained or available to a computer or other electronic equipment in any premises, the power to take extracts from, or make copies of, such document or information includes the power — 15

- (a) to use or operate the computer or other electronic equipment in the premises to make one or more copies of the document or information contained or available to that computer or equipment; and 20
- (b) to transfer the document or information to a disk, tape or other storage device that —
  - (i) is brought to the premises for the exercise of the power; or
  - (ii) is in the premises and the use of which for that purpose has been agreed in writing by the occupier of the premises, 25

and to remove the disk, tape or other storage device from those premises.

(5) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector is entitled without payment to keep any document or information, or any copy or extract thereof, provided to him or her under this section. 30

**Power to identify and hold food, plant pesticide, etc.**

239.—(1) If, after entering any premises, a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector reasonably believes that any compartment, box, container or other thing in the premises contains  
5 any relevant material, the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) may —

- (a) identify the relevant material; or
- (b) require the owner or any individual who appears to be in charge of the relevant material —

10 (i) to hold it at the premises where it is; or

(ii) to move it to, and hold it at, any other reasonable place that the officer or inspector specifies,

until a further lawful direction of a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector.

15 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may use, or require the use of, any reasonable means to identify or mark the relevant material concerned.

20 (3) Without limiting subsection (1), a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may do all or any of the following to any relevant material:

- (a) secure it by marking, sealing or labelling it or using any other similar means;

- (b) keep or store it in or on board any conveyance or in any premises, and may lock or seal the conveyance or those  
25 premises;

- (c) mark, seal or lock any door or opening containing or affording access to any relevant material;

- (d) direct its owner not to trade in it or use it until the results of  
30 any examination of the relevant material are available or necessary remedial action has been completed.

(4) This section does not limit section 240.

## Power to require presentation of live animals

**240.**—(1) After entering any premises, an authorised officer or a food inspector may reasonably —

- (a) require the owner or a person in control of a live food producing animal in those premises to present the animal in a manner suitable for examination and identification; 5
- (b) direct the owner or a person in control of a live food producing animal in those premises to hold, isolate, separate it, or to treat all or any of those live food producing animals, for any purpose in paragraph (a); 10
- (c) require the owner or a person in control of a live food producing animal in those premises to move or bring the animal to a convenient place within a reasonable distance of those premises, to allow the authorised officer or food inspector to exercise monitoring powers in relation to the animal, and detain the animal at that place for as long as is reasonably necessary to allow the authorised officer or food inspector to exercise those monitoring powers; or 15
- (d) examine and identify a live food producing animal presented, held, isolated, separated, treated, moved, brought or detained under paragraph (a), (b) or (c). 20

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), an authorised officer or a food inspector may identify an animal by marking it or using any other suitable means.

(3) If the owner or person in control of a live food producing animal fails to present the animal as required under subsection (1)(a) or to move the animal as required under subsection (1)(c), an authorised officer or a food inspector may capture, collect, muster, extract, harvest, or pen the animal for the relevant purpose. 25

(4) The presentation or movement of any live food producing animal required under subsection (1)(a) or (c) is at the cost of the person to whom the requirement or direction under subsection (1) was addressed. 30

(5) Any expenses reasonably incurred by an authorised officer or a food inspector in the exercise of his or her powers under subsection (3) may be recovered, as a debt due to the Agency, from the person to whom the requirement or direction under subsection (1) was addressed.

(6) No compensation is payable in respect of any animal which is damaged or otherwise destroyed by virtue of any examination or identification under subsection (1) or any exercise of powers under subsection (3), unless the damage or destruction is directly attributable to the negligence or default of the authorised officer or food inspector.

(7) A requirement or direction under subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c) must be in writing, or be confirmed in writing as soon as practicable after being given orally.

### **Power to take and sample**

**241.**—(1) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may do all or any of the following:

(a) take any relevant material or a sample of any relevant material;

(b) take a sample from any animal, or of any thing, that is or has been in contact with, or in the vicinity of, any relevant material;

(c) for the purpose of analysis, take samples of water, soil, vegetation or any other thing that is part of the environment in which —

(i) any licensable activity has been or is being undertaken; or

(ii) any MSR product is held.

(2) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector who wishes to exercise the power in subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c) by taking a sample of any relevant material that is in an unopened package, may direct —

(a) the owner, or person who appears to be in charge, of the package or the relevant material contained in the package, to open the package; or

(b) the owner or occupier of the premises where the unopened package is, to open the package.

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(3) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector who exercises the powers mentioned in subsection (1) or (2) must give notice to —

(a) the owner, or person who appears to be in charge, of the package, thing, relevant material or animal, as the case may be; or

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(b) the owner or occupier of the premises where the package, thing, relevant material or animal (as the case may be) is,

whether or not the food security officer, authorised officer, food inspector (as the case may be) intends to exercise powers mentioned in section 242.

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(4) To avoid doubt, a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector is not required to exercise powers mentioned in section 242 after the giving of a notice under subsection (3).

(5) In this section and section 242 —

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“sample” includes an example;

“take”, in relation to any relevant material or thing, includes to purchase the relevant material or thing;

“take a sample”, from an animal, means —

(a) to take a swab from the animal or of any part of the animal;

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(b) to take a sample of any part of the animal; or

(c) to take a sample of any urine, faeces, blood or other article or substance from, or which has been in contact with, the animal.

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### Power to test samples

**242.**—(1) This section applies where a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector —

- (a) takes any relevant material, or takes a sample of any relevant material or thing under section 241;
- (b) takes a sample from an animal under section 241; or
- (c) acquires any relevant material from a member of the general public who has complained about the relevant material in connection with any provision of this Act.

(2) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may —

- (a) test the sample or swab;
- (b) arrange for the testing of the sample or swab; or
- (c) require the person notified under section 241(3) with respect to the sample or swab to —
  - (i) arrange for the testing of the sample or swab; and
  - (ii) provide the results to the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be.

(3) The person notified under section 241(3) with respect to the sample or swab taken or acquired is not entitled to compensation for any damage or destruction resulting from the taking or testing of a sample or swab unless the damage or destruction is directly attributable to the negligence or default of a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector.

### Powers in relation to conveyances

**243.**—(1) Where any premises in section 235 are a conveyance, a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may, without warrant —

- (a) if the conveyance is moving —
  - (i) request or direct the individual in control of the conveyance to stop; and



- (ii) detain the conveyance for as long as is reasonably necessary for the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) to exercise his or her monitoring powers in relation to the conveyance; and

5

(b) whether or not the conveyance is moving —

- (i) request or direct the individual in control of the conveyance to move or bring the conveyance to a convenient place within a reasonable distance to allow the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) to exercise his or her monitoring powers in relation to the conveyance; and

10

- (ii) detain the conveyance at that place for as long as is reasonably necessary to allow the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) to exercise those monitoring powers.

15

(2) When asking or directing an individual in control of a moving conveyance to stop the conveyance or bring it to a convenient place, a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector must clearly identify himself or herself as a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector (as the case may be) exercising his or her powers under this Act.

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(3) In this section, “conveyance” does not include an aircraft, a train or a vessel that is not a fishing vessel.

25

### *Division 3 — Investigating powers*

#### **Investigating powers: who can exercise**

**244.** An investigating power in a provision of this Division is exercisable by any of the following appointed for the purposes of that provision (called an investigator):

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- (a) a food security officer;
- (b) an authorised officer;
- (c) a food inspector;

(d) a Part 9 enforcement officer.

### **Investigating powers: why**

**245.**—(1) A food security officer may exercise an investigating power for one or more of the following purposes, only:

5 (a) to inquire into anything where the food security officer suspects on reasonable grounds that —

(i) an offence under section 28(3), 31(1), 35(3) or 36(1) or any Part 2 Rules has been or is being committed;

10 (ii) an offence under section 253, 254, 255, 256 or 257 involving a food security officer has been or is being committed; or

15 (iii) a contravention of a minimum stockholding requirement has occurred or is occurring and any liability to pay an MSR charge has accrued or is accruing under a civil penalty provision;

20 (b) to gather evidential material relating to any offence or contravention mentioned in paragraph (a), that the food security officer suspects on reasonable grounds has been or is being committed or has occurred or is occurring, as the case may be.

(2) An authorised officer or a food inspector may exercise an investigating power for one or more of the following purposes, only:

25 (a) to inquire into anything where the authorised officer or food inspector suspects on reasonable grounds that any offence under this Act has been or is being committed, excluding any of the following:

(i) an offence mentioned in subsection (1)(a);

(ii) a Part 9 offence;

30 (iii) an offence under Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations;

(b) to gather evidential material that relates to any offence under this Act (but not an offence excluded by

paragraph (a)) that the authorised officer or food inspector suspects on reasonable grounds has been or is being committed;

(c) to determine whether there is any ground to give a section 116 direction or a Part 7 direction to any person; 5

(d) to determine whether —

(i) any food is unsafe food, unsuitable food or a defined food;

(ii) any controlled item is failing;

(iii) any animal feed is not fit for purpose; or 10

(iv) any non-packaged drinking water is unwholesome.

(3) A Part 9 enforcement officer may exercise an investigating power for one or more of the following purposes, only:

(a) to inquire into anything where the Part 9 enforcement officer suspects on reasonable grounds that any of the following has been or is being committed: 15

(i) a Part 9 offence;

(ii) an offence under Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations;

(b) to gather evidential material that relates to any offence mentioned in paragraph (a) that the Part 9 enforcement officer suspects on reasonable grounds that has been or is being committed. 20

### **Investigating powers: what**

**246.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the following are the investigating powers that may be exercised by an investigator in relation to premises under section 247: 25

(a) any monitoring power;

(b) the special powers of entry under section 248;

(c) the powers under sections 249, 250, 251 and 252. 30

(2) Where a Part 9 enforcement officer is concerned, a reference in subsection (1)(a) to a monitoring power does not include a reference to a monitoring power mentioned in section 237(1)(e)(ii) or (f), 239, 240 or 241(1)(b) or (c), 242(1)(b) or (c) or 243.

5 **Investigating powers: where**

**247.**—(1) The premises in relation to which a food security officer may exercise an investigating power are as follows:

- (a) any of the premises mentioned in section 235(1);
- (b) any premises occupied or used in the course of a business  
10 by a person —
  - (i) who is an agri-food supply chain participant, or is closely connected with, an agri-food supply chain; and
  - (ii) who falls within any class of persons prescribed in  
15 the Part 2 Rules for the purposes of section 32.

(2) The premises in relation to which an authorised officer or a food inspector may exercise an investigating power are as follows:

- (a) any of the premises in section 235(2);
- (b) any premises occupied or used for or in connection with a  
20 regulated activity which has been or is being undertaken at those premises and whether or not a private residence;
- (c) any food premises, whether or not the subject of a food business licence and whether or not a private residence;
- (d) any premises adjoining or near any premises in  
25 paragraph (a), (b) or (c), subject to subsection (3).

(3) However, an investigating power may be exercised in relation to premises mentioned in subsection (2)(d) only if the authorised officer or food inspector concerned believes on reasonable grounds —

- (a) that it is necessary to do so for the purpose of entering any  
30 other premises mentioned in subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c);  
or

(b) that activities are being carried out in the premises mentioned in subsection (2)(d) in such a manner, or that the premises are in such a state or condition, that presents or is likely to present a hazard or a source of contamination that may adversely affect any of the following in, or carried out in, the adjoining premises or nearby premises: 5

- (i) the safety or suitability of any food or primary produce handled or produced by a food business;
- (ii) any live food producing animal, or other thing that may become food; 10
- (iii) the fitness for purpose of animal feed produced or being produced.

(4) The premises in relation to which a Part 9 enforcement officer may exercise an investigating power are —

- (a) any food premises that is not a private residence; or 15
- (b) any other premises (except a private residence) where food is supplied or is to be supplied or from which food is supplied or is to be supplied.

### **Special powers of entry**

**248.**—(1) A food security officer may, at a reasonable time in the day or night, enter and remain at any of the premises mentioned in section 247(1) without a warrant; and section 236 applies to entering into and remaining in any of those premises subject to subsection (2). 20

(2) Despite section 236(6), a food security officer may make a forcible entry into premises mentioned in section 247(1) if all the following circumstances are met: 25

- (a) the food security officer suspects on reasonable grounds that an offence or contravention mentioned in section 245(1)(a) has been or is being committed or has occurred or is occurring, and there is evidential material in those premises relevant to the offence or contravention; 30
- (b) the food security officer is unable to enter, or is refused entry to, those premises;

(c) the food security officer is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to secure the evidential material in order to prevent the material from being concealed, lost or destroyed;

5 (d) the premises to be entered is not a private residence.

(3) An authorised officer or a food inspector may, at a reasonable time in the day or night, enter and remain at any of the premises mentioned in section 247(2) or (3) without a warrant; and section 236 applies to entering into and remaining in any of those premises,  
10 subject to subsections (4) and (5).

(4) Despite section 236(6), an authorised officer or a food inspector may make a forcible entry into premises mentioned in section 247(2) or (3) if all the following circumstances are met:

15 (a) the authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) suspects on reasonable grounds that any offence under this Act (except an offence mentioned in section 245(1)(a) or under Part 9) has been or is being committed and there is evidential material in those premises relevant to such an offence;

20 (b) the authorised officer or food inspector is unable to enter, or is refused entry to, those premises;

(c) the authorised officer or food inspector is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to secure the evidential material in order to prevent the material from being  
25 concealed, lost or destroyed;

(d) the premises to be entered is not a private residence.

(5) Despite section 236(6), an authorised officer or a food inspector may make a forcible entry into premises if all the following circumstances are met:

30 (a) the authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) suspects on reasonable grounds that there is in the premises any of the following relevant material:

(i) any food which is unsafe food, unsuitable food or a defined food;

- (ii) any primary produce which is unsafe;
- (iii) any controlled item which is failing;
- (iv) any animal feed which is not fit for purpose;
- (v) any non-packaged drinking water for supply which is unwholesome; 5
- (vi) any unregistered plant pesticide;
- (b) the authorised officer or food inspector is unable to enter, or is refused entry to, those premises;
- (c) the authorised officer or food inspector is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to make a forcible entry to prevent or reduce a serious danger, or an imminent risk, of death or serious illness of any person from any relevant material in paragraph (a) being handled, used or supplied in connection with any regulated activity which has been or is being undertaken at those premises; 10 15
- (d) the premises to be entered is not a private residence.

(6) A Part 9 enforcement officer may, at a reasonable time in the day or night, enter and remain at any of the premises mentioned in section 247(4) without a warrant; and section 236 applies to an entry into and remaining in any of those premises, subject to subsection (7). 20

(7) Despite section 236(6), a Part 9 enforcement officer may make a forcible entry into premises mentioned in section 247(4) if all the following circumstances are met:

- (a) the Part 9 enforcement officer suspects on reasonable grounds that — 25
  - (i) a Part 9 offence; or
  - (ii) an offence under Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations,

has been or is being committed and there is evidential material in those premises relevant to such an offence; 30
- (b) the Part 9 enforcement officer is unable to enter, or is refused entry to, those premises;

- (c) the Part 9 enforcement officer is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to secure the evidential material in order to prevent the material from being concealed, lost or destroyed.

5 **Special information gathering powers**

**249.—(1) Where —**

- 10 (a) a food security officer believes on reasonable grounds that an offence or contravention mentioned in section 245(1)(a) has been or is being committed or has occurred or is occurring;
- (b) an authorised officer or a food inspector believes on reasonable grounds that an offence under this Act has been or is being committed, except an offence mentioned in paragraph (a) or a Part 9 offence; or
- 15 (c) a Part 9 enforcement officer believes on reasonable grounds that an offence under this Act as follows has been or is being committed:
- (i) a Part 9 offence;
- (ii) an offence under Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations,
- 20

the investigator concerned may exercise the powers in subsection (2) for the purposes of an investigation into that offence or contravention.

(2) An investigator may, by written order, require any individual whom the investigator reasonably believes to be acquainted with any fact or circumstance relevant to the offence or contravention concerned, to do all or any of the following:

25

- (a) to attend before the same or another investigator to answer any question (to the best of that individual's knowledge, information and belief) immediately or at a place and time specified in the written order (called in this section an examination);
- 30



(b) to provide information to the same or another similar investigator immediately or at a place and time specified in the written order;

(c) to provide any document to the same or another investigator for inspection, within the period and in the manner specified in the written order. 5

(3) The examination must take place in private, and the investigator may give directions as to who may be present during the examination or part thereof.

(4) An investigator may, and must if the individual examined under subsection (2) so requests, record any information provided at the examination by the individual as a statement which is admissible as evidence in any proceedings in connection with any offence under this Act or any contravention involving a civil penalty provision. 10

(5) The individual questioned under subsection (2)(a) is bound to state truly the facts and circumstances with which the individual is acquainted concerning the case. 15

(6) A statement made by any individual questioned under subsection (2)(a) must —

(a) be reduced to writing; 20

(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 individual.

(7) An investigator must, if requested in writing by the individual examined under subsection (2) to give to the individual a copy of the written record made under subsection (4), provide a copy of the written record without charge within a reasonable time, subject to any conditions that the investigator may impose. 25

(8) If any individual fails to attend before the investigator as required by an order under subsection (2)(a), an investigator may report the failure to a Magistrate who may issue a warrant to secure the attendance of that individual as required by the order. 30

(9) Section 238 applies to an order made under subsection (2)(b) or (c) with the necessary modifications.

### Power to seize

5 **250.**—(1) Upon entering premises, a food security officer may seize any relevant material or other thing in those premises if he or she reasonably believes that the relevant material or thing is evidential material relating to an offence or contravention mentioned in section 245(1)(a) that has been or is being committed or has occurred or is occurring.

10 (2) Upon entering premises, an authorised officer or a food inspector may seize any relevant material or other thing in those premises if he or she reasonably believes that the relevant material or thing is evidential material relating to any offence under this Act that has been or is being committed, except an offence mentioned in  
15 section 245(1)(a) or a Part 9 offence.

(3) Upon entering premises, a Part 9 enforcement officer may seize any relevant material or other thing in those premises if he or she reasonably believes that the relevant material or thing is evidential material relevant to any of the following that has been or is being  
20 committed:

(a) a Part 9 offence;

(b) an offence under Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations.

(4) In addition to subsection (2), an authorised officer or a food inspector may seize any relevant material or other thing described in  
25 subsection (5) if he or she reasonably believes, after making the inquiries that are reasonable in the circumstances —

(a) that the relevant material or other thing —

(i) has been abandoned; or

(ii) has no apparent or readily identifiable owner;

30 (b) that the seizure is necessary to prevent the relevant material or thing being used to continue, or repeat, an offence under this Act that has been or is being committed, except an offence mentioned in section 245(1)(a) or under Part 9; or

(c) that the relevant material or thing is decayed or putrefied or deleterious to human health.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4) —

(a) the relevant material is any of the following:

- (i) any food which is unsafe food, unsuitable food or a defined food; 5
- (ii) any primary produce which is unsafe;
- (iii) any controlled item which is failing;
- (iv) any animal feed which is not fit for purpose;
- (v) any non-packaged drinking water for supply which is unwholesome; 10
- (vi) any unregistered plant pesticide; or

(b) the other thing is any of the following:

- (i) a live food producing animal which is not clinically healthy and not free from signs of infectious or contagious disease; 15
- (ii) an animal reproductive material which was extracted or otherwise taken from a food producing animal that was not clinically healthy and not free from signs of infectious or contagious disease at the time of extraction or taking; 20
- (iii) a suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination giving rise to a risk to human health.

(6) For the purposes of this section, an authorised officer or a food inspector may reasonably believe that an entire consignment or lot of food is unsafe or unsuitable or is a defined food, or an entire consignment or lot of primary produce is unsafe, for the purpose of exercising a power in subsection (1) if the authorised officer or food inspector — 25

- (a) samples part of the consignment or lot; 30
- (b) forms the opinion that the sample is unsafe or unsuitable, or is a defined food; and

(c) forms the opinion that the consignment or lot —

(i) has probably been managed in the same way as the sample; or

(ii) has been subject to the same conditions or treatment as the sample.

(7) Where a live food producing animal is involved, an authorised officer or a food inspector may —

(a) seize the animal as well as the whole or any sample of any article or substance which has been in contact with the animal and take them to the place of examination; or

(b) in writing direct the owner or person in charge of the animal to deliver the animal as well as the whole or any sample of any article or substance which has been in contact with the animal to a specified place of examination at a specified time.

(8) To avoid doubt, where any other thing seized in exercise of the power conferred on a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector under subsection (1) or (2) is a conveyance, that power may be exercised whether or not the owner or an individual in control of the conveyance is present at the time of the seizure of the conveyance.

(9) A food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer —

(a) must prepare and sign a list of all relevant material or other things seized under this section, recording the location where each of the relevant material or other thing is found; and

(b) must give a copy of that list to an owner of the relevant material or thing, except where the relevant material or other thing —

(i) has been abandoned;

(ii) has no apparent or readily identifiable owner; or

- (iii) has been seized in the presence of the owner or the owner's agent.

### **Detaining food, food contact article, etc., seized**

**251.**—(1) Where any relevant material or other thing has been seized by an investigator under section 250, the investigator may require the relevant material or thing —

- (a) to be detained at the place or premises where the investigator seized it; or
- (b) to be removed to another place or premises and detained there.

(2) Any relevant material or other thing required under subsection (1) to be detained or removed and detained must be detained or removed and detained (as the case may be) at the cost of —

- (a) the owner of the relevant material or other thing at the time it was seized; or
- (b) if the investigator does not know who the owner is, the person who possessed the relevant material or other thing at the time it was seized.

### **Power to obtain disclosure of identity**

**252.**—(1) An authorised officer or a food inspector may request an individual in a public place, who is transporting or delivering food, or is handling or otherwise in possession of food for sale —

- (a) to disclose —
  - (i) the individual's full name and address;
  - (ii) the full name and address of the person from whom the food was obtained, if that person is known to the individual; and
  - (iii) whether the individual is employed or self-employed, and if an employee, the name of the individual's employer; and
- (b) to provide proof of the individual's identity.

(2) An authorised officer or a food inspector may detain an individual mentioned in subsection (1) for so long as is reasonably necessary for the purposes of this section.

5 (3) Any individual asked under subsection (1) is bound to state truly what the individual is asked.

*Division 4 — Offences relating to enforcement*

**Obstructing entry, etc.**

10 **253.**—(1) Where an investigator or outsourced enforcement officer is authorised under this Act to enter any premises, a person commits an offence if the person —

(a) wilfully prevents the investigator or outsourced enforcement officer from entering or re-entering those premises or any part of those premises;

15 (b) wilfully obstructs or delays the investigator or outsourced enforcement officer from entering or re-entering those premises or any part of those premises; or

20 (c) gives an alarm or causes an alarm to be given for the purpose of notifying anyone else in those premises of the presence of the investigator or outsourced enforcement officer.

(2) A person commits an offence if the person —

(a) intentionally alters, suppresses or destroys any document or any information or material which the person has been required under section 238 or 249 to provide; or

25 (b) intentionally or otherwise obstructs, hinders or delays an investigator or an outsourced enforcement officer, in the discharge of his or her duties under any provision of this Act.

30 (3) A person commits an offence if the person, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with any request, requirement or direction (except a requirement under section 32 or a Part 7 direction) which is made or given by an investigator or an outsourced enforcement officer to that person under any provision of this Act.

(4) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

5

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(5) However, it is not an offence under subsection (1), (2) or (3) for a person to refuse to comply with any request, requirement or direction made or given by an investigator or outsourced enforcement officer, who —

10

(a) fails to declare his or her office; and

(b) refuses to produce his or her identification card on demand being made by that person.

**Interfering with seals or markings of authorised officer, etc.**

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**254.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person, without the express authority of an investigator —

(a) intentionally alters, breaks, removes or erases any mark, seal or label;

(b) intentionally opens, breaks or otherwise interferes with any lock or seal; or

20

(c) intentionally defaces or destroys, any lock, mark, seal or label,

placed by the same or another investigator or an outsourced enforcement officer, on any relevant material or other thing under section 239 or 240 or on any sample taken under section 241.

25

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or

30

- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

### **Impersonating**

5 **255.**—(1) An individual who represents himself or herself, by word or conduct —

(a) to be a food security officer when he or she is not a food security officer;

(b) to be an authorised officer when he or she is not an authorised officer;

10 (c) to be a food inspector when he or she is not a food inspector;

(d) to be a Part 9 enforcement officer when he or she is not a Part 9 enforcement officer;

15 (e) to be an outsourced enforcement officer when he or she is not an outsourced enforcement officer; or

(f) to be an authorised analyst when he or she is not an authorised analyst,

20 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(2) However, it is a defence in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) where the person charged proves, on the balance of probabilities, that the person charged used or possessed an identification card or equipment issued, or purportedly issued, under section 175(4), 281 or 282 (as the case may be) for the purposes of a public entertainment provided in compliance with the Public Entertainments Act 1958.

### **Forging inspection advice, certificates, etc.**

30 **256.**—(1) A person must not forge, or apply, knowing it to be forged, a document of the kind mentioned in subsection (2).

(2) A document to which subsection (1) applies is any of the following:



- (a) an inspection advice;
- (b) a recognised foreign government certificate;
- (c) an FSSA authorisation;
- (d) a registration mark for a plant pesticide;
- (e) an authorised analyst's certificate issued under section 288. 5

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or 10
  - (ii) where the individual is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual —
  - (i) to a fine not exceeding \$30,000; or 15
  - (ii) where the person is a repeat offender — to a fine not exceeding \$60,000.

(4) For the purposes of this section, a person is taken to have forged a document if the person —

- (a) makes a document which is false, knowing it to be false; or 20
- (b) without authority, alters a genuine document in a material particular,

with intent that —

- (c) the false or altered document may be used, acted on, or accepted, as genuine, to the prejudice of another person; or 25
- (d) another person may, in the belief that it is genuine, be induced to do or refrain from doing an act, whether in Singapore or elsewhere.

(5) For the purposes of this section, if a person —

- (a) makes a document which is false, knowing it to be false; 30

(b) without authority, alters a genuine document in a material particular; or

(c) with intent that a computer, a machine or other device should respond to the false or altered document as if it were genuine —

(i) to the prejudice of another person; or

(ii) with the result that another person would be induced to do or refrain from doing an act, whether in Singapore or elsewhere,

10 the firstmentioned person is taken to have forged the document.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a person is taken to apply a forged document if the person —

(a) uses or deals with it;

(b) attempts to use or deal with it; or

15 (c) attempts to induce another person to use, deal with, act upon, or accept it.

(7) In subsection (3), “repeat offender”, in relation to an offence under subsection (1), means a person who —

20 (a) is convicted, or found guilty, of such an offence (called the current offence); and

(b) has been convicted or found guilty, on at least one other earlier occasion within the period of 5 years immediately before the date on which the person is convicted or found guilty of the current offence, of an offence under  
25 subsection (1).

### **Offence of providing false information, etc.**

**257.—**(1) A person commits an offence if —

(a) the person gives any document, information or material in or in connection with —

30 (i) an application (whether for that person or for another) for any FSSA authorisation;

- (ii) an appeal under Part 12; or
  - (iii) a requirement or direction of an investigator under a relevant provision of this Act;
- (b) the document, information, material or statement either —
- (i) is false or misleading; or 5
  - (ii) omits any matter or thing without which the information or material is misleading; and
- (c) the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the document, information, material or statement is as described in paragraph (b)(i) or (ii). 10
- (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —
- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or 15
  - (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.
- (3) However, subsection (1) does not apply if the document, information, material or statement —
- (a) is not false or misleading in a material particular; or 20
  - (b) did not omit any matter or thing without which the document, information, material or statement (as the case may be) is not misleading in a material particular.
- (4) In this section and section 258 —
- “give”, in relation to any information or material, includes 25  
making a statement orally, in writing or any other way;
- “relevant provision of this Act” means any of the following:
- (a) section 32;
  - (b) section 89;
  - (c) section 101; 30
  - (d) section 127;

- (e) section 201;
- (f) section 238;
- (g) section 249;
- (h) section 252.

5 *Division 5 — Evidential and ancillary matters of  
general application*

**Obligation to give information**

10 **258.**—(1) A person is not excused for not complying with a requirement imposed under a relevant provision of this Act to give any information on the ground that the person is subject to a duty of confidentiality or privacy under any prescribed written law, any rule of law, any contract or any rule of professional conduct, that prevents or restricts the person from complying with the requirement.

15 (2) Subject to subsection (4), a requirement imposed under a relevant provision of this Act to give any information has effect despite any obligations as to secrecy or other restrictions upon the disclosure of information imposed by any prescribed written law or any requirement imposed thereunder, any rule of law, any contract or any rule of professional conduct.

20 (3) No civil or criminal action, other than proceedings for an offence under section 256 or 257, shall lie against any person —

- (a) for answering questions, if the person had answered the questions in good faith in compliance with a requirement imposed under a relevant provision of this Act;
- 25 (b) for giving any document, information or material to a food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector, a Part 9 enforcement officer or an outsourced enforcement officer, if the person had given the document, information or material in good faith and in compliance with a requirement imposed under a relevant provision of this Act; or
- 30 (c) for doing or omitting to do any act, if the person had done or omitted to do the act in good faith and as a result of

complying with a requirement imposed under a relevant provision of this Act.

(4) Nothing in a relevant provision of this Act or this section requires a person to disclose any information subject to legal privilege. 5

(5) This section does not affect the Frustrated Contracts Act 1959.

(6) In this section, “prescribed written law” means any written law prescribed by the Minister by rules in the *Gazette*.

### **Self-incrimination**

**259.**—(1) A person is not excused for not complying with a requirement imposed under a relevant provision of this Act to give any information on the ground that the disclosure of the information would have a tendency to expose the person to a criminal charge for an offence under this Act, a repealed law or other written law. 10

(2) Where a person claims, before giving any information that the person is required under any relevant provision of this Act to give, that the disclosure of the information might tend to incriminate the person for an offence under this Act, a repealed law or other written law — 15

(a) that information; 20

(b) the giving of the information; and

(c) any information, document or thing obtained as a direct consequence of the giving of the information,

is not admissible in evidence against the person in any criminal proceedings for an offence under this Act, the repealed law or other written law other than proceedings for an offence under section 256 or 257 or any written law in respect of the falsity of the information, document or thing. 25

(3) For the purposes of any proceedings for an offence under this Act, the making of a statement by an accused person made pursuant to a requirement mentioned in subsection (1), is not to be regarded under section 258(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 as caused by any inducement, threat or promise merely because the investigator had 30

earlier informed the accused person that the accused person was not excused from disclosing information on the ground that the disclosure of the information might tend to incriminate the accused person, if the investigator believed in good faith, when so informing the accused person, that —

(a) the accused person was concerned in an offence under this Act; or

(b) a reasonable complaint has been made, or credible information has been received, or a reasonable suspicion exists, that the accused person was concerned in an offence under this Act.

(4) Nothing in this Division —

(a) compels an advocate and solicitor or legal counsel to disclose or produce a privileged communication, or a document, information or material containing a privileged communication, made by or to the advocate and solicitor or legal counsel in that capacity; or

(b) authorises the taking of any such document, information or material which is in the possession of an advocate and solicitor or legal counsel.

(5) In this section, “relevant provision of this Act” means any of the following:

(a) section 89;

(b) section 101;

(c) section 127;

(d) section 201;

(e) section 238;

(f) section 249;

(g) section 252.

### **Presumption as to contents and labels**

**260.**—(1) For the purposes of this Act, the contents of a package of food are presumed to conform with the description of the contents on the package’s label until the contrary is proved.

(2) Any information on the outside or inside of any package of food, or on the label of a package of food, that identifies the person who imported, produced, sold, or manufactured the food in the package is presumed to be correct until the contrary is proved. 5

### **Presumption as to supply of food**

**261.**—(1) For the purposes of this Act, when any food or food contact article is supplied or displayed or offered for supply, the food or food contact article is presumed to be supplied or exposed or offered for supply for human consumption as food or use as food, until the contrary is proved. 10

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a person who supplies or intends to supply any article of which food is a constituent, is presumed until the contrary is proved that the person supplied or intended to supply the food. 15

(3) The purchase or supply of a sample of any food under this Act for the purpose of analysis or examination is presumed to be a purchase or supply of the food for human consumption as food or for use as food, unless the supplier proves that the bulk from which the sample was taken was not offered, exposed or intended for supply for human consumption as food or use as food. 20

### **Presumption as to sample**

**262.**—(1) This section applies to a sample of food, primary produce or animal feed — 25

(a) taken from an identified quantity of food, primary produce or animal feed;

(b) taken as required by a requirement of this Act; and 30

(c) interpreted as required by a requirement of this Act.

(2) The sample is presumed to be representative of the quantity of food, primary produce or animal feed from which the sample was taken until the contrary is proved.

5 (3) The sample is also presumed to be representative of the lot, or production run, from which the identified quantity was taken until the contrary is proved.

(4) Each of the parts into which a sample of any food, primary produce or animal feed is divided in accordance with this Act is presumed, until the contrary is proved, to be of uniform composition with the other parts.

10

(5) In this section, “animal feed” excludes a live animal.

### **Presumption as to import for purpose of supply**

**263.** For the purposes of this Act, the import of any food or prepacked food additive in a quantity that is more than that which is imported for private consumption must, unless the contrary is proved, be treated as an import of the food or prepacked food additive for the purpose of supply.

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### **Proof of exemptions or reasonable excuse**

**264.** In a prosecution of a person for an offence under this Act, the onus of proving that —

20

(a) at the time of the alleged offence a person was exempted from a provision of this Act; or

(b) anything was done or omitted to be done with lawful excuse or authority or reasonable excuse,

25 lies upon the person making that assertion.

### **Disclosure by witnesses**

**265.—(1)** In any proceedings for an offence under this Act, a witness for the prosecution is not compelled to disclose the fact that the witness received information, the nature of the information received or the name of the person from whom the information was received.

30



(2) An authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer appearing as a witness in any proceedings is not compelled to produce any document containing any confidential matter made or received in his or her capacity as an authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer, as the case may be. 5

(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), a court hearing proceedings for an offence under this Act may order the disclosure of any matter, or the production of a document, referred to in those subsections if the court considers that it is necessary in the interests of justice.

### **Court may order corrective advertising, etc.** 10

**266.** A court by which a person (called in this section the offender) is found guilty of an offence involving advertising may make one or both of the following orders upon convicting the offender:

(a) an order requiring the offender to disclose in a particular manner — 15

(i) to the general public;

(ii) to a particular person; or

(iii) to a particular class of persons in the general public, information specified in the order, or information of a kind specified in the order, which the offender possesses or to which the offender has access; 20

(b) an order requiring the offender to publish in Singapore, at the offender's own expense, in a manner and at times specified in the order, advertisements the terms of which are specified in the order. 25

### **Liability of person charged for certain expenses**

**267.—**(1) When any person is convicted of an offence under this Act, the court may order that all fees and other expenses for or incidental to the analysis of any food or thing in respect of which the conviction is obtained, and any other reasonable expenses incurred by the prosecution, be paid by the person convicted. 30

(2) All those fees and expenses are recoverable in the same manner as a fine is recoverable.

### **Handling of seized items**

**268.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2) and sections 269 and 270 —

5 (a) all seized items are liable to forfeiture by a court; and

(b) sections 370, 371 and 372 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 relating to the handling of property seized by a police officer apply, with the necessary modifications, to any seized item.

10 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a seized item which is a conveyance that —

(a) is of more than 200 tons net; or

15 (b) is an aircraft or a train belonging to a person carrying on a regular passenger service to and from Singapore by means of that aircraft or train.

### **Forfeiture, etc., of seized items by court in criminal proceedings**

**269.**—(1) A court may, in any criminal proceeding against a person for an offence under this Act, order that any item seized in connection with the offence be forfeited if —

20 (a) where the seized item is a conveyance — the person is convicted of the offence and the conveyance is proved to have been used in the commission of the offence; or

25 (b) where the seized item is not a conveyance — the court is satisfied that an offence under this Act has been committed and that the seized item was the subject matter, or used (or intended to have been used) in the commission, or constitutes evidence, of the offence.

30 (2) The court may consider the question of forfeiture under subsection (1) on its own motion if no party raises the question in the proceedings before the court.

(3) A conveyance mentioned in subsection (1)(a) must not be forfeited under that provision if its owner establishes that the conveyance was unlawfully in the possession of another person without the consent of the owner.

(4) The court may make an order under subsection (1)(b) for the forfeiture of any seized item even though no person is convicted of an offence. 5

(5) If the court does not order the forfeiture of a seized item under subsection (1), the court may —

(a) order the release of the seized item to the owner of or the person entitled to the seized item; or 10

(b) where the owner of or the person entitled to the seized item cannot be ascertained or found — make any order or give any direction that the court thinks fit in relation to the disposal of the seized item. 15

(6) However, no order of forfeiture may be made under this section in respect of a seized item that is a conveyance which —

(a) is of more than 200 tons net; or

(b) is an aircraft or a train belonging to a person carrying on a regular passenger service to and from Singapore by means of that aircraft or train. 20

### **Immediate forfeiture by Agency**

**270.**—(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the Agency may at once order the forfeiture of a seized item —

(a) that is any of the following at the time of seizure: 25

(i) any food which is unsafe food, unsuitable food or a defined food;

(ii) any primary produce which is unsafe;

(iii) any controlled item which is failing;

(iv) any animal feed which is not fit for purpose; 30

(v) any non-packaged drinking water for supply which is unwholesome;

(vi) any biosecurity matter or any thing else which is a suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination giving rise to a risk to human health; and

5 (b) that —

(i) is perishable or may rapidly depreciate in value;

(ii) is injurious to human health;

(iii) is hazardous;

(iv) is decayed or putrefied; or

10 (v) for any other reason is desirable to dispose without delay.

(2) If within 48 hours after the seizure no complaint under subsection (3) has been made with respect to the item seized, the Agency may cause the seized item, if of the nature described in subsection (1)(a) and (b), to be —

(a) if the item is a living thing, detained and treated if not incurably diseased or injured and then disposed of at once in any manner that the Agency thinks fit; or

20 (b) destroyed or otherwise disposed of at once in any manner that the Agency thinks fit.

(3) A person may, no later than 48 hours after the seizure under this Act of any of the following, complain of the seizure to a Magistrate's Court:

(a) any food;

25 (b) any primary produce;

(c) any controlled item;

(d) any animal feed;

(e) any non-packaged drinking water for supply;

(f) any unregistered plant pesticide;

30 (g) any live food producing animal;

(h) any animal reproductive material extracted or otherwise taken from a food producing animal;

(i) any other thing.

(4) The complaint may be heard and determined by the Magistrate's Court, which — 5

(a) may either —

(i) confirm or disallow the seizure in whole or in part; or

(ii) order any seized item to be returned to the owner or the person entitled to the seized item; and

(b) may order payment to be made to the owner of or the person entitled to the seized item of any amount that the court considers will compensate the owner or the person for any loss or depreciation resulting from the seizure. 10

(5) A certificate signed by the Director-General is to be accepted by a court as sufficient evidence that any item seized under this Act was of a nature described in subsection (1)(a) and (b) at the time of seizure. 15

(6) No order of forfeiture may be made under this section in respect of a seized item that is a conveyance which —

(a) is of more than 200 tons net; or 20

(b) is an aircraft or a train belonging to a person carrying on a regular passenger service to and from Singapore by means of that aircraft or train.

(7) Where the owner of any item seized under the provisions of this Act by an authorised officer or a food inspector, consents in writing at any time to its disposal, the Agency may cause the item to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of at once in any manner that the Agency thinks fit. 25

### **Offences by corporations**

**271.**—(1) Where, in a proceeding for an offence under this Act, it is necessary to prove the state of mind of a corporation in relation to a particular conduct, evidence that — 30

(a) an officer, employee or agent of the corporation engaged in that conduct within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and

(b) the officer, employee or agent had that state of mind,

5 is evidence that the corporation had that state of mind.

(2) Where a corporation commits an offence under this Act, a person —

(a) who is —

(i) an officer of the corporation; or

10 (ii) an individual involved in the management of the corporation and in a position to influence the conduct of the corporation in relation to the commission of the offence; and

(b) who —

15 (i) consented or connived, or conspired with others, to effect the commission of the offence;

(ii) is in any other way, whether by act or omission, knowingly concerned in, or is party to, the commission of the offence by the corporation; or

20 (iii) knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the offence by the corporation (or an offence of the same type) would be or is being committed, and failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent or stop the commission of that offence,

25 shall be guilty of the same offence as is the corporation, and shall be liable on conviction to be punished accordingly.

(3) A person mentioned in subsection (2) may rely on a defence that would be available to the corporation if it were charged with the offence with which the person is charged and, in doing so, the person bears the same burden of proof that the corporation would bear.

30

(4) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the application of —

(a) Chapters 5 and 5A of the Penal Code 1871; or

(b) the Evidence Act 1893 or any other law or practice regarding the admissibility of evidence.

(5) To avoid doubt, subsection (2) also does not affect the liability of the corporation for an offence under this Act and applies whether or not the corporation is convicted of the offence. 5

(6) In this section —

“corporation” includes a limited liability partnership;

“reasonable steps”, in relation to the commission of an offence, includes, but is not limited to, any action (if any) of the following kinds as is reasonable in all the circumstances: 10

(a) action towards —

(i) assessing the corporation’s compliance with the provision creating the offence; and

(ii) ensuring that the corporation arranged regular professional assessments of its compliance with the provision; 15

(b) action towards ensuring that the corporation’s employees, agents and contractors are provided with information, training, instruction and supervision appropriate to them to enable them to comply with the provision creating the offence so far as the provision is relevant to them; 20

(c) action towards ensuring that —

(i) the equipment and other resources; and

(ii) the structures, work systems and other processes, 25

relevant to compliance with the provision creating the offence are appropriate in all the circumstances;

(d) action towards creating and maintaining a corporate culture that does not direct, encourage, tolerate or lead to non-compliance with the provision creating the offence; 30

“state of mind” of a person includes —

- (a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and
- (b) the person’s reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

(7) The Minister may make rules in the *Gazette* to provide for the application of any provision of this section, with any modifications that the Minister considers appropriate, to any corporation formed or recognised under the law of a country outside Singapore.

### **Offences by unincorporated associations or partnerships**

**272.**—(1) Where, in a proceeding for an offence under this Act, it is necessary to prove the state of mind of an unincorporated association or a partnership in relation to a particular conduct, evidence that —

- (a) an employee or agent of the unincorporated association or partnership engaged in that conduct within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and
- (b) the employee or agent had that state of mind,

is evidence that the unincorporated association or partnership (as the case may be) had that state of mind.

(2) Where an unincorporated association or a partnership commits an offence under this Act, a person —

- (a) who is —
  - (i) an officer of the unincorporated association or a member of its governing body;
  - (ii) a partner in the partnership; or
  - (iii) an individual involved in the management of the unincorporated association or partnership and in a position to influence the conduct of the unincorporated association or partnership (as the case may be) in relation to the commission of the offence; and



(b) who —

- (i) consented or connived, or conspired with others, to effect the commission of the offence;
- (ii) is in any other way, whether by act or omission, knowingly concerned in, or is party to, the commission of the offence by the unincorporated association or partnership; or
- (iii) knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the offence by the unincorporated association or partnership (or an offence of the same type) would be or is being committed, and failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent or stop the commission of that offence,

shall be guilty of the same offence as is the unincorporated association or partnership (as the case may be) and shall be liable on conviction to be punished accordingly.

(3) A person mentioned in subsection (2) may rely on a defence that would be available to the unincorporated association or partnership if it were charged with the offence with which the person is charged and, in doing so, the person bears the same burden of proof that the unincorporated association or partnership would bear.

(4) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the application of —

- (a) Chapters 5 and 5A of the Penal Code 1871; or
- (b) the Evidence Act 1893 or any other law or practice regarding the admissibility of evidence.

(5) To avoid doubt, subsection (2) also does not affect the liability of an unincorporated association or a partnership for an offence under this Act and applies whether or not the unincorporated association or partnership is convicted of the offence.

(6) In this section —

- “partner” includes a person purporting to act as a partner;
- “reasonable steps” has the meaning given by section 271(6);

“state of mind” of a person includes —

- (a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and
- (b) the person’s reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

(7) The Minister may make rules in the *Gazette* to provide for the application of any provision of this section, with any modifications that the Minister considers appropriate, to any unincorporated association or partnership formed or recognised under the law of a country outside Singapore.

### **Composition of offences**

**273.**—(1) An authorised officer specially authorised by the Chief Executive of the Agency may compound any compoundable offence —

(a) by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following:

(i) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence;

(ii) \$5,000; and

(b) by requiring the person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing that is specified in an offer of composition (called conditions of composition) made by the Chief Executive of the Agency, or the authorised officer mentioned in subsection (1), with the concurrence (general or specific) of the Public Prosecutor.

(2) On payment of the sum of money and on full compliance with the conditions of composition, no further proceedings are to be taken against that person in respect of the offence.

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

(4) In subsection (1), “compoundable offence” means an offence under this Act that —

(a) is neither a Part 9 offence nor an offence under Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations; and

(b) is prescribed by any regulations made under Part 15 as a compoundable offence for the purposes of this section.

(5) Where any offence is prescribed as compoundable under subsection (4), the abetment of or a conspiracy to commit the offence, or an attempt to commit the offence when the attempt is itself an offence, may be compounded in like manner.

## PART 14

### ADMINISTRATION

#### *Division 1 — Personnel*

#### **Appointment of Director-General, Food Security to administer Part 2**

**274.**—(1) The Minister may appoint from among public officers or SFA officers, a Director-General, Food Security to administer Part 2 and the Part 2 Rules.

(2) The Director-General, Food Security may exercise any powers that are conferred upon the Director-General, Food Security by any provision of Part 2 or 13 or the Part 2 Rules, subject to any directions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as the Minister may consider necessary.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Director-General, Food Security may delegate the exercise of all or any of the powers conferred or duties imposed upon him or her by this Act to any food security officer, and any reference in any provision of this Act to the Director-General, Food Security includes a reference to such a food security officer.

(4) Subsection (3) does not extend to the following:

(a) any power conferred or duty imposed on the Director-General, Food Security under section 23, 24, 27 or 32;

5 (b) the power of delegation conferred by subsection (3).

(5) The Minister may, for any reason that appears to the Minister to be sufficient, at any time revoke an individual's appointment under subsection (1) as the Director-General, Food Security.

### **Food security officers**

10 **275.**—(1) The Minister may, in relation to any provision of Part 2 or 13 or the Part 2 Rules, appoint as a food security officer for the purposes of that provision, any of the following who are suitably trained to properly exercise the powers of a food security officer:

(a) a public officer;

15 (b) an SFA officer;

(c) an employee or officer of any other public authority.

(2) The Minister may, for any reason that appears to the Minister to be sufficient, at any time revoke an individual's appointment under subsection (1) as a food security officer.

20 (3) Without affecting any delegation under section 274(3), a food security officer is authorised to exercise the powers conferred on a food security officer by this Act only to the extent authorised by the Director-General, Food Security by written authorisation given to the food security officer.

25 (4) A written authorisation under subsection (3) may do all or any of the following with respect to any powers conferred by this Act on a food security officer:

(a) limit when, and where in Singapore, the food security officer may exercise those powers or any of them;

30 (b) limit the circumstances in which the food security officer may exercise those powers or any of them.

(5) A written authorisation under subsection (3) cannot authorise a food security officer to arrest any individual.

### **Agency to administer Act except Parts 2 and 9**

**276.**—(1) The Agency is responsible for the administration of this Act except any provision in —

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- (a) Part 2 or the Part 2 Rules;
- (b) Part 9 and any Part 9 Regulations; or
- (c) Part 10 if involving any Part 9 Regulations.

(2) Despite anything in the Interpretation Act 1965, the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019 or any other law, the powers conferred or duties imposed upon the Agency by any provision of this Act are not delegable to the following persons:

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- (a) a wholly-owned subsidiary company of the Agency;
- (b) a person engaged as a contractor by the Agency.

### **Appointment of Director-General, Food Administration**

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**277.**—(1) The Agency must appoint a Director-General, Food Administration from among SFA officers with suitable qualifications and experience.

(2) The Director-General, Food Administration may, subject to any general or special directions of the Agency, perform any duties that are imposed, and may exercise any powers that are conferred, upon the Director-General by any provision of this Act or any other written law.

20

(3) The Director-General is deemed to be an authorised officer for the purposes of this Act.

25

(4) Subject to subsection (5), the Director-General may delegate the exercise of all or any of the powers conferred or duties imposed upon the Director-General by this Act to any authorised officer or food inspector; and any reference in any provision of this Act to the Director-General includes a reference to the authorised officer or food inspector.

30

(5) Subsection (4) does not extend to the following:

(a) any power conferred, or duty imposed on the Director-General under section 116, Part 7 or section 321;

(b) the power of delegation conferred by subsection (4).

5 (6) The Agency may, for any reason that appears to it to be sufficient, at any time revoke an individual's appointment under subsection (1) as the Director-General.

### **Authorised officers**

10 **278.**—(1) The Agency may, in relation to any provision of this Act (except those mentioned in section 276(1)(a), (b) or (c)), appoint as an authorised officer for the purposes of that provision any of the following who are suitably trained to properly exercise the powers of an authorised officer:

(a) any SFA officer;

15 (b) any auxiliary police officer.

(2) The Agency may, for any reason that appears to it to be sufficient, at any time revoke an individual's appointment under subsection (1) as an authorised officer.

20 (3) The Agency may delegate the exercise of all or any of the powers conferred or duties imposed upon the Agency by any provision of this Act, to any authorised officer, subject to any conditions or limitations that the Agency may specify; and any reference in that provision of this Act or its subsidiary legislation to the Agency includes a reference to such an authorised officer.

25 (4) However, nothing in subsection (3) authorises delegating —

(a) the power of delegation conferred by that subsection; or

(b) any power of the Agency to make subsidiary legislation under this Act.

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

## **Food inspectors**

**279.**—(1) The Agency may, in relation to any provision of this Act (except those mentioned in section 276(1)(a), (b) or (c)), appoint as a food inspector for the purposes of that provision, any of the following who are suitably trained to properly exercise the powers of a food inspector: 5

(a) a public officer;

(b) an employee or officer of a public authority other than the Agency.

(2) The Agency may, for any reason that appears to it to be sufficient, at any time revoke an individual's appointment under subsection (1) as a food inspector. 10

## **Limits on powers of authorised officers and food inspectors**

**280.**—(1) Without affecting any delegation under section 277(4) or 278(3), an authorised officer and a food inspector are each authorised to exercise the powers conferred on an authorised officer or a food inspector by this Act only to the extent authorised by the Agency by written authorisation given to the authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be. 15

(2) A written authorisation under subsection (1) may do all or any of the following with respect to any power conferred by this Act on an authorised officer or a food inspector: 20

(a) limit when, and where in Singapore, the authorised officer or food inspector may exercise those powers or any of them; 25

(b) limit the circumstances in which the authorised officer or food inspector may exercise those powers or any of them.

(3) A written authorisation under subsection (1) cannot authorise an authorised officer or a food inspector to arrest any individual.

### **Identification cards and equipment issued to food security officers**

5       **281.**—(1) The Director-General, Food Security must issue to each food security officer an identification card (in physical or digital form) which must be carried at all times by the food security officer when the food security officer is exercising any power under any provision of Part 2 or 13 or the Part 2 Rules.

10       (2) Every food security officer whose appointment as such ceases must return without delay to the Director-General, Food Security any identification card issued to him or her under subsection (1).

      (3) A former food security officer who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

15       (4) In the case of an identification card issued in a digital form, a former food security officer is taken to comply with subsection (2) only after he or she removes the digital identification card from each mobile communication device or other electronic device in his or her possession on which the digital identification card is capable of being displayed.

20       (5) Every food security officer must be issued with any accoutrement or equipment that the Director-General, Food Security may determine to be necessary for the effective discharge of the duties of a food security officer.

25       (6) In subsection (5), “accoutrement” includes surveillance equipment capable of being worn on the body for the purpose of recording a view of, or recording a conversation between, the wearer and another individual.

### **Identification cards and equipment issued by Agency**

30       **282.**—(1) The Agency must issue to each authorised officer and each food inspector an identification card (in physical or digital form) which must be carried at all times by the authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) when he or she is exercising any power



under any provision of this Act, except those mentioned in section 276(1)(a), (b) or (c).

(2) Every authorised officer or food inspector whose appointment as such ceases must return without delay to the Agency any identification card issued to him or her under subsection (1). 5

(3) A former authorised officer or former food inspector who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both. 10

(4) In the case of an identification card issued in a digital form, a person to whom subsection (3) applies is taken to comply with subsection (2) only after he or she removes the digital identification card from each mobile communication device or other electronic device in his or her possession on which the digital identification card is capable of being displayed. 15

(5) Every authorised officer or food inspector must be issued with any accoutrement or equipment that the Agency may determine to be necessary for the effective discharge of the duties of an authorised officer or a food inspector, as the case may be. 20

(6) In subsection (5), “accoutrement” includes surveillance equipment capable of being worn on the body for the purpose of recording a view of, or recording a conversation between, the wearer and another individual.

### **Showing identification card when exercising power** 25

**283.**—(1) If asked to do so, a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector must produce his or her identification card for inspection before exercising any power conferred on him or her under any provision of this Act except those mentioned in section 276(1)(a), (b) or (c). 30

(2) A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector who uses any identification card issued under section 281(1) or 282(1) otherwise than in the course of, or for the purpose of, performing the functions of a food security officer, an authorised

officer or a food inspector (as the case may be) under this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

5 **Public servants**

**284.** Without affecting sections 20 and 21 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, every food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector is taken to be a public servant for the purposes of the Penal Code 1871.

10 *Division 2 — Outsourced enforcement officers*

**Outsourced enforcement officers**

**285.**—(1) The Agency may appoint an individual who —

(a) is at least 18 years of age;

(b) is not an SFA officer;

15 (c) is not a public officer or officer of a public authority; and

(d) has suitable qualifications or experience,

to be an outsourced enforcement officer to assist the Director-General, Food Security or the Agency in the administration of any provision of this Act in any particular area in Singapore, except any provision in Part 9 and any Part 9 Regulations or in Part 10 if involving any Part 9 Regulations.

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(2) The Agency may, for any reason that appears to the Agency to be sufficient, at any time revoke an individual's appointment under subsection (1) as an outsourced enforcement officer.

25 (3) The Agency must issue to each outsourced enforcement officer an identification card (in physical or digital form) which must be carried at all times by the outsourced enforcement officer when exercising powers under any provision of this Act.

30 (4) An outsourced enforcement officer whose appointment as such ceases must return without delay to the Agency any identification card issued to him or her under subsection (3).

(5) A former outsourced enforcement officer who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with subsection (4) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

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(6) In the case of an identification card issued in a digital form, a former outsourced enforcement officer is taken to comply with subsection (4) only after he or she removes the digital identification card from each mobile communication device or other electronic device in his or her possession on which the digital identification card is capable of being displayed.

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(7) An outsourced enforcement officer is not an employee of the Agency.

(8) An individual who is appointed as an outsourced enforcement officer under subsection (1) does not, by virtue only of the appointment, become an agent of the Agency.

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### **Powers of outsourced enforcement officers**

**286.**—(1) The Agency must issue to each outsourced enforcement officer a written authorisation specifying such of the powers in subsection (2) as exercisable by an outsourced enforcement officer, as what the outsourced enforcement officer may exercise, and no other powers.

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(2) The powers that an outsourced enforcement officer may be authorised under this section to exercise are all or any of the following:

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- (a) to ask an individual suspected of committing an offence under Part 4 in premises mentioned in section 235, to state the individual's name and residential address;
- (b) to advise the individual to stop engaging in conduct in premises mentioned in section 235 which is a public place, that is an offence under Part 4;
- (c) to photograph or film, or otherwise record the premises mentioned in section 235 where, or in respect of which, an offence under Part 4 was committed or is reasonably

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suspected to have been committed, and any individual or conveyance in that place;

(d) to exercise in any premises mentioned in section 235 the following monitoring powers as if an authorised officer:

- 5 (i) section 236;
- (ii) section 237 but not a monitoring power in section 237(1)(e), (f), (g) and (i);
- (iii) section 238;
- (iv) section 239.

10 (3) The written authorisation issued under subsection (1) to an outsourced enforcement officer may also do all or any of the following:

- (a) limit the powers mentioned in subsection (2) that the outsourced enforcement officer may exercise;
- 15 (b) limit when, and where in Singapore, the outsourced enforcement officer may exercise those powers or any of them;
- (c) limit the circumstances in which the outsourced enforcement officer may exercise those powers or any of them.

(4) To avoid doubt, the Agency cannot authorise under this section an outsourced enforcement officer to arrest any individual.

(5) The powers that an outsourced enforcement officer may be authorised under this section to exercise may be exercised only —

- 25 (a) upon production of the identification card issued under section 285(3);
- (b) to the extent authorised by the Agency under this section; and
- (c) as directed (generally or specially) by a food security officer or an authorised officer, or an officer of the Agency.

30 (6) An outsourced enforcement officer who is authorised under subsection (1) to exercise any power expressly specified in

subsection (2) is taken to be a public servant for the purposes of the Penal Code 1871 when exercising that power.

(7) Without limiting subsection (5), where any law or written law protects an officer or employee of the Agency from liability for the officer's or employee's acts or omissions, that law or written law is taken to operate as if those acts or omissions include an outsourced enforcement officer's acts or omissions when acting in the course of his or her duty as an outsourced enforcement officer in accordance —

(a) with the written authorisation under subsection (1); and

(b) with subsection (5).

(8) To avoid doubt, an outsourced enforcement officer does not cease to be acting on the direction of an officer or employee of the Agency by reason only that the officer or employee of the Agency is not present at all times.

### *Division 3 — Authorised analysts*

#### **Authorised analysts**

**287.**—(1) The Agency may appoint an individual, whom the Agency considers to be appropriately qualified, to be an authorised analyst for the purposes of this Act.

(2) An appointment under subsection (1) —

(a) may be subject to any conditions specified in the appointment including —

(i) a condition limiting the individual to carry out analyses that are of a particular type of analysis; or

(ii) a condition limiting the individual to carry out analyses in a particular type of laboratory; and

(b) may at any time be varied or revoked.

#### **Only authorised analyst may supply certificate of analysis**

**288.**—(1) Only an authorised analyst may issue to a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector submitting an article for analysis, a certificate of analysis mentioned in section 289(1)

setting out the result of the analysis done by or under the supervision of the authorised analyst.

(2) A person commits an offence if —

5 (a) the person issues to a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector submitting an article for analysis, a document purporting to be a certificate of analysis mentioned in section 289(1); and

(b) the person is not an authorised analyst at the time of issuing.

10 (3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (2) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

### **Authorised analyst's certificate**

15 **289.**—(1) The production by the prosecution of a certificate of analysis in the form prescribed by any regulations made under Part 15, and purporting to be signed by an authorised analyst is sufficient evidence of the facts stated in the certificate, unless the person charged requires the authorised analyst to be called as a witness.

20 (2) If a person charged intends to require an authorised analyst to be called as a witness in any proceedings for an offence under this Act, the person charged must give notice of the person's intention to the prosecution not less than 3 clear days before the day on which the summons is returnable.

### **Analysis not required for conviction**

25 **290.** Despite any provision of any other Act, if in any prosecution under this Act it appears to the court that the offence is sufficiently proved without an analysis, proof that an analysis has been made or of the results of an analysis is not necessary to conviction for the  
30 offence.

*Division 4 — General provisions on licences, permits, etc.*

**Definitions for this Division**

**291.** In this Division —

“FSSA authorisation” excludes a registration of a plant pesticide product under Part 11; 5

“prescribed”, in relation to an FSSA authorisation or an application for an FSSA authorisation, means prescribed by any regulations made under Part 15 for that FSSA authorisation.

**Application for FSSA authorisation** 10

**292.**—(1) An application for an FSSA authorisation must be made to the Agency in accordance with this section.

(2) An application for an FSSA authorisation must —

(a) be in the form and manner the Agency specifies;

(b) be accompanied by an application fee (if prescribed) for the authorisation; 15

(c) contain —

(i) an address in Singapore at which notices and other documents under this Act for the applicant may be served; or 20

(ii) the name and address of one or more persons in Singapore authorised by the applicant to accept on the applicant’s behalf service of notices and other documents under this Act; and

(d) be accompanied by the prescribed information, and any other additional information that the Agency requires to decide on the application. 25

(3) In addition, an application to renew an FSSA authorisation must be made no later than a prescribed period before the date of expiry of the authorisation, if prescribed. 30

(4) The Agency may refuse to consider an application for an FSSA authorisation that is incomplete or not made in accordance with this section.

### **Grant of FSSA authorisation**

5     **293.**—(1) Subject to this Act, after considering any application under section 292, the Agency may —

      (a) on payment of the applicable fee for an FSSA authorisation applied for (if prescribed), grant the applicant the FSSA authorisation; or

10       (b) refuse to grant the FSSA authorisation applied for.

      (2) The Agency may grant a renewal of an FSSA authorisation with or without modifying the conditions of the FSSA authorisation, except that section 295 does not apply to or in relation to granting a renewal of an FSSA authorisation with modifications to the  
15     conditions of the FSSA authorisation.

### **Conditions of FSSA authorisation**

**294.** In granting an FSSA authorisation to any person, the Agency may impose any conditions that the Agency considers requisite or expedient having regard to the purposes of this Act.

### **20     Procedure to modify FSSA authorisation condition or for regulatory action against FSSA authorisation holder**

**295.**—(1) Subject to subsections (8) and (9), before exercising any relevant power under section 82, 83, 84, 95, 96, 112, 195, 196, 209 or 213 in relation to a holder of an FSSA authorisation, the Agency must  
25     give to the holder concerned, a written notice inviting the holder to show (as the case may be) why —

      (a) the condition of the FSSA authorisation should not be modified; or

      (b) the regulatory action should not be taken against the holder  
30     in question,

each called a proposed action.



- (2) The written notice must state all of the following:
- (a) the proposed action, including (where applicable) the type of action in section 82, 83, 84, 95, 96, 112, 195, 196 or 213 that the Agency proposes to take;
  - (b) the grounds for the proposed action; 5
  - (c) the facts and circumstances forming the basis for the grounds;
  - (d) if the proposed action is suspension of the FSSA authorisation, the proposed suspension period;
  - (e) if the proposed action is modifying any condition of the FSSA authorisation, the proposed modification; 10
  - (f) that representations may be made about the notice;
  - (g) how and where representations may be made, and a period within which the representations must be made.
- (3) The stated period in subsection (2)(g) must be, or must end, at least 14 days after the notice is given. 15
- (4) If, after considering all representations made within the stated period the Agency still considers any proposed action should be taken, the Agency may —
- (a) if the proposed course of action is modifying under section 82, 95 or 195 any condition of the FSSA authorisation — modify the condition; or 20
  - (b) if the proposed course of action is any regulatory action under section 83, 84, 96, 112, 196 or 213 — take any regulatory action mentioned in the appropriate section that the Agency considers appropriate. 25
- (5) Where the Agency has made any decision under subsection (4) against any holder of an FSSA authorisation, the Agency must serve on the holder concerned a notice of the Agency's decision.
- (6) Subject to Part 12, a decision under subsection (4) that is specified in the notice given under subsection (5) takes effect starting the date on which that notice is given, or on another later date if specified in that notice. 30

(7) Any suspension, cancellation or revocation of an FSSA authorisation with respect to the holder of the FSSA authorisation does not affect —

- (a) the enforcement by any person of any right or claim against the holder; or
- (b) the enforcement by the holder of any right or claim against any person.

(8) However, if the Agency —

- (a) considers it necessary in the public interest of Singapore to suspend an FSSA authorisation urgently; or
- (b) has reasonable grounds to believe there is a serious and imminent risk to public health and that it is appropriate or requisite, to avoid any actual or imminent occurrence that endangers or threatens to endanger the safety of the public, to suspend the FSSA authorisation urgently,

the Agency may immediately suspend, for a period not exceeding 30 days, the FSSA authorisation by written notice given to the holder thereof.

(9) Subsections (1) to (4) do not apply where the holder of the authorisation in question —

- (a) has died or is adjudged a bankrupt;
- (b) has been dissolved or wound up; or
- (c) has otherwise ceased to exist.

### **Non-transferable FSSA authorisation**

**296.** Every FSSA authorisation (other than a pre-market approval), and any rights, benefits or privileges under such an authorisation, are not transferable or assignable to any other person, and a transfer or an assignment, or purported transfer or assignment, of such an FSSA authorisation, or of any rights, benefits or privileges under such an authorisation, is void and of no effect.

### **Conviction as ground for regulatory action**

**297.**—(1) In taking any regulatory action under section 83, 84, 96, 112, 196 or 213 because of the conviction of any person of a criminal offence, the Agency may accept the person’s conviction as final.

(2) For the purposes of section 78(2)(c), 83(1)(c), 92(2)(d), 96(1)(c), 192(2)(d), 196(1)(c), 211(2)(d) and 213(1)(a), “convicted”, in addition to its ordinary meaning, has the meaning given by subsection (3). 5

(3) A person is taken to have been convicted of an alleged offence if — 10

(a) the person has not been found guilty of the offence but asks for the offence to be taken into account when being sentenced for another offence; or

(b) the person has been found guilty of the offence but is discharged without conviction. 15

### **Disqualification from holding FSSA authorisation**

**298.**—(1) This section applies where an FSSA authorisation is revoked under section 83, 96 or 196 (called in this section the invalidated authorisation).

(2) The person who was the holder of an invalidated authorisation is also disqualified, for a period that is specified in a written order by the Agency — 20

(a) from holding —

(i) the same FSSA authorisation as the invalidated authorisation; and 25

(ii) any other FSSA authorisation or FSSA authorisations associated with the invalidated authorisation that the Agency may specify in the order; and

(b) where the invalidated authorisation was a food business licence for a type of licensable food business, from being an executive staffer of the same type of licensable food business at any premises. 30

(3) The period the Agency may specify in a written order under subsection (2) is a period not exceeding 3 years starting immediately after the date of revocation of an invalidated authorisation.

(4) Any FSSA authorisation obtained by a person while  
5 disqualified by a written order of the Agency under this section from obtaining such an authorisation is of no effect.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (2)(a)(ii), an FSSA authorisation is associated with an invalidated authorisation if —

10 (a) it authorises a type of licensable activity that is grouped by rules made under subsection (6) with the invalidated authorisation; and

(b) it is not an appointment as a certified pesticide operator or a pre-market approval.

15 (6) The Minister may, for the purposes of subsection (5), make rules in the *Gazette* that group different FSSA authorisations together where the nature of the licensable activities covered by the respective FSSA authorisations are similar.

(7) In this section —

20 “executive staffer”, in relation to a food business, means an individual —

(a) who is in the direct employment of, or is acting for or by arrangement with, the proprietor of the food business;

(b) who —

25 (i) directly takes part in managing, or exercises oversight over, the day-to-day operations of the food business; or

30 (ii) is authorised to make decisions, involving the exercise of his or her discretion, that controls the day-to-day operations, of the food business; and

- (c) who is not an officer of the food business if it is a corporation, an unincorporated association or a partnership;

“same FSSA authorisation”, in relation to an invalidated authorisation, means an FSSA authorisation that, if granted —

- (a) is granted under the same provision of this Act as the invalidated authorisation covering the same type of licensable activity; and
- (b) covers the same premises which the invalidated authorisation authorised that licensable activity to be carried on (if any) in.

### **Financial penalties, etc.**

**299.**—(1) Where any financial penalty is imposed on a holder of an FSSA authorisation under the provisions of this Act, for contravening or not complying with —

- (a) any condition attached to the FSSA authorisation;
- (b) any provision of this Act applicable to the holder of the FSSA authorisation so far as that relates to the activity covered by the authorisation; or
- (c) any provision of a code of practice applicable to the holder of the FSSA authorisation so far as that relates to the activity covered by the FSSA authorisation,

any performance bond, guarantee or other form of security furnished by the holder must not be forfeited by the Agency for that contravention or non-compliance except to the extent to pay the financial penalty.

(2) All financial penalties imposed under this Act because of regulatory action, and any moneys under a performance bond, deposit or other form of security forfeited under regulatory action for the purpose of meeting any financial penalty so imposed must be collected by the Agency and paid into the Consolidated Fund.

(3) The Agency may recover as a debt in a court of competent jurisdiction any of the following amounts that has become due and payable but has not been paid:

- (a) any fee imposed under any provision of this Act in respect of an FSSA authorisation;
- (b) any financial penalty imposed under any provision of this Act in respect of a holder or former holder of an FSSA authorisation,

and the liability of the holder or former holder concerned to pay is not affected by the holder's or former holder's FSSA authorisation ceasing (for any reason) to be in force.

(4) All financial penalties recovered under subsection (3) must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

#### *Division 5 — Miscellaneous*

#### **Production of FSSA authorisation**

**300.**—(1) A holder of an FSSA authorisation commits an offence if the holder refuses or fails to show the holder's FSSA authorisation without delay when requested to do so by any police officer, or an investigator or outsourced enforcement officer duly authorised to do so.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or
- (b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(3) Where an FSSA authorisation is granted in a digital form, the holder of the FSSA authorisation is taken to have shown the FSSA authorisation for the purpose of complying with a request under subsection (1) if the holder, or an officer of the holder (which is an entity), produces a mobile communication device or other electronic device on which the digital FSSA authorisation is displayed, to the

police officer, investigator or outsourced enforcement officer concerned.

(4) However, an FSSA authorisation in digital form is not displayed for the purpose of complying with a request under subsection (1) to produce the FSSA authorisation if —

(a) the screen of the mobile communication device or other electronic device on which it is purportedly displayed is unable to be read by the police officer, investigator or outsourced enforcement officer to whom it is displayed because of cracking, dimming, dirt or any other fault, damage or obstruction;

(b) the individual holding the mobile communication device or other electronic device fails or refuses to comply with a reasonable request by the police officer, investigator or outsourced enforcement officer to whom it is purported to be displayed to facilitate the reading, copying or scanning of the whole or any part of the FSSA authorisation; or

(c) the individual holding the mobile communication device or other electronic device refuses to comply with a reasonable direction to refresh the display of the FSSA authorisation in digital form.

(5) To avoid doubt, an individual who displays or purports to display an FSSA authorisation in digital form is not required to give or hand over, to a police officer or an investigator or outsourced enforcement officer who is requiring the FSSA authorisation to be produced, the mobile communication device or other electronic device on which the FSSA authorisation in digital form is displayed or purported to be displayed.

(6) In this section, “investigator” means —

(a) a food security officer;

(b) an authorised officer;

(c) a food inspector; or

(d) a Part 9 enforcement officer.

### **Surrender of FSSA authorisation**

**301.**—(1) This section applies where an FSSA authorisation is revoked or cancelled, or expires and is not renewed.

(2) The Agency may, in any of the circumstances described in subsection (1), direct the former holder of an FSSA authorisation —

(a) to surrender or return to the Agency, within a period stated in the direction, the revoked, cancelled or expired FSSA authorisation; or

(b) in the case of an FSSA authorisation granted in digital form, to remove, within a period stated in the direction, the digital FSSA authorisation from each mobile communication device or other electronic device on which the digital FSSA authorisation is capable of being displayed.

(3) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a direction given to the person under subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) where the person is an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both; or

(b) where the person is not an individual — to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(4) Any direction under this section to return or surrender an FSSA authorisation does not extend to any mobile communication device or other electronic device on which an FSSA authorisation granted in digital form is displayed.

### **Reasonable belief by authorised officer, etc.**

**302.**—(1) If this Act requires an authorised officer or a food inspector to reasonably believe something before exercising a power, it is sufficient if the Director-General or a more highly ranked authorised officer or food inspector reasonably believes it and directs the authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) to exercise the power.



(2) If this Act requires a food security officer to reasonably believe something before exercising a power, it is sufficient if the Director-General, Food Security or a more highly ranked food security officer reasonably believes it and directs the food security officer to exercise the power.

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### **Protection of confidential commercial information for plant pesticides**

**303.**—(1) Where the Agency receives an application relating to a plant pesticide product, or a proposed plant pesticide product, and the product or an active constituent of the proposed or existing plant pesticide product (as the case may be) has not been the subject of any other earlier application to the Agency, then during the protected period of the confidential commercial information relating to the plant pesticide product or active constituent, the Agency —

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- (a) must take reasonable steps to ensure that the confidential commercial information is kept confidential to the Agency; and
- (b) must not use the confidential commercial information for the purposes of determining whether to grant any other application.

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(2) Despite subsection (1), the Agency may, during the protected period in relation to any confidential supporting information —

- (a) disclose that confidential commercial information, or use that confidential commercial information for the purposes of determining whether to grant any application other than the application to which it relates or related, as the case may be —
  - (i) with the consent of the applicant who made the application to which the confidential commercial information relates or related; or
  - (ii) if that disclosure or use is, in the opinion of the Agency, necessary to protect the health or safety of members of the general public;

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(b) disclose that confidential commercial information to a Government department or statutory body for the purposes of the Government department or statutory body if, in the opinion of the Agency, the Government department or statutory body will take reasonable steps to ensure the confidential commercial information is kept confidential;

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or

(c) disclose that confidential commercial information to any one or more of the following:

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(i) the World Health Organisation;

(ii) the Food and Agriculture Organisation;

(iii) any regulatory agency of a WTO Country;

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(iv) any committee established under section 27 of the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019 for the purpose of advising the Agency on any matters arising out of any application;

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(v) any person, or a person within a class or classes of persons, approved by the Minister, if the disclosure is in accordance with any conditions that are specified in the pesticide control regulations.

(3) The power to grant consent under subsection (2)(a)(i) may be exercised by a person other than the applicant mentioned in that provision if —

(a) that applicant —

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(i) has notified the Agency in writing that that other person may grant that consent; and

(ii) has not notified the Agency in writing that that person's authority to grant that consent has been withdrawn; or

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(b) that applicant's rights in respect of the relevant confidential commercial information have been transferred to that person and the applicant or that other person has notified the Agency in writing of the transfer.

(4) In this section —

“application” means an application under section 205 for registration of a plant pesticide product;

“confidential commercial information”, in relation to a plant pesticide product or in relation to an active constituent for a proposed or existing plant pesticide product, means —

(a) a trade secret relating to the active constituent or product; or

(b) any other information relating to the active constituent or product that has a commercial value that would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, destroyed or diminished if the information were disclosed;

“protected period”, in relation to any confidential commercial information relating to an innovative plant pesticide application received by the Director-General, means a period of 5 years starting the date the application is or was (as the case may be) received by the Agency;

“WTO Country” means a country that is a party to the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation adopted at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994.

(5) Section 6 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018 and section 34 of the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019 do not apply in relation to any confidential commercial information during its protected period.

### **Service of documents**

**304.**—(1) A document that is permitted or required by this Act to be given to a person may be served as described in this section.

(2) A document permitted or required by this Act to be given to an individual may be given —

(a) by delivering it to the individual personally;

(b) by sending it by post to the address specified by the individual for the service of documents or, if no address is

so specified, the individual's residential address or business address;

- (c) by leaving it at the individual's residential address with an adult apparently resident there, or at the individual's business address with an adult apparently employed there;
- (d) by affixing a copy of the document in a conspicuous place at the individual's residential address or business address;
- (e) by sending it by fax to the fax number last known to the person giving or serving the document as the fax number for the service of documents on the individual; or
- (f) by sending it by email to the individual's last email address.

(3) A document permitted or required by this Act to be given to a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership) may be given —

- (a) by delivering it to any partner, secretary or other similar officer of the partnership;
- (b) by leaving it at, or by sending it by post to, the partnership's business address;
- (c) by sending it by fax to the fax number used at the partnership's business address; or
- (d) by sending it by email to the partnership's last email address.

(4) A document permitted or required by this Act to be given to a body corporate (including a limited liability partnership) or an unincorporated association may be given —

- (a) by delivering it to the secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or unincorporated association, or the limited liability partnership's manager;
- (b) by leaving it at, or by sending it by post to, the registered office or principal office in Singapore of the body corporate or unincorporated association;

- (c) by sending it by fax to the fax number used at the registered office or principal office in Singapore of the body corporate or unincorporated association; or
- (d) by sending it by email to the last email address of the body corporate or unincorporated association. 5

(5) In addition, a document (other than a summons) permitted or required by this Act to be given to an individual, a partnership, a body corporate or an unincorporated association may be given —

- (a) by giving an electronic notice to the individual, partnership, body corporate or unincorporated association (called in this section an addressee) by the addressee's chosen means of notification, stating that the document is available and how the addressee may use the addressee's chosen means of access to access the document's contents; or 10  
15
- (b) by any other method authorised by regulations made under Part 15 for the service of documents of that kind if the addressee consents expressly to service of a document of that kind in that way.

(6) A document given under this section by fax, email or post takes effect — 20

- (a) if the document is sent by fax and a notification of successful transmission is received, on the day of transmission;
- (b) if the document is sent by email, at the time that the email becomes capable of being retrieved by the person to whom it is sent; or 25
- (c) if the document is sent by post, 2 days after the day the document was posted (even if it is returned undelivered).

(7) However, the giving of any document under this Act on a person by email or by an electronic notice at the person's chosen means of notification, may be effected only with the person's express prior consent to service of the document of that kind in that way. 30

(8) This section does not apply to documents to be served in proceedings in court.

(9) In this section —

“business address” means —

5           (a) in the case of an individual, the individual’s usual or last known place of business in Singapore; or

          (b) in the case of a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership), the partnership’s principal or last known place of business in Singapore;

10       “chosen means of access”, for an addressee on whom is or is to be served a document permitted or required by this Act, means an electronic means the addressee agrees with the person giving the document as the means by which the addressee may access that document’s contents;

15       “chosen means of notification”, for an addressee on whom is or is to be given a document permitted or required by this Act, means an electronic means that the addressee nominates to the person giving the document as the means by which the addressee may be notified that such a document has been given to the addressee;

“document” includes a notice or an order permitted or required by this Act to be given;

25       “last email address” means the last email address given by the addressee concerned to the person giving the document as the email address for the service of documents under this Act;

“post” includes prepaid registered post;

“residential address” means an individual’s usual or last known place of residence in Singapore.

### **Protection from personal liability**

30       **305.** No liability shall lie against —

          (a) a food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer;

(b) a member, officer or employee of the Agency; or

(c) any other person acting under the direction of the Agency,

for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith and with reasonable care in the execution or purported execution of any provision of this Act.

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### **Jurisdiction of courts**

**306.** Despite the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, a District Court or a Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act and has power to impose the full punishment for any such offence.

## **PART 15**

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### **REGULATIONS AND CODES**

#### **General power to make regulations**

**307.—**(1) Subject to subsection (4), the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations under this Part, prescribing anything that is required or permitted to be prescribed, or is otherwise necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to, under any provision of this Act.

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(2) When any provision of this Act confers powers on the Agency to make regulations, with the approval of the Minister, the power includes power to make regulations that —

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(a) prescribe requirements that apply to licensed importers and proprietors of licensed food businesses in relation to the tracing and recalling of import-controlled items or food, including setting requirements relating to —

(i) what information must be collected;

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(ii) how, and for how long, the information must be kept; and

(iii) what information must be kept under section 87 or 99 and given under section 89 or 101, as the case may be;

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(b) provide that any contravention of any provision of the regulations is an offence and that the penalty on conviction may be a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both; and

5 (c) prescribe any saving, transitional, and other consequential, incidental and supplemental provisions that are necessary or expedient for regulations made under this Part.

(3) Regulations made under this Part may apply —

10 (a) to all forms or kinds of food, animal feed, plant pesticides, agri-food production inputs or regulated food contact articles, or particular forms or kinds of food, animal feed, plant pesticides, agri-food production inputs or regulated food contact articles;

15 (b) in respect of the conduct of all forms of regulated activities (as defined in section 230), or particular categories of regulated activities;

(c) in respect of all food premises, or particular categories of food premises; or

20 (d) differently according to differences in time, place or circumstance.

(4) This section does not apply to or in relation to any provision of this Act that is in Part 2, 9 or 12.

### **Fees and charges**

25 **308.**—(1) When any provision of this Act confers powers on the Agency to make regulations, with the approval of the Minister, the power includes power —

30 (a) to impose fees or charges in respect of applications for or the grant of an FSSA authorisation, an acceptance or other approval or authorisation under any provision of this Act, and of any thing else done by the Agency in connection with the administration of this Act;

(b) to impose penalties for the late payment of any such fee or charge;



- (c) to impose interest for late payment of any such fee, charge or penalty; and
- (d) to provide for the manner in which those fees or charges, or those penalties or interest for late payment, have to be paid, which may include any of the following:
  - (i) payment by instalment;
  - (ii) payment of an estimated fee or charge based on estimated costs expended in or associated with the Agency providing a service or discharging a function in connection with the administration of this Act, paid before the provision of the service or discharge of the function, followed by reconciliation and an appropriate further payment or refund after the provision of the service or discharge of the function;
  - (iii) payment within a period after the service is provided or the function is discharged by the Agency in connection with the administration of this Act.

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(2) Any such fee or charge, or any penalty or interest for late payment, may be prescribed by regulations either —

- (a) by fixing the amount;
- (b) by setting a scale or formula or method of calculation; or
- (c) by setting a maximum or minimum amount.

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(3) Different fees and charges may be so prescribed in respect of different classes of persons, food, primary produce, food businesses, controlled items, animal feed, plant pesticides or food producing animals, or according to differences in time, place or circumstance or on any other differential basis.

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(4) Any such unpaid fee or charge or instalment thereof, or unpaid penalty or interest for late payment, may be recovered by the Agency as a debt in a court of competent jurisdiction.

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(5) This section does not apply to or in relation to any provision of this Act that is in Part 2, 9 or 12.

## Standards and labelling requirements

**309.**—(1) Without limiting section 307, the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, by regulations set out standards relating to any of the following:

- 5           (a) safety standards for food or agri-food production inputs, including —
- (i) the composition, ingredients or other characteristics of any kind of food or agri-food production input;
  - 10           (ii) the maximum amounts of contaminants or residues that may be present in the food;
  - (iii) the maximum or minimum amounts of additives that must or may be present in the food;
  - (iv) the microbiological status and safety of food;
  - 15           (v) prohibitions or restrictions on the supply of particular kinds of food to individuals of less than a specified age;
  - (vi) the precautions to be taken in relation to the supply of particular kinds of food (either generally or when they are supplied to particular classes of persons);
  - 20           and
  - (vii) any other reasonable requirement that is desirable to prevent or minimise risk of injury or impairment of health;
- (b) the manufacturing or preparation of food;
- 25           (c) the handling of food, including the method of handling;
- (d) the manufacture or production, storage, keeping or transporting of agri-food production inputs (except any animal feed and plant pesticide);
- 30           (e) safety standards for regulated food contact articles, including —

(i) prohibitions or restrictions on substances that may be used to manufacture a regulated food contact article; and

(ii) prohibitions or restrictions on the use of regulated food contact articles with food;

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(f) the application of standards.

(2) Without limiting section 307, the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, by regulations set out information standards for labels on food or agri-food production inputs (except any animal feed and plant pesticide), including —

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(a) prohibiting or restricting the content used in labelling of the food or agri-food production inputs for supply;

(b) prohibiting or requiring specified content in any label relating to the food or agri-food production inputs for supply;

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(c) prescribing the form of the content required under paragraph (b), such as its size and colour, or the size, colour and font type of the content and how it is displayed;

(d) requiring records to be kept in relation to the labelling of food or agri-food production inputs; and

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(e) any other reasonable requirement that is desirable to ensure that misleading information is not provided, and that adequate information is provided, in respect of the food or agri-food production inputs.

(3) In this section, “agri-food production input” excludes the following even if essential in undertaking any primary production activity:

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(a) any animal reproductive material from a food producing animal;

(b) any young of a food producing animal;

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(c) any seed, spore, bulb, root, cutting or other part of a plant from which plants grow or further plants grow;

- (d) any veterinary biologics, or any vaccines, antitoxins or other preparations made from living organisms, which are suitable for use in diagnosing, treating or immunising animals.

5 **Food safety schemes**

**310.**—(1) Without limiting section 307, the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, by regulations establish one or more food safety schemes for the purposes of Part 4.

(2) A food safety scheme must state the following:

- 10 (a) the licensable food business to which the scheme applies;  
 (b) the aspects of the licensable food business to which the scheme applies.

(3) A food safety scheme may be established about any of the following:

- 15 (a) how a licensable food business is to be carried on;  
 (b) the design, construction, maintenance and cleanliness of —  
     (i) premises (including fittings and fixtures) used, or intended to be used, in connection with carrying on the licensable food business;  
 20 (ii) plant or equipment (including single-use items) used, or intended to be used, to handle food or otherwise in connection with carrying on the licensable food business; or  
     (iii) conveyances used to transport food in connection with carrying on the licensable food business;  
 25 (c) prohibitions or restrictions on the carrying on of certain activities in connection with the licensable food business;  
 (d) the classification, marking or other identification of primary produce or food;  
 30 (e) the wholesomeness, testing or analysis of primary produce or food;

- (f) sanitation, hygiene and the prevention of disease in primary produce;
- (g) the knowledge, skill, health and hygiene requirements for individuals engaging in, or employed in, the licensable food business in any capacity that may be specified in the scheme, including prohibitions of or restrictions on individuals handling food except in accordance with provisions in that scheme; 5
- (h) the preparation and implementation of food safety programs to ensure compliance with the food safety scheme; 10
- (i) the auditing and approval of food safety programs mentioned in paragraph (h);
- (j) the giving of information or returns relating to food safety matters to the Director-General; 15
- (k) any other matter relevant to food safety issues relating to the licensable food business that the scheme applies to.

### **Other subject matter of regulations**

**311.** Without limiting section 307, the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations relating to any of the following: 20

- (a) any information about food or a regulated food contact article in advertising, including —
  - (i) specifying the requirements for the content of advertisements about the food or regulated food contact article with the use of a word or expression indicating the type, quality or any other characteristic of the food or regulated food contact article; 25
  - (ii) specifying any other conditions relating to the use of a word or expression indicating the type, quality or any other characteristic of the food or regulated food contact article; and 30

- (iii) prohibiting activities in relation to the advertising of the food or regulated food contact article;
- (b) requirements relating to animals and pests at premises in which food is handled, or in vehicles in which food is transported;
- (c) the knowledge, skill, health and hygiene requirements for individuals who handle food in connection with carrying on a food business;
- (d) the maintenance and cleanliness of —
  - (i) premises (including fittings and fixtures) used, or intended to be used, in connection with carrying on a food business; or
  - (ii) plant or equipment (including single-use items) used, or intended to be used, to handle food or otherwise in connection with carrying on a food business;
- (e) prohibitions or restrictions on the carrying on of certain activities in connection with any particular food business;
- (f) measures for the control or elimination of food safety hazards in the course of handling food, being a thing or situation that has the potential to cause food supplied or handled in connection with carrying on any food business to be unsafe; and
- (g) sampling methods and testing requirements of food and primary produce.

## Part 6 Regulations

**312.**—(1) Without limiting section 307, the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations (called Part 6 Regulations) prescribing anything that is required or permitted to be prescribed under Part 6 or is otherwise necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to Part 6.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), Part 6 Regulations may —

- (a) require the provision of reports, returns, documents or other forms of information relevant to the quality or supply

of drinking water, or to any other process or other matter associated with the supply of drinking water, to the Agency;

- (b) require the keeping of records, statistics and other forms of information by a drinking water producer that provides a drinking water service, and the provision of reports based on that information, to the Agency; 5
- (c) prescribe standards and other requirements that must be observed or applied in relation to the quality or supply of drinking water by drinking water producers providing a drinking water service; 10
- (d) make provision with respect to the monitoring of the quality of drinking water, or any component or characteristic of drinking water, including with respect to the method, collection and analysis of samples; 15
- (e) require —
  - (i) identification of hazards and hazardous events which may affect the quality of drinking water obtained by a drinking water producer and to which a drinking water service provided by the drinking water producer relates; 20
  - (ii) an assessment of the risks posed by the hazards and hazardous events; and
  - (iii) how a drinking water producer providing the drinking water service manages the risks posed by the hazards and hazardous events in order to minimise the likelihood of the drinking water becoming unwholesome; and 25
- (f) provide that any contravention of any provision of the regulations shall be an offence punishable with a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, with a further fine not exceeding \$1,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction. 30

(3) Part 6 Regulations may apply —

- (a) in respect of all drinking water producers or particular categories of drinking water producers; and
- (b) in respect of the provision of all drinking water services or particular types of drinking water services.

### **Animal feed regulations**

**313.** Without limiting section 307, the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations (called animal feed regulations) —

- (a) prescribing any substance as a substance that is prohibited with respect to a particular animal feed;
- (b) prescribing standards for the composition of animal feed;
- (c) prescribing standards and procedures to be complied with by animal feed production licensees in producing animal feed, including standards and procedures as to —
  - (i) the storage or keeping of animal feed;
  - (ii) the transporting of animal feed;
  - (iii) the maintenance, cleanliness and sanitation of the premises where animal feed is produced; and
  - (iv) the hygiene of individuals at work in those premises;
- (d) prescribing processes which may or may not be used in the production of animal feed to achieve the fitness for purpose of the animal feed produced, including document control and recording;
- (e) prescribing requirements that apply to animal feed production licensees in relation to the tracing and recalling of animal feed, including setting requirements relating to —
  - (i) what information must be collected;
  - (ii) how, and for how long, the information must be kept; and



- (iii) what information must be kept under section 199 and given under section 201; and
- (f) providing for any other matter which is required or permitted to be prescribed by Division 2 of Part 11 or are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to Division 2 of Part 11. 5

### **Pesticide control regulations**

**314.**—(1) Without limiting section 307, the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations (called pesticide control regulations) which are required or permitted to be prescribed by Division 3 of Part 11 or are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to Division 3 of Part 11. 10

(2) In particular, pesticide control regulations may provide for or be made with respect to any of the following:

- (a) any matter connected with the registration of plant pesticide products and applications for such registration, including the content of approved labels; 15
- (b) any matter connected with the appointment as certified pesticide operators and applications for such an appointment; 20
- (c) the training and qualification requirements for persons engaged in the use of plant pesticides in connection with edible plants, including tests for applicants for appointment as a certified pesticide operators;
- (d) the making and keeping of records in relation to the use, keeping and disposal of plant pesticides, and the provision of returns and other information by a certified pesticide operator; 25
- (e) the analysis, reporting and monitoring of plant pesticide residues by producers of primary produce; 30
- (f) standards and procedures for the use of plant pesticides in connection with edible plants;

- (g) standards in relation to the design, construction and maintenance of equipment for using plant pesticides in connection with edible plants;
- (h) providing for the implementation of Singapore's obligations under any international agreement in relation to plant pesticides.

**Incorporation by reference, etc.**

**315.**—(1) Any regulation made under this Act may make provision for or in relation to a matter by applying, adopting or incorporating by reference, with or without modification, any material contained in any code, standard, rule, requirement, specification or other document, as in force at a particular time or from time to time, which relates to any matter with which the regulation deals, even if the code, standard, rule, requirement, specification or other document does not yet exist when the regulation is made.

(2) Material referred to in subsection (1) may be applied, adopted or incorporated by reference in any regulation made under this Act —

- (a) in whole or in part; or
- (b) with modifications, additions or variations specified in the regulation.

(3) A copy of any material applied, adopted or incorporated by reference in any regulation made under this Act, including any amendment to, or replacement of, the material, must be —

- (a) certified as a correct copy of the material by the Agency; and
- (b) retained by the Agency.

(4) Any material applied, adopted or incorporated in any regulation made under this Act by reference under subsection (1) is to be treated for all purposes as forming part of the regulation; and, unless otherwise provided in the regulation, every amendment to any material incorporated by reference under subsection (1) that is made by the person or organisation originating the material is, subject to subsections (5) and (6), to be treated as being a part of that regulation.

(5) Where any material referred to in subsection (1) is applied, adopted or incorporated by reference in any regulation made under this Act, the Agency must give notice in the *Gazette* stating —

- (a) that the material is incorporated in the regulation and the date on which the relevant provision in the regulation was made; 5
- (b) that the material is available for inspection during working hours, free of charge;
- (c) the place where the material can be inspected;
- (d) that copies of the material can be purchased; 10
- (e) the place where copies of the material can be purchased; and
- (f) if copies of the material are available in other ways, the details of where or how the material can be accessed or obtained. 15

(6) The Agency must cause a copy of every code, standard, rule, requirement or specification incorporated by reference under subsection (1) to be made available for inspection by members of the general public without charge at the office of the Agency during normal office hours. 20

(7) In this section, “modification” includes omissions, additions and substitutions.

(8) This section does not apply to or in relation to any subsidiary legislation made under Part 2, 9 or 12.

### **Presentation to Parliament**

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**316.** All orders, rules and regulations made under this Act must be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

## Codes of practice

**317.**—(1) The Agency may, from time to time —

- 5           (a) issue one or more codes of practice applicable to holders of any FSSA authorisation generally or particular types of holders;
- 10          (b) approve as a code of practice applicable to holders of any FSSA authorisation generally or particular types of holders any document prepared by a person other than the Agency if the Agency considers the document as suitable for this purpose; or
- (c) amend or revoke any code of practice issued under paragraph (a) or approved under paragraph (b),

with respect to all or any of the subject matters in subsection (2).

(2) The subject matters that a code of practice may deal with are —

- 15           (a) the management and operations of a type of food business or a type of food premises or generally;
- (b) the benchmarks of good practice in the operations of food businesses generally or of a particular type of food business or at particular food premises; and
- 20           (c) the duties and obligations of any food business licensee in relation to the operation of the food business.

(3) If any provision in any code of practice is inconsistent with any provision of this Act, such provision, to the extent of the inconsistency —

- 25           (a) is to have effect subject to the provisions of this Act; or
- (b) having regard to the provisions of this Act, is not to have effect.

(4) Where a code of practice is issued, approved, amended or revoked by the Agency under subsection (1), the Agency must —

- 30           (a) publish a notice of the issue, approval, amendment or revocation (as the case may be) of the code of practice in

any manner that will secure adequate publicity for such issue, approval, amendment or revocation;

- (b) specify in the notice referred to in paragraph (a) the date of issue, approval, amendment or revocation, as the case may be; and
- (c) ensure that, so long as the code of practice remains in force, copies of that code, and of all amendments to that code, are available for inspection by any food business licensee and member of the general public.

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(5) No code of practice, no amendment to an approved code of practice, and no revocation of any such approved code of practice has any force or effect as an approved code of practice until the notice relating to that code of practice is published in accordance with subsection (4).

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(6) A code of practice issued or approved under this section does not have legislative effect.

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(7) Every food business licensee must comply with the relevant codes of practice applicable to the licensee.

### **Use of code of practice in proceedings**

**318.**—(1) A code of practice is admissible in evidence in any proceedings under this Act where —

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(a) a person is alleged to have committed an offence under this Act —

(i) by reason of a contravention of any provision of this Act; or

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(ii) by reason of a failure to discharge or perform a duty or other requirement imposed by this Act; and

(b) the matter to which the alleged contravention or failure relates is one to which, in the opinion of the court in the criminal proceedings, a code of practice relates.

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(2) In criminal proceedings referred to in subsection (1), evidence that —

(a) a person has complied with a provision in a code of practice found by the court to be relevant to a matter to which a contravention or failure alleged in the proceedings relates; or

5 (b) a person has contravened or failed to comply with, whether by act or omission, any such provision so found,

may be relied on by any party to those proceedings as tending to establish or negate any liability which is in question in those proceedings.

10 PART 16

MISCELLANEOUS

**Act binds Government**

15 **319.**—(1) This Act binds the Government and applies in relation to every regulated activity undertaken by the Government for the service of the Government, with the modifications, and subject to the restrictions, specified in rules made by the Minister under subsection (3).

20 (2) For the purposes of this Act, every activity undertaken by the Government or any part thereof is treated as being made in the course of a business.

25 (3) The Minister may make rules in the *Gazette* prescribing such modifications or restrictions of any provision of this Act in its application to any regulated activity undertaken by any part of the Government for the service of the Government, as the Minister may consider necessary or expedient —

(a) in the interest of ensuring the efficiency or effectiveness of policies, programme management or service planning and delivery by that part of the Government; or

(b) in the public interest of Singapore.

30 (4) However, nothing in this Act —

(a) renders the Government liable to prosecution for an offence under this Act; or

(b) prevents a food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector, a Part 9 enforcement officer or an outsourced enforcement officer from exercising his or her powers or carrying out his or her duties under this Act.

(5) To avoid doubt, no person is immune from prosecution for any offence under this Act by reason only that the person is employed or engaged to provide services to the Government. 5

(6) For the purposes of this section —

“part of the Government” includes a department, a Ministry or an Organ of State; 10

“regulated activity” means any of the following:

(a) the import, export or transshipment of any controlled item;

(b) the undertaking of any primary production activity;

(c) the carrying on of a food business; 15

(d) the supply of food, or the handling of food intended for supply;

(e) the production of animal feed;

(f) the provision of non-packaged drinking water;

“undertaken”, by the Government or any part of the Government, includes undertaken by any person under the direction and control of the Government or part of the Government. 20

### General exemption

**320.** The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, exempt any class of persons, food businesses, premises, food or activities from all or any provisions of this Act (except Part 9 or any Part 9 Regulations, any provision in Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations and Part 12), either generally or in a particular case and subject to any conditions that the Minister may impose. 25 30

### **Administrative exemption from Act**

**321.**—(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the Director-General may exempt, for a period specified in the exemption —

5           (a) a particular person, food business, premises, food or activity from the operation of any provision of this Act where not provided in paragraph (b) or excluded by subsection (7); or

10           (b) a particular licensed importer or a particular food business licensee from any requirement in section 87, 88, 89, 99, 100 or 101.

(2) An exemption under subsection (1)(a) must not be granted unless the Director-General is personally satisfied that all of the following apply:

15           (a) the risk to public health of providing the exemption is negligible;

            (b) there are other sufficient safeguards under this Act or any other written law, or by other means, to minimise any risk to public health in providing the exemption;

20           (c) there are requirements in other written law or there are other means that deal with the matter to be exempted besides the applicable requirements of this Act;

            (d) the exemption is necessary or desirable to avoid unnecessary restrictions on trade.

25 (3) An exemption under subsection (1)(b) must not be granted unless the Director-General is personally satisfied that —

            (a) there are other sufficient safeguards under this Act or any other written law, or by other means, to minimise any risk to public health in providing the exemption; and

30           (b) the exemption is necessary or desirable to avoid unnecessary restrictions on trade,

after considering the factors in subsection (4).

(4) The factors for the purposes of subsection (3) are all of the following:



- (a) the frequency and scale of the licensed importer or food business licensee's operations;
  - (b) the potential impact on consumers;
  - (c) the kind of food supplied by the licensed importer or food business licensee; 5
  - (d) the feasibility, effectiveness and efficiency of requiring the licensed importer or the proprietor of the licensable food business to comply with the requirement;
  - (e) any other matters that the Director-General considers relevant. 10
- (5) An exemption under this section —
- (a) must be in writing and given to the particular person concerned; and
  - (b) need not be published in the *Gazette*.
- (6) The power under subsection (1) is non-delegable. 15
- (7) An exemption under this section cannot extend —
- (a) to any provision in Part 2 or Part 9 or the Part 9 Regulations, or any provision in Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations; or
  - (b) to exempting from all provisions of this Act. 20

## PART 17

### AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ACTS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

#### *Division 1 — Animals and Birds Act 1965*

#### **Amendment of section 8**

**322.** In the Animals and Birds Act 1965, in section 8, after subsection (3), insert —

“(4) This section does not apply to the import of eggs or egg products for the purpose of sale or handling as food for human consumption.”.

## New section 8A

**323.** In the Animals and Birds Act 1965, after section 8, insert —

### “Freeze on import licences

**8A.**—(1) This section applies for the period of time a directive made under section 70 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024 is in force, banning the import of any live food producing animal of a particular kind from a particular country or place outside Singapore (called the freeze period).

(2) During the freeze period of a directive made under section 70 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024, the Director-General —

(a) must not grant under section 8 any licence that is for the import of any animal or bird if the licence authorises an import that would be inconsistent with the directive; and

(b) may revoke or suspend any licence granted under section 8 for the import during the freeze period of any animal or bird that is inconsistent with the directive.

(3) Before exercising any powers under subsection (2)(b), the Director-General must give notice to the holder of the licence concerned —

(a) stating that the Director-General proposes to revoke or suspend the licence in the manner as specified in the notice; and

(b) specifying the time (being not less than 3 days starting the date of service of notice on such holder) within which written representations may be made to the Director-General with respect to the proposed revocation or suspension of the licence, as the case may be.

(4) Upon receipt of any written representation referred to in subsection (3)(b), the Director-General must consider the written representation and may —

- (a) reject the written representation;
- (b) decline to revoke or suspend the licence; or
- (c) suspend the licence in lieu of revoking it,

and, in any event, the Director-General must give written notice to that holder of the licence of his or her decision.

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(5) Subsection (2)(b) does not affect section 62(1).”.

### **Amendment of section 41**

**324.** In the Animals and Birds Act 1965, in section 41, in the definition of “animal-related business” —

- (a) in paragraph (b), delete “or” at the end;
- (b) in paragraph (c), replace the comma at the end with “; or”;
- (c) after paragraph (c), insert —

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“(d) the operation of any business in respect of animals intended to produce food or as food for human consumption;”;

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- (d) delete “but does not include any business in respect of animals intended for consumption;”.

### **Amendment of section 59**

**325.** In the Animals and Birds Act 1965, in section 59, after subsection (2), insert —

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“(2A) Subsections (1) and (2) do not extend to —

- (a) prohibiting or regulating the keeping, breeding or feeding of any animal or bird to produce food or as food for human consumption;
- (b) prohibiting or regulating the keeping, breeding or feeding of any animal or bird to produce feed for consumption by food producing animals;
- (c) requiring any person intending to keep or breed any animal or bird to produce food or as food for human consumption to obtain a licence from the

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Director-General and to comply with the conditions of the licence; or

- (d) requiring any person intending to keep or breed any animal or bird to produce feed for consumption by food producing animals to obtain a licence from the Director-General and to comply with the conditions of the licence.”.

### **Amendment of section 62**

**326.** In the Animals and Birds Act 1965, in section 62 —

- (a) in subsection (1)(b)(iii), replace “Part 2A of the Sale of Food Act 1973” with “the Food Safety and Security Act 2024”; and

- (b) after subsection (4), insert —

“(4A) Subsection (4) does not extend to the Director-General revoking or suspending under section 8A(2)(b) any licence granted under section 8.”.

### **Amendment of section 80**

**327.** In the Animals and Birds Act 1965, in section 80(2)(k), after “method of production”, insert “, but not animal or bird production to produce food or as food for human consumption”.

### *Division 2 — Central Provident Fund Act 1953*

#### **Amendment of Third Schedule**

**328.** In the Central Provident Fund Act 1953, in the Third Schedule —

- (a) after item 17, insert —

“17AA. Food Safety and Security Act 2024”;

- (b) delete item 36; and

- (c) delete item 42.

*Division 3 — Consumer Protection (Trade Descriptions and Safety Requirements) Act 1975*

**Amendment of Schedule**

**329.** In the Consumer Protection (Trade Descriptions and Safety Requirements) Act 1975, in the Schedule, replace item 1 with — 5  
 “1. Food Safety and Security Act 2024.”.

*Division 4 — Control of Plants Act 1993*

**Amendment of long title**

**330.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, in the long title —  
 (a) after “export of plants and plant products”, insert “(other 10  
 than as food for human consumption)”; and  
 (b) delete “the use of pesticides,”.

**Amendment of section 2**

**331.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, in section 2 —  
 (a) delete the definitions of “authorised analyst”, “certified 15  
 pesticide operator”, “pesticide”, “pesticide residue”,  
 “prohibited pesticide”, “prohibited pesticide residue” and  
 “toxic chemical residue”; and  
 (b) replace the definition of “fresh fruits and vegetables”  
 with — 20  
 ““food” has the meaning given by section 4 of the  
 Food Safety and Security Act 2024;”.

**Amendment of section 3**

**332.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, in section 3, delete  
 subsection (3). 25

**Deletion of Part 2**

**333.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, delete Part 2.

### **Amendment of section 9**

**334.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, in section 9 —

(a) in paragraph (a), delete “and” at the end;

(b) in paragraph (b), replace the full-stop at the end with  
5 “; and”; and

(c) after paragraph (b), insert —

“(c) the cultivation of any plant as food or to  
produce food for human consumption.”.

### **Deletion of sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16**

10 **335.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, delete sections 11, 12, 13,  
14, 15 and 16.

### **Amendment of section 28**

15 **336.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, in section 28(1), after “any  
country, territory or place”, insert “because of phytosanitary  
purposes”.

### **Amendment of section 31**

**337.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, in section 31 —

(a) in subsection (1)(a), replace “section 7 or 10;” with  
“section 10; or”;

20 (b) in subsection (1), delete paragraph (b);

(c) in subsection (3), replace “section 7 or 10” with  
“section 10”;

(d) in subsection (3), delete “, including but not limited to the  
conditions necessary or related to ensuring a secure and  
25 reliable supply in Singapore of any fresh fruits or  
vegetables”;

(e) delete subsection (4);

(f) in subsection (7)(c), delete “, unless it is a permit under  
section 8,”; and

- (g) in subsection (8), replace “section 7 or 10” with “section 10”.

### **Amendment of section 34**

**338.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, in section 34(a), replace “section 10, 11(1) and (2), 22(2) or 41” with “section 10, 22(2) or 41”.

5

### **Deletion of sections 39, 40 and 41**

**339.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, delete sections 39, 40 and 41.

### **Amendment of section 49**

**340.** In the Control of Plants Act 1993, in section 49(2) —

10

- (a) delete paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f), (h), (s), (t) and (u);  
 (b) after paragraph (l), insert —

“(la) providing for a freeze on the grant, and for the cancelling, of any permit authorising the introduction into Singapore of any pest, when there is in force a directive made under section 70 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024 banning the import of any live food producing animal of a particular kind from a particular country or place outside Singapore and where the permit or the grant thereof would be inconsistent with the directive;”;

15

20

- (c) in paragraph (v), delete “fresh fruits or vegetables which are the subject of”.

25

### *Division 5 — Environmental Public Health Act 1987*

### **Amendment of section 2**

**341.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 2 —

- (a) in the definition of “Director-General, Food Administration”, replace “section 3(1) of the Sale of

30

Food Act 1973” with “section 277(1) of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024”;

(b) replace the definition of “food” with —

5 ““food” has the meaning given by section 4 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024;” and

(c) delete the definitions of “food establishment”, “itinerant hawker”, “market”, “private market” and “public market”.

### **Replacement of Part 4 heading**

10 **342.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in Part 4, replace the Part heading with —

“TEMPORARY FAIRS AND NON-FOOD HAWKING”.

### **Replacement of section 31W**

**343.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, replace section 31W with —

15 “**Singapore Food Agency administers Part 4**

**31W.**—(1) The Singapore Food Agency is responsible for the administration of this Part, subject to the general or special directions of the Minister.

20 (2) The Singapore Food Agency may, in relation to any provision of this Part, appoint as an authorised officer for the purposes of that provision any of the following who are suitably trained to properly exercise the powers of an authorised officer:

(a) any officer of the Singapore Food Agency;

(b) any officer of another statutory authority;

25 (c) any public officer;

(d) any auxiliary police officer.

(3) The Singapore Food Agency may, for any reason that appears to it to be sufficient, at any time revoke an individual’s appointment under subsection (2) as an authorised officer.



(4) The Singapore Food Agency may delegate the exercise of all or any of the powers conferred or duties imposed upon the Singapore Food Agency by any provision of this Part, to any authorised officer, subject to any conditions or limitations that the Singapore Food Agency may specify; and any reference in that provision of this Act or its subsidiary legislation to the Singapore Food Agency includes a reference to such an authorised officer.

5

(5) However, nothing in subsection (4) authorises delegating —

10

(a) the power of delegation conferred by that subsection; or

(b) any power of the Singapore Food Agency to make subsidiary legislation under this Part.

(6) An auxiliary police officer who is appointed as an authorised officer does not, by virtue only of the appointment, become an employee or agent of the Singapore Food Agency.”.

15

### **Deletion of section 32**

**344.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, delete section 32.

20

### **Replacement of section 33**

**345.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, replace section 33 with —

#### **“Licensing of non-food hawkers in public places**

**33.** A person must not —

25

(a) hawk, sell or expose for sale any goods of any kind but not any food; or

(b) set up or use any stall, table, showboard, vehicle or receptacle for the purpose of hawking, selling or exposing for sale any goods of any kind but not any food,

5 in any street or part of the street or in any premises or public place without first obtaining a licence from the Singapore Food Agency.”.

### **Deletion of section 34**

10 **346.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, delete section 34.

### **Replacement of section 35 and new sections 35A and 35B**

**347.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, replace section 35 with —

#### **“Temporary fairs**

15 **35.**—(1) A person must not promote, organise or stage any temporary fair on any premises without a permit from the Singapore Food Agency.

20 (2) In this section and sections 35A and 35B, “temporary fair” means a fete, garden party, carnival, bazaar or other like event held at any premises temporarily or on an occasional basis, in or at which persons occupy or have the use of barrows, tents, stalls, tables or other subdivisions from or at which goods and food, goods only, or food only, are sold, or displayed or offered, for sale by retail, but excludes a market.

#### **Disqualification from temporary fair permit**

25 **35A.**—(1) Where a permit to promote, organise or stage a temporary fair is cancelled under section 99(15) on or after the commencement of section 347 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024, the person who was the holder of that permit is also  
30 disqualified from holding another permit under section 35, for any period (not exceeding 3 years) that the Singapore Food Agency specifies in an order.

(2) Any permit under section 35 obtained by a person while disqualified under subsection (1) from obtaining such a permit is of no effect.

(3) A person disqualified under subsection (1) may appeal to the Minister against the period of disqualification specified by the Singapore Food Agency in relation to the person in an order under that subsection. 5

(4) An appeal under subsection (3) must —

(a) be made in a prescribed manner;

(b) specify the grounds on which it is made; and 10

(c) be made within a prescribed period after the date of receipt of the order under subsection (1).

(5) The Minister may determine an appeal made under subsection (3) by —

(a) dismissing the appeal and confirming the decision of the Singapore Food Agency appealed against; or 15

(b) shortening the period of disqualification.

### **Associates of disqualified persons**

**35B.**—(1) Without limiting section 99, this section applies where the Singapore Food Agency is deciding any of the following: 20

(a) whether an applicant should be granted a permit under section 35 to promote, organise or stage a temporary fair (called a section 35 permit);

(b) the conditions to impose on a section 35 permit; 25

(c) whether to modify any condition of a section 35 permit.

(2) When making a decision mentioned in subsection (1), the Singapore Food Agency must have regard, and give such weight as the Singapore Food Agency considers appropriate, to all of the following matters: 30

(a) whether —

(i) the applicant or a holder of a section 35 permit;  
or

(ii) an associate of an applicant for a section 35 permit or a holder of a section 35 permit,

is or was disqualified by section 35A from holding the section 35 permit;

(b) whether regulatory action under section 99(15) has been or is being taken or is contemplated against an applicant for or a holder of a section 35 permit.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(a)(ii), a person (*A*) is an associate of another person (*B*) if —

(a) *A* is *B*'s spouse;

(b) *A* is a relative of *B* or *B*'s spouse;

(c) *A* is the spouse of a relative of *B*, or *B*'s spouse;

(d) *A* is a partner of *B* with whom *A* is in a partnership;

(e) *A* is a spouse or relative of any individual with whom *B* is in a partnership;

(f) *A* is an employer of *B* or an employee of *B*, and for this purpose, any director or other officer of a company is treated as employed by that company; or

(g) *A* has a relationship with *B* in a manner prescribed under subsection (5).

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), a person is a relative of an individual if the person is that individual's brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal ancestor or lineal descendant, treating —

(a) any relationship of the half blood as a relationship of the whole blood, and the stepchild or adopted child of any person as that person's child; and

(b) an illegitimate child as the legitimate child of the child's mother and reputed father.

(5) The Minister may make rules in the *Gazette* providing that any person or class of persons is an associate of another person for the purposes of subsection (3)(g).”.

### **Deletion of sections 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41**

**348.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, delete sections 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41. 5

### **Amendment of section 41A**

**349.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 41A —

- (a) in subsection (1), replace “section 32(1), 33, 34(1), 35, 36, 37(5), 38(1), 39(1) or (2), 40(1) or (9) or 41(1)” with “section 33 or 35(1)”; 10
- (b) in subsection (1)(a), replace “section 33, 34(1), 37(5), 39(2) or 41(1)” with “section 33”;
- (c) in subsection (1)(b), replace “section 32(1), 35, 36, 38(1), 39(1) or 40(1) or (9)” with “section 35(1)”; and 15
- (d) in subsection (2), replace “section 32(1), 33, 34(1), 35, 36, 37(5), 38(1), 39(1) or (2), 40(1) or (9) or 41(1)” with “section 33 or 35(1)”.

### **Amendment of section 42** 20

**350.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 42 —

- (a) in subsections (8), (14) and (15), delete “food or”;
- (b) in subsection (8), replace “Director-General, Food Administration” with “Singapore Food Agency”;
- (c) in subsection (9), delete “food,”; and 25
- (d) in subsections (11) and (12), delete “cooked or uncooked food or”.

### **Amendment of section 42A**

**351.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 42A(1) — 30

- (a) delete paragraphs (a) and (b); and
- (b) in paragraph (e), delete “or by any itinerant hawker”.

### **Deletion of Part 9**

**352.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, delete Part 9.

### **Amendment of section 82**

**353.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 82(3), replace “Director-General, Food Administration” with “Singapore Food Agency”.

### **Amendment of section 84A**

**354.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 84A —

- (a) in the section heading, delete “**or 9**”;
- (b) in subsections (1) and (5), replace “Director-General, Food Administration made under Part 4 or 9” with “Singapore Food Agency made under Part 4”;
- (c) in subsection (2)(a) and (b), replace “Director-General, Food Administration” with “Singapore Food Agency”; and
- (d) in subsection (2), replace paragraph (c) with —

“(c) substitute or vary the notice, order or decision appealed against and make any notice, order or decision which the Singapore Food Agency is competent to make under Part 4.”.

### **Amendment of section 91**

**355.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 91(1), delete “or 80A”.

**Amendment of section 99**

**356.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 99 —

- (a) in subsection (3), after “under subsection (2)”, insert “or is disqualified under section 35A”;
- (b) in subsection (18), replace “Parts 4 and 9 by the Director-General, Food Administration” with “Part 4 by the Singapore Food Agency”; 5
- (c) in subsection (18)(b), replace “Director-General, Food Administration” with “Singapore Food Agency”; and
- (d) in subsection (18)(e), replace “Parts 4 and 9” with “Part 4”. 10

**Amendment of section 108A**

**357.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 108A —

- (a) replace “Parts 4 and 9 by the Director-General, Food Administration” with “Part 4 by the Singapore Food Agency”; 15
- (b) in paragraph (a), replace “Director-General, Food Administration” with “Singapore Food Agency”; and
- (c) in paragraph (d), replace “Parts 4 and 9” with “Part 4”.

**Amendment of section 110**

20

**358.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 110 —

- (a) in subsection (1), replace “Parts 4 and 9” with “Part 4”; and
- (b) in subsection (2), delete “or 9”.

**Amendment of section 111**

25

**359.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 111(4), replace “sections 42A and 80A” with “section 42A”.

## Deletion of First Schedule

**360.** In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, delete the First Schedule.

### *Division 6 — Feeding Stuffs Act 1965*

#### 5 **Amendment of long title**

**361.** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in the long title, after “for animals and birds”, insert “which are not food producing animals”.

#### **Amendment of section 1**

10 **362.** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 1, after “Feeding Stuffs”, insert “(Pets and Non-food Producing Animals)”.

#### **Amendment of section 2**

**363.—**(1) In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 2 —

(a) after the definition of “authorised officer”, insert —

15 ““Board” means the National Parks Board established by the repealed National Parks Act (Cap. 198A, 1991 Revised Edition) as in force before 1 July 1996 and continued by section 3 of the National Parks Board Act 1996;”;

20 (b) replace the definition of “Director-General” with —

““Director-General” has the meaning given by section 3(1) of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024;” and

(c) after the definition of “feed concentrate”, insert —

25 ““food producing animal” has the meaning given by section 3(1) of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024;”.

(2) In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 2 (as amended by subsection (1)) —

30 (a) delete the definitions of “Agency” and “simple feed”;



(b) in the definition of “animal feed”, after “feeding of animals”, insert “which are not food producing animals”; and

(c) replace the definition of “Director-General” with —

““Director-General” means the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare appointed under section 3(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965;”.

5

### **New section 2A**

**364.**—(1) In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, after section 2, insert — 10

#### **“Disapplying to animal feed for food producing animals**

**2A.** Sections 4(1)(b) and (4)(b), 5 and 7 do not apply to or in relation to animal feed which is intended to be fed directly to any food producing animal.”.

(2) In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 2A (as inserted by subsection (1)), replace “Sections 4(1)(b) and (4)(b), 5 and 7 do” with “This Act does”. 15

### **Amendment of section 3**

**365.** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 3(2) and (5), replace “Agency” with “Board”. 20

### **Amendment of section 4**

**366.**—(1) In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 4 —

(a) replace subsection (1) with —

“(1) The Director-General may issue a licence to any person —

25

(a) to import any simple feeds, feed concentrates or compound feeds; or

(b) to manufacture or process for sale any feed concentrates or compound feeds,

upon an application made in the prescribed form and the payment of such fees as may be prescribed.”; and

5 (b) replace subsection (4) with —

“(4) A person must not —

(a) import any simple feeds, feed concentrates or compound feeds; or

(b) manufacture or process for sale any feed concentrates or compound feeds,

10

without a licence issued under subsection (1).”.

(2) In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 4 (as amended by subsection (1)) —

(a) replace subsection (1) with —

15

“(1) The Director-General may issue a licence to any person to manufacture or process for sale any feed concentrates or compound feeds, upon an application made in the prescribed form and the payment of such fees as may be prescribed.”; and

20

(b) replace subsection (4) with —

“(4) A person must not manufacture or process for sale any feed concentrates or compound feeds without a licence issued under subsection (1).”.

### **Amendment of section 6**

25

**367.** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 6, delete “simple feeds,”.

### **Amendment of section 8**

30

**368.** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 8(1)(a), replace “, processing for sale or sale of simple feeds,” with “or processing for sale of animal feed,”.

**Amendment of section 9**

**369.** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 9 —

- (a) in the section heading, replace “Agency” with “Board”;
- and
- (b) replace “Agency” with “Board”.

5

**Amendment of section 10**

**370.** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 10 —

- (a) in subsection (4), delete “simple feed,”; and
- (b) in subsection (6), delete “simple feeds,”.

**Amendment of section 11**

10

**371.—(1)** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 11(2) —

- (a) replace paragraph (a) with —

“(a) the regulation and control of —

- (i) the import of any simple feeds, feed concentrates or compound feeds; or
- (ii) the manufacture or preparation of feed concentrates or compound feeds;”;

15

- (b) in paragraphs (b) and (c), delete “simple feeds,”.

**(2)** In the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, in section 11(2) (as amended by subsection (1)), replace paragraph (a) with —

20

“(a) the regulation and control of the manufacture or preparation of feed concentrates or compound feeds;”.

*Division 7 — Fisheries Act 1966***Amendment of section 2**

**372.** In the Fisheries Act 1966, in section 2 —

- 5           (a) in the definition of “Director-General”, replace  
               “section 3(1) of the Sale of Food Act 1973” with  
               “section 277(1) of the Food Safety and Security  
               Act 2024”; and
- (b) delete the definitions of “fish culturist” and “fish pond”.

**Amendment of section 23**

10       **373.** In the Fisheries Act 1966, in section 23(1), delete  
 paragraph (c).

**Amendment of section 27**

**374.** In the Fisheries Act 1966, in section 27(2) —

- 15           (a) in paragraph (c), delete “and of the cultivation of fish or  
               any particular species of fish”;
- (b) in paragraph (d), delete “or persons involved in the  
               cultivation of fish”;
- (c) in paragraph (e), delete “cultured,”;
- (d) in paragraph (j), delete “fish culturist or”;
- 20           (e) delete paragraphs (o) and (p); and
- (f) in paragraph (r), delete “fish culturists,”.

*Division 8 — Good Samaritan Food Donation Act 2024***Amendment of section 2**

25       **375.** In the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act 2024, in  
 section 2 —

- (a) in the definition of “food”, replace “the Sale of Food  
               Act 1973” with “section 4 of the Food Safety and Security  
               Act 2024”; and

- (b) in the definitions of “unsafe” and “unsuitable”, replace “sections 2C and 2D of the Sale of Food Act 1973” with “sections 11 and 12 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024”.

*Division 9 — Infectious Diseases Act 1976*

5

**Amendment of section 2**

**376.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 2 —

- (a) in the definition of “appropriate Minister”, in paragraph (a)(i), delete “or the Director-General, Food Administration”;
- (b) delete the definition of “Director-General, Food Administration”; and
- (c) in the definition of “Health Officer”, delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration”.

10

**Amendment of section 3**

15

**377.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 3 —

- (a) in subsection (2), replace “and the Director-General, Food Administration are,” with “is”;
- (b) in subsection (3), delete “or the Director-General, Food Administration”; and
- (c) in subsection (4), delete “or the Director-General, Food Administration, as the case may be”.

20

**Amendment of section 4**

**378.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 4(1), (1A) and (2), delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration”.

25

**Amendment of section 5**

**379.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 5, delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration”.

**Amendment of section 21I**

**380.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 21I(1), (2) and (3), delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration”.

**Amendment of section 29**

5 **381.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 29(1) and (2), delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration” wherever it appears.

**Deletion of sections 38 and 39**

**382.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, delete sections 38 and 39.

10 **Amendment of section 42**

**383.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 42(1), (2), (3) and (4), delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration”.

**Amendment of section 44**

15 **384.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 44(1) and (2), delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration”.

**Amendment of section 55A**

**385.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 55A(1), delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration” wherever it appears.

**Amendment of section 57**

20 **386.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 57(1) and (2), delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration”.

**Amendment of section 63**

25 **387.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 63(1) and (2), delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration” wherever it appears.

### **Amendment of section 67**

**388.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 67, delete “, the Director-General, Food Administration”.

### **Amendment of section 68**

**389.** In the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, in section 68 — 5

- (a) in subsection (1), delete “or (3)”;
- (b) delete subsection (3); and
- (c) in subsection (4), replace “subsection (1), (2) or (3)” with “subsection (1) or (2)”.

*Division 10 — National Parks Board Act 1996* 10

### **Amendment of section 2**

**390.** In the National Parks Board Act 1996, in section 2, replace the definition of “animal-related services” with —

““animal-related services” includes any of the following activities: 15

- (a) bathing, grooming or clipping of animals;
- (b) treatment, vaccination or inoculation of animals;
- (c) providing accommodation or boarding to or training of animals; 20
- (d) exhibiting (whether or not for sale) of animals;
- (e) trapping, restraining or immobilising animals,

but excludes any of those activities if involving a food producing animal within the meaning of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024;” 25

*Division 11 — Sale of Food Act 1973***Amendment of section 10L**

**391.** In the Sale of Food Act 1973, in section 10L —

(a) replace paragraph (e) with —

5 “(e) the Feeding Stuffs (Pets and Non-food  
Producing Animals) Act 1965;” and

(b) after paragraph (f), insert —

“(fa) the Food Safety and Security Act 2024;”.

**Deletion of provisions relating to food safety offences**

10 **392.** In the Sale of Food Act 1973 —

(a) delete Parts 3 and 5;

(b) delete sections 23, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 43;

(c) in section 40(1), replace “, advertising or sale” with  
“or advertising”;

15 (d) in section 40(2), replace “, advertise or sell” with  
“or advertise”;

(e) in section 40(4), replace “Without affecting section 32, in”  
with “In”;

20 (f) in section 56(1), delete paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (i),  
(j), (l) and (o); and

(g) in section 56(1), replace paragraph (m) with —

“(m) to prohibit or regulate the import of  
separated or skimmed milk or filled milk  
or whey;”.

25 **Deletion of provisions relating to food safety measures**

**393.** In the Sale of Food Act 1973 —

(a) in section 2, in the definition of “requirement of this Act”,  
in paragraph (c), insert “or” at the end;



- (b) in section 2, in the definition of “requirement of this Act”, delete paragraph (d);
- (c) in section 2, delete the definitions of “unsafe” and “unsuitable”;
- (d) delete sections 2C and 2D; 5
- (e) delete Part 2A; and
- (f) in section 45(1), replace “sections 10J and 46(14)” with “section 46(14)”.

### **Deletion of provisions relating to marketing and public health promotion**

10

**394.** In the Sale of Food Act 1973 —

- (a) in section 40(1) (as amended by section 392), delete “or advertising”;
- (b) in section 40(2) (as amended by section 392), delete “or advertise”; 15
- (c) in section 56(1), replace paragraph (k) with —
  - “(k) prohibiting or regulating the promotion or advertising of food or food contact articles other than for the purpose of public health;”; and 20
- (d) in section 56(1), delete paragraph (n).

### **Repeal**

**395.** Repeal the Sale of Food Act 1973.

### *Division 12 — Singapore Food Agency Act 2019*

#### **Amendment of section 2**

25

**396.** In the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019, in section 2 —

- (a) delete the definition of “animal”;
- (b) after the definition of “Deputy Chairperson”, insert —

““Director-General, Food Security” has the meaning given by section 3(1) of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024;”;

5 (c) in the definition of “food”, replace “section 2A of the Sale of Food Act 1973” with “section 4 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024”;

(d) in the definition of “food business”, replace “section 2B of the Sale of Food Act 1973” with “section 5 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024”;

10 (e) in the definition of “food industry”, in paragraph (b), replace sub-paragraph (i) with —

“(i) any primary production activity;”;

(f) in the definition of “food industry”, in paragraph (b)(ii), replace “the supply of food” with “the food supply chain”; and

15 (g) replace the definitions of “primary produce” and “production of primary produce” with —

““primary production activity” has the meaning given by section 15 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024;”.

### **Amendment of section 5**

**397.** In the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019, in section 5 —

(a) in subsection (1), replace paragraph (a) with —

25 “(a) to regulate the primary production activities and the production of animal feed to ensure the safety and resilience of food supply;”;

(b) in subsection (1)(b), (d), (e) and (g), replace “support regulation of” with “regulate”;

30 (c) in subsection (1)(h), replace “food supply resilience” with “food supply chain resilience and food security in Singapore”;

(d) in subsection (1), after paragraph (h), insert —

“(ha) to support the Government’s ability to maintain a minimum quantity of stocks of certain foods and agri-food production inputs in Singapore to ensure food security in Singapore by undertaking, as an agent of the Government, the procurement, holding, distribution and disposal of those foods and agri-food production inputs; 5 10

(hb) to support the Director-General, Food Security in the administration of Part 2 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024 and the minimum stockholding requirement for the holding in Singapore of a minimum quantity of stocks of certain foods and agri-food production inputs in Singapore; 15

(hc) to act as an agent of the Government in the collection and recovery of any MSR charge (as defined in section 3(1) of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024) payable under Part 2 of that Act; 20

(hd) to prevent or reduce the impact of disruptions in the food supply chain on food security in Singapore; 25

(he) to increase production of primary produce on a sustainable basis in Singapore so as to contribute to food security in Singapore;”;

(e) in subsection (1)(l) and (m), replace “food supply” with “food security in Singapore”; 30

(f) in subsection (1)(n) and (p), after “food safety,”, insert “food security in Singapore,”; and

(g) in subsection (2), replace paragraph (b) with —

“(b) the food security factors and the need to enhance resilience of the agri-food supply chain for Singapore;”.

### **Amendment of section 6**

5     **398.** In the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019, in section 6(2), replace paragraph (a) with —

“(a) to enter into contracts, agreements or arrangements —

(i) for itself; or

(ii) for the Government,

10     in order for the Government or the Agency to maintain a minimum quantity of stocks of certain foods and agri-food production inputs in Singapore or to otherwise ensure food security in Singapore;

15     (aa) to manage and administer contracts, agreements or arrangements mentioned in paragraph (a)(ii) to which the Government is party so as to ensure that contractual obligations and activities are performed by all parties to the contract;”.

### *Division 13 — Weights and Measures Act 1975*

#### 20     **Amendment of section 2**

**399.** In the Weights and Measures Act 1975, in section 2(1), in the definition of “food”, replace “the Sale of Food Act 1973” with “section 4 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024”.

### *Division 14 — Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999*

#### 25     **Amendment relating to misleading labels**

**400.** In the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, in section 23(1)(f), delete “or which has been labelled with any information that is false, inaccurate or misleading”.

### **Amendment relating to product unfit for human consumption**

**401.** In the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, in section 23(1)(h), delete “diseased, adulterated or unfit for human consumption or which is otherwise”.

### **Validation**

5

**402.—**(1) Every amount collected as, or purportedly as —

(a) a fee for a permit under the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 to import frozen, chilled or processed meat products;

(b) an application fee for a licence under the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 to operate a slaughterhouse, a meat or fish processing establishment or a cold store;

10

(c) an application fee for a licence under the Sale of Food Act 1973 to carry on a non-retail food business in the form of operating a food processing establishment; or

15

(d) a fee for the issue by the Agency (or its predecessor) of a certificate relating to any food or animal feed intended for export to a foreign country, attesting to matters in respect of which the foreign country requires certification before the food or animal feed may be imported into that foreign country from Singapore,

20

shall be, and taken to always to have been, by force of this section, validly collected, and no legal proceedings shall lie or be instituted on or after 12 November 2024 in any court on account of or in respect of any such collection or payment of the amount.

25

(2) No legal proceedings shall lie or be instituted on or after 12 November 2024 in any court on account of or in respect of any collection or payment of any amount mentioned in subsection (1).

(3) However, nothing in subsections (1) and (2) applies to, or may be construed to affect —

30

(a) any decision or judgment issued by any court given before 12 November 2024; or

(b) any proceedings before any court commenced before 12 November 2024,

in relation to the liability of any person to pay any sum mentioned in subsection (1).

5 **Repeal**

**403.** Repeal the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999.

*Division 15 — Wildlife Act 1965*

**New section 9A**

**404.** In the Wildlife Act 1965, after section 9, insert —

10 **“Freeze on written approval to import**

**9A.—(1)** This section applies for the period of time where a directive made under section 70 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024 is in force, banning the import of any live food producing animal of a particular kind from a particular country or place outside Singapore (called the freeze period).

(2) During the freeze period of a directive made under section 70 of the Food Safety and Security Act 2024, the Director-General —

20 (a) must not grant under section 9 any written approval that is for the import of any living wildlife if the written approval authorises an import that would be inconsistent with the directive; and

25 (b) may cancel or suspend any written approval granted under section 9 for the import during the freeze period of any living wildlife that is inconsistent with the directive.

(3) Before exercising any powers under subsection (2)(b), the Director-General must give notice to the holder of the written approval concerned —

30 (a) stating that the Director-General proposes to cancel or suspend the written approval in the manner as specified in the notice; and

(b) specifying the time (being not less than 3 days starting the date of service of notice on such holder) within which written representations may be made to the Director-General with respect to the proposed cancellation or suspension of the written approval, as the case may be. 5

(4) Upon receipt of any written representation referred to in subsection (3)(b), the Director-General must consider the written representation and may —

(a) reject the written representation; 10

(b) decline to cancel or suspend the written approval; or

(c) suspend the written approval in lieu of cancelling it,

and, in any event, the Director-General must give written notice to that holder of the written approval of his or her decision.”.

*Division 16 — Saving and transitional* 15

**Saving and transitional provisions**

**405.**—(1) The Second Schedule has effect.

(2) For a period of 2 years after the commencement of this section, the Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, amend the Second Schedule by prescribing any additional provisions of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of any section in this Act that the Minister may consider necessary or expedient. 20

(3) Nothing in this section or the Second Schedule affects section 16 of the Interpretation Act 1965.

## FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 6

## LICENSABLE FOOD BUSINESS

## PART 1 — RETAIL

5 1. A food business where —

(a) food preparation or cooking is carried out in premises (but not a home) for sale, and served, on the order of a customer, predominantly for immediate consumption on those premises; and

10 (b) those premises are furnished or fitted with tables, counters, chairs, benches or like facilities designed or adapted for use in the service and consumption of food,

inclusive of any catering service provided from those same premises provided that service is ancillary or incidental.

*Examples*

15 Restaurant, café, bar or similar eating establishment.

2. A food business consisting of —

20 (a) managing a multi-unit premises for multiple food businesses in the form of food stalls, and a shared area in separate ownership or occupation (in whole or in part) from the food stalls, where food preparation or cooking is carried out by the proprietors of the respective businesses at their respective food stalls for sale, and served, on the order of a customer, predominantly for immediate consumption, in that shared area; and

25 (b) managing and maintaining the shared area in a clean and sanitary condition and in good and serviceable repair, for the benefit of those respective businesses at their respective food stalls and their customers,

but not a food business undertaken in the discharge of a function or duty, or the exercise of a power, conferred by or under an Act.

30 *Examples*

Food court, coffee shop, eating house, canteen or cafeteria.



FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

3. A food business carried on as a stall comprised in a multi-unit premises described in item 2, where food preparation or cooking is carried out at the stall for sale, and served, on the order of a customer, predominantly for immediate consumption in the shared area provided in the multi-unit premises for the consumption of food. 5

*Examples*

Each cooked food stall in a food court or coffee shop, where at least one of which is operated by a person who is not the proprietor of the food court or coffee shop.

4.—(1) A food business that involves — 10

- (a) preparing and packing in premises (but not a home); or
- (b) preparing, packing in and then delivering from premises (but not a home),

takeaway meals or ready-to-eat food, on the order of a customer for consumption away from the premises where the food was prepared and packed, inclusive of any catering service provided from those same premises provided that service is ancillary or incidental. 15

(2) In sub-paragraph (1) —

“packing”, in relation to food, means packing the food in order to prepare it for sale; 20

“premises” —

- (a) if a vehicle, means a vehicle which has installed an adequate supply of continuous potable water at a volume and pressure to enable hygienic practice; and
- (b) excludes premises which are food premises for a food business mentioned in item 5; 25

“ready-to-eat food” excludes fresh fruit or vegetables that are ordinarily intended to be hulled, peeled or washed by the consumer.

*Examples*

Bubble tea shop or sandwich kiosk, cut-fruits shop, fresh fruit juice shop but not a shop selling wholly prepacked food. 30

5. Selling food (even if prepacked), or such food and goods, in a public place from —

- (a) any temporary food premises which are not part of a temporary fair; or

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

(b) a vehicle other than that covered in item 4,

being food or food and goods which are carried by the seller or carried in or on the vehicle which the seller drives, rides, or walks beside and pushes, to the public place.

6. A food business involving —

(a) the preparation of meat products or fish products on premises (but not a home) for sale by retail on those premises;

(b) the selling on premises (but not a home) of raw meat or fish by retail; or

(c) the selling by retail of food on premises (but not a home) where the food —

(i) is made by combining ingredients on those premises, or is prepared on those premises;

(ii) is not ready-to-eat food; and

(iii) by its nature, is subject to spoilage or rapid bacterial growth.

*Examples*

A retail butcher shop or stall, retail fishmonger shop or stall, or a retail shop or stall selling fresh soybean curd which may be stuffed or unstuffed (but not the dessert), coconut grated on-site at the premises, or uncooked (but not dried) noodles, whether or not the shop or stall is located within a market.

7. A food business that is operating a market consisting of multiple food businesses, some or all of which are a food business described in item 6.

8. A food business that is or consists wholly or substantially of a catering service, where food is prepared and served to consumers of the food away from the food premises of the food business providing that service, under an agreement under which the food —

(a) is of a predetermined type;

(b) for a predetermined number of people;

(c) served at a predetermined time; and

(d) for a predetermined cost,

provided that the food business is not or does not consist of a food business in item 7 or 8 of Part 2 of this Schedule.

9. A food business involving selling by retail on premises any of the following food (whether or not also selling other food and goods) where the selection of the food and goods is organised on a self-serve basis:

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (a) meat products or fish products prepared on the premises for sale by retail on those premises;
- (b) raw meat or fish;
- (c) food that — 5
  - (i) is made by combining ingredients on those premises, or is prepared on those premises;
  - (ii) is not ready-to-eat food; and
  - (iii) by its nature, is subject to spoilage or rapid bacterial growth;
- (d) ready-to-eat food that — 10
  - (i) is made or cooked on those premises involving food preparation; or
  - (ii) by its nature, is subject to spoilage or rapid bacterial growth.

*Examples*

Supermarket with any raw meat or fish or any marinated cuts of meat available for sale. 15

- 10.—(1) A food business that sells, through any food vending machine —
- (a) food that is potentially hazardous; or
  - (b) non-prepacked food that is the result of any of the following processes by the machine: 20
    - (i) juicing of any fruit or vegetable or both;
    - (ii) cooking;
    - (iii) mixing or combining of ingredients, not all of which are prepacked.
- (2) In sub-paragraph (1), food is potentially hazardous if it is — 25
- (a) raw meat or a meat product; or
  - (b) raw fish or a fish product.

11. A food business carried on as a food stall in a temporary fair where food is prepared for sale, and may be served, on the order of a customer.

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

## PART 2 — NON-RETAIL

1. A food business that involves any primary production activity other than —

(a) the cultivation of —

(i) any plant which is not for sale;

(ii) any plant neither as food nor to produce food for human consumption; or

(iii) not more than 200 kilograms in a single month of fruits or vegetables, or both, by a method that does not involve the use of —

(A) any excreta (human or animal); or

(B) any plant pesticide to which Division 3 of Part 11 applies;

(b) the cultivation of any edible plant for the primary purpose of the retail sale of the whole edible plant in a pot; or

(c) the raising or producing of —

(i) an animal which is not for sale; or

(ii) an animal that is neither a food producing animal nor an animal feed.

2. A food business that involves the manufacturing, processing or packing, of meat or fish, or meat products or fish products —

(a) for the purpose of sale to any other food business (whether wholesale or retail and whether licensable or not); or

(b) for export.

3. A food business that involves the slaughtering of animals for meat, meat processing or other production of meat products.

4. A food business that involves any of the following activities for the purpose of sale to any other food business (whether wholesale or retail and whether licensable or not) or for export:

(a) manufacturing of food (but not solely food additives);

(b) kneading;

(c) marinating or seasoning;

(d) smoking, dry aging or curing;

(e) mixing, crushing, grinding, blending or shredding;

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (f) forming, shaping or wrapping;
  - (g) cell-based food production, using cell or tissue culture of animals, plants, micro-organisms, fungi or algae;
  - (h) retorting (including canning, high pressure processing, retort pasteurisation, retort sterilisation); 5
  - (i) extrusion;
  - (j) cold-pressing;
  - (k) cold brewing;
  - (l) adding food additives. 10
5. A food business engaged in storing meat or meat products, or fish or fish products (whether or not with other goods) for a fee or reward, in —
- (a) a reefer or a refrigerated container for intermodal freight transport or like equipment; or
  - (b) a cold-storage room or like premises, or a refrigerator, chiller or like equipment, which is designed or adapted for storing food in a low-temperature controlled environment, 15
- being food intended for sale to any other food business (whether wholesale or retail and whether licensable or not) or for export.
6. A food business that provides facilities, tools and equipment for hire to another food business to undertake any activities mentioned in item 4 for the purpose of selling food by retail or selling food to any other food business (whether wholesale or retail and whether licensable or not) or for export. 20
7. A food business involving the operating of a commissary kitchen or centralised commercial kitchen where food is prepared and packed for another food business or for the same food business, to sell at premises other than those of the commissary kitchen or centralised commercial kitchen, for consumption at those other premises, but not such a food business providing food (whether or not for consideration) in the course of providing services — 25
- (a) to patients in hospitals, hospices and other residential care facilities like nursing homes; 30
  - (b) to children or other individuals in the care or custody of the provider by virtue of any Act; or
  - (c) to prisoners or inmates in prisons or other places for the detention of individuals under any Act. 35

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

8. A food business that is or consists wholly or substantially of a catering service, catering meals for passengers travelling on airlines or other passenger transport services.

5

## SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 405

## SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

**Incumbent authorised officers, etc.**

10 1. An individual who, immediately before the commencement of section 278 is appointed —

- (a) an authorised officer under section 3(2) of the Sale of Food Act 1973 for the purposes of that Act;
- (b) an authorised officer under section 3(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 for the purposes of that Act;
- 15 (c) an authorised officer under section 3(2) of the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 for the purposes of that Act; or
- (d) an authorised officer under section 31W(2) of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 for the purposes of Part 4 or 9 of that Act,

20 continues to hold that office as if the individual were appointed under section 278 as an authorised officer for the purposes of this Act, and their respective appointments are to expire on the day the appointment would have expired if this Act had not been enacted unless the appointment is earlier revoked.

**Incumbent authorised analysts**

25 2. An individual who, immediately before the commencement of section 287, is appointed an authorised analyst under section 3(3) of the Sale of Food Act 1973 continues to hold office as if the person were appointed an analyst under section 287, and his or her appointment is to expire on the day his or her appointment would have expired if this Act had not been enacted.

**Existing licences: transitional for Part 3**

30 3.—(1) Every licence that —

- (a) is a licence under section 7 of the Control of Plants Act 1993 authorising the import for sale, supply or distribution, or the transshipment, of fresh fruits or vegetables stated in the licence;

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(b) is granted under section 31 of the Control of Plants Act 1993, before the commencement of section 47; and

(c) is in force immediately before the commencement of section 47,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence granted under section 293 read with section 78, authorising that person to import in the course of business those fresh fruits or vegetables; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally granted unless earlier revoked under section 83.

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(2) Every licence that —

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(a) is a licence under section 4 of the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 authorising the import of animal feed stated in the licence;

(b) is issued under section 4(1) of the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, before the commencement of section 47; and

(c) is in force immediately before the commencement of section 47,

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continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were an import consignment permit granted under section 293 read with section 79, authorising that person to import that animal feed; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally granted unless earlier revoked under section 84.

20

(3) Every licence that —

(a) is a licence under section 5(1) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 authorising the import of any meat or meat product or fish or fish product stated in that licence;

(b) is granted under section 7(4) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, before the commencement of section 47; and

25

(c) is in force immediately before the commencement of section 47,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence granted under section 293 read with section 78, authorising that person to import in the course of business that meat or meat product or fish or fish product, as the case may be; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally granted unless earlier revoked under section 83.

30

(4) Every licence that —

(a) is a licence under section 5(1) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 authorising the export of any meat or meat product or fish or fish product from Singapore stated in that licence;

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SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(b) is granted under section 7(4) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, before the commencement of section 51; and

(c) is in force immediately before the commencement of section 51,

5 continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence granted under section 293 read with section 78, authorising that person to export in the course of business that meat or meat product or fish or fish product, as the case may be; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally granted unless earlier revoked under section 83.

10 (5) Every licence that —

(a) is a licence under section 5(1) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 authorising the transshipment of any meat or meat product or fish or fish product in Singapore stated in that licence;

15 (b) is granted under section 7(4) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, before the commencement of section 55; and

(c) is in force immediately before the commencement of section 55,

20 continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence granted under section 293 read with section 78, authorising that person to import and export in the course of business that meat or meat product or fish or fish product, as the case may be; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally granted unless earlier revoked under section 83.

**Existing permits: transitional for Part 3**

4.—(1) Every permit that —

25 (a) is a permit under section 8 of the Control of Plants Act 1993 authorising the import of fresh fruits or vegetables stated in that permit;

(b) is issued under section 31 of the Control of Plants Act 1993, before the commencement of paragraph (a)(i) of the definition of “import-controlled item” in section 42(1); and

(c) is in force immediately before that commencement,

30 continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were an import consignment permit granted under section 293 read with section 79, authorising that person to import those fresh fruits or vegetables, as the case may be; and that permit remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier cancelled under section 84.



SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(2) Every permit that —

(a) is a permit granted under section 7(4) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 that is —

(i) a permit under section 6(1) authorising the import of any meat or meat product or fish or fish product stated in that permit; 5

(ii) a permit under section 6(2) authorising the export of any meat or meat product or fish or fish product from Singapore stated in that permit; or

(iii) a permit under section 6(3) authorising the transshipment of any meat product or fish product in Singapore stated in that permit; 10

(b) is granted, before the commencement of paragraph (a)(ii) and (iii) of the definition of “import-controlled item” in section 42(1); and

(c) is in force immediately before that commencement,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were one of the following permits under Part 3 corresponding thereto, granted under section 293 read with section 79; and that permit remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier cancelled under section 84: 15

(d) an import consignment permit authorising that person to import that meat or meat product or fish or fish product; 20

(e) an export consignment permit authorising that person to export that meat or meat product or fish or fish product from Singapore;

(f) a transshipment consignment permit authorising that person to tranship that meat or meat product or fish or fish product in Singapore.

**Existing licences: transitional for Part 4** 25

5.—(1) Every licence that —

(a) is a licence to keep or maintain a farm for keeping, rearing or breeding of food producing animals at premises stated in the licence;

(b) is issued, before the commencement of section 102, under the Animals and Birds Act 1965; and 30

(c) is in force immediately before that commencement,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence under Part 4 granted under section 293 read with section 92 to carry on a licensable food business described in item 1 of Part 2 of the First Schedule, at those premises; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier revoked under section 96. 35

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(2) Every licence that —

(a) is a licence to keep and maintain a farm for cultivating any plant for human consumption on any premises stated in the licence;

5 (b) is issued, before the commencement of section 102, under the Control of Plants Act 1993; and

(c) is in force immediately before that commencement,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence under Part 4 granted under section 293 read with section 92 to carry on a licensable food business described in item 1 of Part 2 of the First Schedule, at those premises; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier revoked under section 96.

(3) Every licence that —

(a) is a licence required by —

15 (i) section 32 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987; or

(ii) section 33 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 to hawk, sell or expose for sale any food of any kind;

(b) is granted, before the commencement of section 102, under section 99 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987; and

20 (c) is in force immediately before that commencement,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence under Part 4 granted under section 293 read with section 92 to carry on a corresponding licensable food business described in Part 1 of the First Schedule, at those premises; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier revoked under section 96.

(4) Every licence that —

(a) is a licence required by section 36 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 to use any building, situation or place stated in the licence as a private market;

30 (b) is granted, before the commencement of section 102, under section 99 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987; and

(c) is in force immediately before that commencement,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence under Part 4 granted under section 293 read with section 92 to carry on a licensable food business described in item 7 of Part 1 of the First Schedule, at

35

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

those premises; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier revoked under section 96.

(5) Every licence that —

- (a) is a licence to erect, operate or maintain a fish culture farm at premises stated in the licence; 5
- (b) is issued, before the commencement of section 102, under the Fisheries (Fish Culture Farms) Rules (R 7); and
- (c) is in force immediately before that commencement,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence under Part 4 granted under section 293 read with section 92 to carry on a licensable food business described in item 1 of Part 2 of the First Schedule, at those premises; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier revoked under section 96. 10

(6) Every licence that — 15

- (a) is a licence required by section 21 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 to carry on a non-retail food business at any premises stated in the licence;
- (b) is granted, before the commencement of section 102, under section 46 of the Sale of Food Act 1973; and
- (c) is in force immediately before that commencement, 20

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence under Part 4 granted under section 293 read with section 92, to carry on a corresponding licensable food business mentioned in Part 2 of the First Schedule, at those premises; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier revoked under section 96. 25

(7) Every licence that —

- (a) is a licence required under section 11(1)(a) or 12(1) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 authorising —
  - (i) the slaughter of any animal which is intended for human consumption on any premises stated in that licence; or 30
  - (ii) the use of any premises stated in that licence as a processing establishment or a cold store;

- (b) is granted, before the commencement of section 102, under section 13(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999; and

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(c) is in force immediately before that commencement,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence under Part 4 granted under section 293 read with section 92 to carry on a licensable food business described in item 3 or 5 of Part 2 of the First Schedule (as the case may be) at those premises; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally issued unless earlier revoked under section 96.

**Saving, etc., for importers of eggs**

6.—(1) Despite sections 47 and 48, any person who, immediately before the commencement of those sections, imports eggs or egg products in the course of business may continue to import eggs or egg products —

(a) for 2 months after that commencement; or

(b) if within the period in sub-paragraph (a) the person applies for a licence under Part 3 to import eggs or egg products in the course of business, for a further period ending on the happening of the earlier of the following:

(i) the date on which the Agency grants the licence under Part 3 to the person under section 293 read with section 78;

(ii) the date that the application is refused by the Agency or is withdrawn.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), a person is to be treated as importing eggs or egg products in the course of business if, immediately before the commencement of sections 47 and 48, the person is registered with the Agency as an importer of those eggs or egg products.

(3) Every licence that —

(a) is granted, before the commencement of paragraph (a)(iv) of the definition of “import-controlled item” in section 42(1), under section 8 of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 to a person for the import or transshipment of any egg; and

(b) is in force immediately before that commencement,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were an import consignment permit granted under section 293 read with section 79, authorising that person to import those eggs; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally granted unless earlier cancelled under section 84.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued***Saving for importers of processed food, etc.**

7.—(1) Despite sections 47 and 48, any person who, immediately before the commencement of those sections, imports any relevant food or regulated food contact article in the course of business, may continue to import that relevant food or regulated food contact article —

(a) for 2 months after that commencement; or

(b) if within the period in sub-paragraph (a) the person applies for a licence under Part 3 to import in the course of business that relevant food or regulated food contact article, for a further period ending on the happening of the earlier of the following:

(i) the date on which the Agency grants the licence under Part 3 to the person under section 293 read with section 78;

(ii) the date that the application is refused by the Agency or is withdrawn.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), a person is to be treated as importing any relevant food or regulated food contact article in the course of business if, immediately before the commencement of sections 47 and 48, the person is registered with the Agency as an importer of any relevant food or regulated food contact article.

(3) In sub-paragraph (1), “relevant food” means any food that is none of the following:

(a) a meat or a meat product;

(b) a fish or a fish product;

(c) an egg or an egg product;

(d) a fresh fruit or a vegetable;

(e) a prohibited food.

**Existing licences: transitional for Part 11**

8.—(1) Every individual who, immediately before the commencement of section 214, is certified as a pesticide operator under section 12 of the Control of Plants Act 1993, is treated as if appointed under section 211 as a certified pesticide operator; and his or her appointment is to expire on the day his or her certification under the Control of Plants Act 1993 would have expired if this Act had not been enacted or his or her appointment is earlier cancelled under section 213.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(2) Every plant pesticide that is, immediately before the commencement of section 215, registered with the Director-General, Plant Health under section 14 of the Control of Plants Act 1993 is to be treated as a plant pesticide product registered under section 205.

(3) Every licence that —

(a) is a licence under section 4 of the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 authorising the manufacture or processing for sale of animal feed stated in the licence;

(b) is issued, before the commencement of section 202, under section 4(1) of the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965; and

(c) is in force immediately before the commencement of section 202,

continues, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as if it were a licence under Part 11 to produce that animal feed granted under section 293 read with section 192; and that licence remains in effect for the period it was originally granted unless earlier revoked under section 196.

### **Pending regulatory proceedings**

9.—(1) Sections 83 and 295 do not apply to any proceedings with a view to suspension or revocation of a licence mentioned in paragraph 3(1), (3), (4) or (5) that are —

(a) started in exercise of powers under the Control of Plants Act 1993 or the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999; and

(b) pending immediately before the commencement of section 83,

and those proceedings may be continued under the Control of Plants Act 1993 or the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 as if this Act had not been enacted.

(2) Sections 84 and 295 do not apply to any proceedings with a view to cancellation of a licence mentioned in paragraph 3(2) or a permit mentioned in paragraph 4 that are —

(a) started in exercise of powers under the Control of Plants Act 1993, the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 or the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999; and

(b) pending immediately before the commencement of section 84,

and those proceedings may be continued under the Control of Plants Act 1993, the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 or the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 as if this Act had not been enacted.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(3) Sections 96 and 295 do not apply to any proceedings with a view to suspension or revocation of a licence mentioned in paragraph 5 that are —

(a) started in exercise of powers under the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Control of Plants Act 1993, the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, the Fisheries Act 1966, the Sale of Food Act 1973 or the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999; and

5

(b) pending immediately before the commencement of section 96,

and those proceedings may be continued under the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Control of Plants Act 1993, the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, the Fisheries Act 1966, the Sale of Food Act 1973 or the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 (as the case may be) as if this Act had not been enacted.

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(4) Sections 196 and 295 do not apply to any proceedings with a view to suspension or revocation of a licence mentioned in paragraph 8(3) that are —

(a) started in exercise of powers under the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965; and

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(b) pending immediately before the commencement of section 196,

and those proceedings may be continued under the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 as if this Act had not been enacted.

(5) Section 209 does not apply to any proceedings with a view to cancellation of a registration of a plant pesticide product mentioned in paragraph 8(2) that are —

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(a) started in exercise of powers under the Control of Plants Act 1993; and

(b) pending immediately before the commencement of section 209,

and those proceedings may be continued under the Control of Plants Act 1993 as if this Act had not been enacted.

(6) Sections 213 and 295 do not apply to any proceedings with a view to suspension or cancellation of a certification as a pesticide operator mentioned in paragraph 8(1) that are —

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(a) started in exercise of powers under section 13 of the Control of Plants Act 1993; and

(b) pending immediately before the commencement of section 209,

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and those proceedings may be continued under those provisions of the Control of Plants Act 1993 as if this Act had not been enacted.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued***Pending appeals**

10.—(1) Part 12 does not apply to any appeal made to a Minister that —

(a) has been made —

5 (i) before the commencement of section 326, under section 62(4) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 against a suspension or revocation of a licence or permit licence to keep or maintain a farm for keeping, rearing or breeding of food producing animals;

10 (ii) before the commencement of section 333, under section 33 of the Control of Plants Act 1993 against a refusal to issue or renew, or a revocation or suspension of, a licence or permit;

15 (iii) before the commencement of section 345, under section 84A or 99(16) of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 against a decision of the Director-General mentioned in either section 32 or 33 of that Act (except in relation to a permit to promote, organise or stage a temporary fair or a licence to hawk, sell or expose for sale any goods of any kind but not any food);

20 (iv) before the commencement of section 371, under section 6(3) of the Fisheries Act 1966 against a refusal to grant or to revoke a licence to erect, operate or maintain a fish culture farm, or a variation or imposition of any condition on such a licence; or

(v) before the commencement of section 393(e), under section 10J of the Sale of Food Act 1973; and

25 (b) has not been dealt with or disposed of immediately before the relevant commencement,

and that appeal may continue to be dealt with under the relevant Act mentioned in sub-paragraph (a)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) as if the section mentioned in that sub-paragraph had not been enacted.

30 (2) Section 326 does not apply to any appeal made under section 62(4) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 against any decision revoking or suspending any licence granted under section 8 of that Act, where the decision is made before the commencement of section 326.



SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued***Food safety measures under Sale of Food Act 1973**

11.—(1) Despite section 393(e), every direction that is given by the Director-General under Part 2A of the Sale of Food Act 1973 before the commencement of Division 2 of Part 7, and is in effect immediately before that commencement, continues in effect so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of Division 2 of Part 7, and is deemed to have been given under the corresponding provisions of Division 2 of Part 7. 5

(2) Except as otherwise expressly provided by or under this Act, where any period of time specified in any direction mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) is current immediately before the commencement of section 393(e), this Act has effect as if the corresponding provision in Division 2 of Part 7 had been in force when the period began to run; and any period of time so specified and current is deemed for the purposes of this Act — 10

(a) to run from the date or event from which it was running immediately before that commencement; and 15

(b) to expire (subject to any provision of this Act for its extension) whenever it would have expired if this Act had not been enacted.

**Saving for compoundable offences**

12. Where any offence under any of the following is a compoundable offence under any written law as in force on the date of the alleged commission of the offence: 20

(a) Part 2 of the Control of Plants Act 1993 or any subsidiary legislation made for the purpose of that Part;

(b) section 34(a) of the Control of Plants Act 1993 in relation to section 10, 11(1) or (2) or 41 of that Act; 25

(c) Part 4 or 9 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 or any subsidiary legislation made under that Act for the purposes of any of those Parts;

(d) section 13(2) of the Fisheries Act 1966 in relation to the breach of any condition subject to which any fish culture farm licence has been issued; 30

(e) the Sale of Food Act 1973 or any subsidiary legislation made under that Act;

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (f) the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 or any subsidiary legislation made under that Act,

5 the person authorised under that written law to compound the offence may, despite a repeal or amendment of that written law by any provision in Part 17, continue to compound that offence in accordance with that written law as if this Act had not been enacted.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks —

- (a) to consolidate and amend the law relating to food safety in connection with the production of primary produce, the supply of food and the provision of drinking water;
- (b) to improve food security in Singapore;
- (c) to promote the general public's health through better diet and nutrition; and
- (d) to make consequential and related amendments to certain other Acts.

Singapore's existing legislative framework for primary production activities, food safety, food security, trading in food and agri-food production inputs, and food business activities has developed over 50 years and is currently set out in 9 Acts, including the Price Control Act 1950, the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, the Fisheries Act 1966, the Sale of Food Act 1973, the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 (Parts 4 and 9), the Control of Plants Act 1993, the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 and the Wildlife Act 1965.

While there is a robust system in place aimed at preventing and reducing foodborne illnesses, the several Acts that deal with similar subject matter with differences based on product-lines and markets presently form a complex web for the food industry to navigate and comply with. The several overlapping powers and duplicative requirements may be imposing a regulatory burden which is disproportionate to the outcomes of preventing incidents of foodborne illnesses and mitigating the public health risks associated with the provision of food.

Next, food security issues are presently being addressed primarily through legislation with origins in the post-World War II years. These mechanisms are no longer fit for purpose in the face of growing trade volumes, consumption patterns, market volatility, and food supply chain risks which have widened beyond trading

risks to cover financial system risks, climatic risks and risks of or from disease or pollution.

The Bill seeks to consolidate these laws so that there is a commodity-neutral and improved legislative framework to regulate the agri-food supply chain (colloquially known as “farm to fork”) from primary producers, through intermediary food processors to retailers such as supermarkets and food establishments, so as to minimise and manage the risks to human health with the ultimate individual consumer in mind, and to improve the food security situation in Singapore.

The Bill also seeks to avoid overlapping and duplicative requirements in the areas of importing and rearing of food producing animals and the cultivation of edible plants.

The Bill therefore also repeals and replaces the Sale of Food Act 1973 and the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, and makes related amendments to the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, the Fisheries Act 1966, the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, the Control of Plants Act 1993 and the Wildlife Act 1965. Other Acts will also be amended consequentially.

The Bill further contains provisions to better manage the public health risks associated with the provision of food, by —

- (a) increasing trader and food business accountability to source and produce safe food and to handle food safely;
- (b) expanding the range of regulatory tools to monitor and manage food safety risks, respond to lapses in meeting food safety requirements and improve incident response;
- (c) striking a better balance between securing public health and safety outcomes, regulatory effort and any burden imposed by the system of regulation and compliance costs for businesses;
- (d) establishing differentiated enforcement provisions that enable a calibrated approach to non-compliance and support appropriate, proportionate and consistent enforcement; and
- (e) improving the monitoring and management of new and emerging food safety risks (such as unconventional foods and outdated food) and activities beyond the selling of food, like donating or distributing food, relying on science-based principles.

Part 1 introduces the fundamental concepts used in the Bill and sets out the purposes of the Bill.

Part 2 sets out measures specially directed at ensuring food security in Singapore. It is intended that through the schemes and exercise of powers under this Part, domestic food stocks and stocks of material essential to domestic food

production can be maintained to meet domestic food needs and thereby increase Singapore's resilience during any future disruptions to the agri-food supply chain.

Part 3 regulates trading in food, certain food contact articles, animal feed and other controlled items, contains offences relating to trading in such things, enables food and other controlled items to be held at the border where there is uncertainty about their fitness, and introduces record-keeping duties on importers to ensure that imported food and other import-controlled items are traceable and can be recalled efficiently and effectively.

Part 4 deals with food businesses and sets out requirements on business operations of persons licensed to carry on licensable food businesses so that there are strict requirements that must be satisfied in relation to this regulated activity.

Part 5 deals with unconventional food (called defined food) and provides for pre-market approval for certain defined foods.

Part 6 sets out the requirements to ensure safe non-packaged drinking water.

Part 7 contains a range of measures directed at addressing food safety lapses which present or could present a danger and at mitigating biosecurity threats that undermine or could undermine food production in Singapore.

Part 8 sets out offences relating to food safety.

Part 9 covers health promotion initiatives and is under the administration of the Ministry of Health.

Part 10 sets out offences relating to marketing of food and regulated food contact articles.

Part 11 sets out requirements on the use of plant pesticides on edible plants and on business operations of persons licensed to produce animal feed for food producing animals.

Part 12 contains provisions for appeals to be made to the Minister against decisions under the Bill, except for Part 9, of the Singapore Food Agency (the Agency), the Director-General, Food Security or the Director-General, Food Administration.

Part 13 prescribes the monitoring powers and investigating powers needed for the proper administration of the Bill.

Part 14 is a general Part dealing with administrative matters, including the appointment of a Director-General, Food Security and a Director-General, Food Administration for the Bill.

Part 15 lays down the various types of subsidiary legislation which may be made under the Bill.

Part 16 contains general provisions and the power to grant exemptions.

Part 17 makes consequential and related amendments to other Acts. Together with the Second Schedule, Part 17 also contains final provisions on the repeal of certain Acts, and saving and transitional provisions.

## PART 1

### PRELIMINARY

Part 1 introduces the concepts and expressions used in the Bill and sets out the purposes of the Bill.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 states the purposes of the Bill, namely —

- (a) to improve food security in Singapore through maintaining in Singapore a minimum quantity of stocks of certain foods and agri-food production inputs, and measures to mitigate the impact of agri-food supply chain disruptions on Singapore;
- (b) to increase production of primary produce on a sustainable basis in Singapore so as to contribute to food security in Singapore;
- (c) to ensure that food and non-packaged drinking water in Singapore are safe for human consumption;
- (d) to improve traceability systems to enable food to be more efficiently and effectively recalled due to food safety concerns;
- (e) to ensure provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices and to prevent misleading conduct in connection with the supply of food;
- (f) to provide for the compliance of imported food and other import-controlled items with Singapore's standards and requirements of public health and safety;
- (g) to ensure that any export-controlled item that is exported meets relevant importing country requirements to enable and maintain overseas market access for export-controlled items exported from Singapore;
- (h) to minimise and manage the risks to human health in the production of primary produce arising from the use of plant pesticides and the production of animal feed for sale; and
- (i) to support national nutritional standards and dietary recommendations directed at preventing diet-related non-communicable diseases among the general public or at promoting health and wellbeing at all ages.

Clause 3 contains definitions of terms used in several Parts of the Bill, and signposts references to expressions that are explained in Part 1 or defined elsewhere in the Bill.

A notable definition is that of “FSSA authorisation”, which is defined to refer to the different licences, permits, registration, certificates, appointments and pre-market approval that may be granted under the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 17 consist of definitions of key concepts grouped thematically. There are also provisions that explain certain other expressions otherwise than by means of definitions.

Clause 4 defines “food” for the purposes of the Bill.

Clause 5 defines “food business” for the purposes of the Bill. It means a business or an undertaking or activity that involves the production of primary produce, the handling of food intended for supply or for export, or the supply of food, regardless of whether the business, undertaking or activity concerned is of a commercial, charitable or community nature. The clause further provides that an undertaking or activity is still a food business even if it involves the handling or the supply of food on one occasion only.

Finally, as defined, a “food business” includes a food business carried on as a home business or that is an occupation carried on by an individual within the individual’s private residence.

The definition is broader than the existing term in the Sale of Food Act 1973 as it includes primary production activities and an enterprise or activity that involves the handling of food intended for supply, not only just for sale.

Clause 6, together with the First Schedule, define what a licensable food business is for the purposes of the Bill. These are food businesses which are required to be covered by a current food business licence. The listing of food businesses in the First Schedule reflects a tiered regulatory approach, where more stringent controls are imposed in Part 4 on these food businesses which are assessed as presenting higher risk.

The Bill therefore has a much more limited application to food businesses which are not licensable food businesses, for example, those whose activities pose a low or negligible risk to the public. However, proprietors of non-licensable food businesses will be required to handle food safely in accordance with the Bill.

Licensable food businesses in the First Schedule generally exclude home businesses. Licensable food businesses may be retail in character (see Part 1 of the First Schedule, which covers businesses ranging from restaurants and certain supermarkets to takeaway kiosks) or non-retail (see Part 2 of the First Schedule, which covers manufacturers, farms, abattoirs, and an operator of a commissary kitchen or centralised commercial kitchen).

However, a food business providing food (whether or not for consideration) in the course of providing services to patients in hospitals, hospices and other residential care facilities like nursing homes, to children or other individuals in the care or custody of the provider by virtue of any Act, or to prisoners or inmates in prisons or other places for the detention of individuals under any Act, are not licensable.

The First Schedule is a list of food businesses which present a higher risk from the perspective of preventing and reducing foodborne illnesses. The list incorporates newer business models in the food industry.

For example, a food business that provides facilities, tools and equipment for hire to another food business to undertake any food preparation activities for the purpose of selling food by retail.

A licensable food business includes a food business that sells, through any food vending machine, food that is potentially hazardous, or non-prepacked food that is the result of any of the following processes by the machine:

- (a) juicing of any fruit or vegetable or both;
- (b) cooking;
- (c) mixing or combining of ingredients, not all of which are prepacked.

A food vending machine is a food premises as defined in clause 3(1). The definition also tries to address recent technological developments in food vending machines, which are capable of driving itself or moving from point to point. However, productivity innovations like a food delivery robot used to carry ready-to-eat or cooked food from the kitchen to the dining area would not be a vending machine.

The Minister is empowered to vary the list of licensable food businesses in the First Schedule by an order in the *Gazette*. However, before amending the First Schedule with respect to any class of food business, the Minister has to take into account certain factors, which include —

- (a) the risk to public health and the need to prevent or reduce the possibility of a serious danger to public health if the class of food business is not specified in the First Schedule;
- (b) whether there are other sufficient safeguards under this Act or any other written law, or by other means, to minimise any risk to public health if the class of food business is not specified in the First Schedule;
- (c) the kind of food handled or likely to be handled, and the manner and scale of food handling, when carrying on the class of food business;

- (d) the components ordinarily operated as part of that class of food business; and
- (e) the type and number of ultimate consumers ordinarily sold or supplied food by or from the class of food business.

Clause 7 defines “publishing in Singapore” and “advertising” for the purposes of the Bill. The clause covers both traditional and non-traditional forms of advertising. The clause is of particular relevance to the marketing controls contained in Parts 9 and 10 of the Bill, where the offences involving non-compliant advertising are directed at health promotion and at ensuring food safety.

To “advertise” is defined as publishing, or causing or authorising to be published, content in Singapore. Publishing in Singapore means communicating, distributing, or making available or making known, the content to the general public in Singapore.

Where content is communicated, distributed or made available or known in electronic or digital form using a social media service, telecommunication service (like SMS or MMS) or relevant electronic service (like an online instant messaging service or by email), the content is taken to be published in Singapore if it originates from a point in Singapore or is between a point and one or more other points, where the firstmentioned point is outside Singapore and at least one of the other points is inside Singapore.

Clause 7 takes into account the developments in labelling and in digital marketing which have gone beyond advertising methods that the last set of amendments in 2017 to the Sale of Food Act 1973 could take into account.

For example, website marketing today employs ‘user experience’ (UX) design to help induce customer purchases of a product. Then, there is social media marketing with its interactive elements mimicking communication which would ordinarily not be regarded as advertising, except that social media can include a business paying for advertising on social networks. Finally, there is search engine marketing, which seeks to increase business visibility on a search engine (such as Google or Bing) and therefore encourages or drives traffic to a product or business website. There is also search engine optimisation, which can ‘organically’ rank the business or product website higher in search results.

Clause 7 makes clear what newer digital methods of marketing constitute advertising for the purposes of the Bill.

However, to avoid overreach, some persons who engage in certain modes of digital communication on electronic services would not be treated as advertising.



Examples of persons who are excluded are —

- (a) an individual food blogger who voluntarily and without reward posts his or her opinion about an eatery he or she just patronised or a food he or she just ate;
- (b) an individual forwarding or sharing, without reward, any online material produced entirely by another person, without altering the content;
- (c) a person providing a search engine service; and
- (d) 2 or more persons communicating content between themselves that is of a private or domestic nature.

Clause 8 defines “sell” and “supply” for the purposes of the Bill. These terms are used extensively in the Bill in connection with food, food contact articles and animal feed, and apply in several offences in the Bill.

In addition to activities usually perceived as those of selling food, the Bill covers activities such as offering food as a prize, supplying a meal to staff, bartering or displaying with a view to sale, and giving food away for advertising purposes.

“Supply” is defined to encompass sale. It is wider and includes donating or distributing.

Given the breadth of the definition of “sell”, a number of exclusions have been provided for in clause 8. The effect of excluding certain activities from the definition of “sell” or “supply” is to exclude those activities from the operation of the Bill.

The terms “sell” and “supply” do not apply to the preparation and supply of food at a private residence to a person employed at that residence, for example, preparing and supplying meals to a live-in domestic worker.

Clause 9 defines the expression “handling” in relation to food for the purposes of the Bill.

Clause 10 defines the expressions “manufacturing” and “preparing” of food for the purposes of the Bill. The clause lists certain activities that constitute manufacturing and preparing of food. Generally, preparing refers to activities in a retail setting. The clause therefore clarifies that “manufacturing” does not include certain activities, like preparing and packing sandwiches at a fast food outlet for retail sale at the fast food outlet.

Clause 11 defines the expression “unsafe” as it relates to “unsafe food” for the purposes of the Bill. The definition is substantially unchanged from the definition of “unsafe” in section 2C of the Sale of Food Act 1973. Basically, food is unsafe if it would be likely to cause physical harm to a person who might later consume it.

This definition takes into account what happens after a consumer buys or acquires food. For example, if a person bought raw meat and then left it unrefrigerated for an extended period, the raw meat would not be unsafe when sold. Also, food is not “unsafe” just because it may cause an adverse reaction to a minority of persons.

Clause 12 defines the expression “unsuitable food” for the purposes of the Bill.

Like the present definition of “unsuitable” in section 2D of the Sale of Food Act 1973, the clause provides that food is unsuitable if, for example, it is damaged or deteriorated to such an extent that affects its reasonable intended use. For example, bulging canned food or mould on grapes or cherries.

However, clause 12 extends the meaning of “unsuitable” to cover outdated food and food containing an ingredient that is outdated food. The word “outdated” is defined in relation to the date marking requirements in subsidiary legislation to be made under the Bill.

Food is “outdated” if it is unused or not consumed within the period recommended by the manufacturer of the food, or before the end of the period that is required by the date marking requirement in those subsidiary legislation.

The clause provides greater clarity to one of the limbs of the present definition, which refers to food containing “a biological or chemical agent, or other matter or substance, that is foreign to the nature of the food and the presence of which would be unexpected and unreasonable in food prepared or packed for sale in accordance with good trade practice”.

Clause 12 makes explicit that food is unsuitable if it contains a food production substance which is not an approved food production substance for that food, or contains an approved food production substance at a greater level than permitted under the standards where a maximum level is so prescribed for that food production substance. An example of a food production substance is a food additive or veterinary drug or its residue.

Food is also unsuitable if it contains a proscribed contaminant or any residue of a proscribed contaminant, or a restricted contaminant at a greater level than permitted under the standards where a maximum level is so prescribed for that restricted contaminant. A contaminant is a substance not intentionally added to the food but is present in the food as a result of its manufacture or preparation, or production if the food is primary produce, or its transport or the environment. An example of a contaminant is mercury, which accumulates in fish as a result of absorption from the water.

Finally, the clause defines food as unsuitable if it contains any thing which is inedible or is otherwise alien to the particular food. For example, food containing inedible, non-sharp materials like hair, human nail clippings, rubber bands,

plasters or paper. The consumer is unlikely to fall ill if it is swallowed and will likely find the thing first before consuming it, given that it is inedible.

If a matter in food has a potential to cause physical harm when the food is consumed, like a porcelain chip, staple, metal wire or other sharp object, the food would be unsafe by definition.

Clause 13 defines the expression “defined food” for the purposes of the Bill. This expression covers the range of food which is of higher regulatory concern, the lawful supply of which in Singapore for human consumption as food will require prior approval.

There are 3 categories of defined foods. They are —

- (a) novel food;
- (b) genetically modified food; and
- (c) insect-like species as food. These are forms of animal life within the biological classification Insecta, Arachnida, Myriapoda or Clitellata, and include insect-like species at a particular stage of its development, like the larvae or pupae.

Of the 3 categories of defined food, insect-like species that are edible are defined food until they are declared by subsidiary legislation to be a catalogued insect-like species.

The subsidiary legislation is to be made by the Agency under clause 13(2) with the Minister’s approval. The subsidiary legislation may be made only where the Agency is satisfied that the insect-like species is no longer of higher regulatory concern. The list of catalogued insect-like species can expand or reduce over time by changes to the subsidiary legislation. This is envisaged to be a positive list.

Unless it is catalogued, an insect-like species, even if edible, cannot be imported or supplied for human consumption in Singapore; see Part 5.

However, food that just contains an unapproved insect that is not a catalogued insect-like species (or part of such an insect) is not defined food. For example, a plate of chicken rice with a black soldier fly would be considered “unsuitable”, as the fly is alien to that particular food. To be defined food, the food has to be, consist of or have as an ingredient, the insect-like species.

Insects for animal feed purposes, such as black soldier fly larvae, will not be catalogued but will be treated as animal feed for live food producing animals and the rearing and production of feed from these insects will be regulated separately via a licensing framework for the production of animal feed.

The other 2 categories of defined food viz. novel food and genetically modified food, remain defined foods until the Agency grants pre-market approval under Part 5. Pre-market approval is granted on application and is case-specific.

The term “genetically modified food” is defined by clause 13(3) to mean a food coming from an organism that has been altered using certain techniques, such that the resulting organism contains a combination of heritable genetic material that could not have occurred naturally or could not have been produced by traditional breeding and selection. Those techniques are —

- (a) *in vitro* nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant nucleic acids and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles; and
- (b) fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family.

Any food that is, consists of or has as an ingredient, an insect-like species which has been so altered will be treated as genetically modified food. If the insect-like species has not been so altered, the food remains defined food until the insect-like species is a catalogued insect-like species.

The expression “novel food” is defined to mean any of the following:

- (a) a substance (which may consist of, be isolated from or produced from, cell culture or tissue culture derived from animals, plants, bacteria or yeast, fungi, algae or other micro-organism) that has not been used to a significant degree as food for a period of at least 20 years, whether within or outside Singapore;
- (b) a food that has been manufactured, prepared or preserved by a process that has not been previously used in food production for a period of at least 20 years, whether within or outside Singapore;
- (c) a food consisting of, isolated from or produced from material of mineral origin that has not been previously used in food production for a period of at least 20 years, whether within or outside Singapore;
- (d) a food that contains or consists of engineered nanomaterials.

Food that is, consists of or has as an ingredient, an insect-like species in any form is not novel food.

The policy intention is to take into account the history of consumption of food anywhere in the world, when determining whether or not food is novel food.

Clause 14 defines the expression “primary produce” for the purposes of the Bill, and defines when primary produce is unsafe.

Clause 15 defines the expression “primary production activity” for the purposes of the Bill.

Clause 16 defines the expression “animal feed” for the purposes of the Bill, and the circumstances where animal feed is not fit for purpose.

Unlike the definition in the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, “animal feed” is defined for the purposes of the Bill to mean a live animal, or a material or a mix of

materials (whether processed, semi-processed or raw), which is intended to be fed directly to any food producing animal. A feed additive is included in the definition of “animal feed”.

However, “animal feed” for the purposes of the Bill excludes pet food. Pet food continues as the subject of regulation under the amended Feeding Stuffs Act 1965; see Division 6 of Part 17.

Clause 17 deals with the concept of “associate”, which is relevant in the licensing provisions in Parts 3, 4 and 11.

As defined in the Bill, a person is an associate of another if the person is the spouse or relative of the other. Being an employer or employee of another or being in partnership with another also makes a person an associate of the other. The Minister may make rules in the *Gazette* providing that any person or class of persons is an associate of another person for the purposes of clause 17(1)(g). An applicant may be refused a licence if the applicant has an associate who is or was disqualified from holding the licence applied for.

## PART 2

### STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE OF FOOD SUPPLIES IN SINGAPORE

Part 2 consists of 4 divisions aimed at improving Singapore’s resilience to agri-food supply chain disruptions (which could include events such as natural disasters or disruptions to international markets). The measures in Part 2 will be complemented by other requirements in the Bill aimed at addressing the potential impact of disruptive events.

The Director-General, Food Security is responsible for the administration of Part 2 and is vested with powers under the Part. He or she will be supported by food security officers appointed under clause 275(1). The term “Director-General, Food Security” is defined in clause 3(1) to mean an individual appointed by the Minister under clause 274(1).

Most powers in Part 2, which are vested in the Director-General, Food Security, are delegable to food security officers. The exception are powers in clauses 23, 24, 27 and 32. These are exercisable either by the Director-General, Food Security personally or by food security officers in the name of the Director-General, Food Security, only. The latter food security officers must be specially chosen by the Director-General, Food Security.

Division 1 of Part 2 contains an interpretive provision. Clause 18 explains the definitions of terms used only or mainly in Part 2.

Clause 18(1) read with clause 20 define the term “minimum stockholding requirement” (or “MSR”, for short). The MSR is to promote the resilience of

essential food supplies and agri-food production inputs by requiring certain industry participants to hold a certain level of such foods or agri-food production inputs in Singapore to mitigate the risk of agri-food supply chain disruptions.

An “MSR product” is defined in clause 18(1) to mean —

- (a) any food that is prescribed by the Minister in the Part 2 Rules, to be an MSR product; or
- (b) any agri-food production input that is prescribed by the Minister in the Part 2 Rules, to be an MSR product.

Clause 3(1) defines “agri-food production input” broadly to cover all forms of substances used in agriculture or aquaculture to improve growth, including fertiliser. Among the other items listed as agri-food production input are plant pesticides, any seed, spore, bulb, root, cutting or other part of a plant from which plants grow or further plants grow, and veterinary biologics or vaccines, antitoxins or other preparations made from living organisms, which are suitable for use in diagnosing, treating or immunising animals.

Clause 18(1) defines the term “agri-food supply chain”, where a person in it is called an “agri-food supply chain participant”. The latter is a key term used in Part 2 because such a participant can become subject to MSR and the information obligations in Part 2.

“Agri-food supply chain” is defined to mean a supply chain for providing individuals (ultimate consumers) with items of food for personal consumption where the items of food either —

- (a) consist of or include; or
- (b) have been produced using (directly or indirectly, and whether or not exclusively),

the whole or part of any food, any primary produce, any creature or other thing taken from the wild or any agri-food production input.

The products in the agri-food supply chain include any plant products grown (cereals, fruit and vegetables) as well as animal products for consumption (meat, dairy and eggs) including plant and animal products taken from the wild (for example, truffles and venison).

The agri-food supply chain may be colloquially known as “farm to fork”, from primary producers, through intermediary food processors to retailers such as supermarkets and ultimately individual consumers.

An “agri-food supply chain participant” is defined to mean any ultimate consumer, any person engaged in the production of primary produce, any person engaged in taking any animal, plant or other thing from the wild for the purposes of human or animal consumption, and any person in Singapore in the agri-food

supply chain between the ultimate consumers and persons earlier mentioned. The latter can include —

- (a) any person engaged in producing, manufacturing, preparing or processing any food or agri-food production input in Singapore (such as a food factory proprietor or a veterinary vaccine manufacturer);
- (b) any person selling, distributing, transporting, supplying or storing any food or agri-food production input in Singapore (such as a supermarket chain, a food warehouse operator or a cold chain logistics business); and
- (c) any person making any food or agri-food production input available in Singapore, or providing the food or agri-food production input to another person in Singapore (such as an importer of food, animal feed, veterinary biologics or plant pesticide).

There is also a definition of “food security factors” in clause 18(1), which is defined to mean all of the following:

- (a) global food availability;
- (b) supply sources for food, including the range of supply sources and the availability to the ultimate consumers of food from local and other sources;
- (c) the resilience of the agri-food supply chain in response to natural or man-made disasters, climate change, severe disturbances in agricultural markets and other disruptions in the supply of food;
- (d) food safety and consumer confidence in food.

These food security factors are among the criteria for decision-making before imposing MSR and in fixing the MSR quantity.

Another common expression used in Part 2 in connection with entities is “subject to a minimum stockholding requirement”. This is related to clause 22 to refer to an entity that has triggered the minimum stockholding requirement.

Division 2 of Part 2 relates to the MSR. The Division contains 12 clauses, which altogether establish an obligation for entities (not individuals) that undertake certain activities (like importing and manufacturing) in relation to certain food or agri-food production inputs, to hold a minimum quantity of those foods or agri-food production inputs in Singapore, so that nationally there are stocks thereof.

What it means to hold stocks, and where and when holding an MSR product can or cannot be counted towards meeting an entity’s MSR is covered in detail in clause 19, which is in Division 1. This is because importers, manufacturers and

other participants in the agri-food supply chain use a variety of arrangements for holding and accessing food and agri-food production inputs.

Under clause 19(2), the entity that owns the stocks which are stored in Singapore by the entity or by another entity, where no other entity is the holder of the stocks by virtue of that provision, is treated as the holder of those stocks.

Under clause 19(2), only stocks stored in Singapore are countable. The limitation to stocks stored in Singapore is intentional so as to ensure counting only of stocks that can reasonably be considered to improve food security in the unlikely event of no imports under limited conditions.

Under clause 18(2), stocks are stored in Singapore if they are on land, on a vessel in a port in Singapore, or waiting to enter a port in Singapore.

There is also power for the Minister to make rules prescribing additional circumstances where the storage of a food or agri-food production input would be taken to fall within the meaning of stored in Singapore. For example, stocks held privately may include stocks held at a dormitory facility for use in the operation of that facility. For now, these are excluded but it may be appropriate for these stocks to count towards meeting an entity's MSR in future.

However, if more than one entity would be the holder of the same stock of MSR product, clause 19(3) requires that which of those entities is the holder of the stock, and the share of the stock each entity is the holder of, must be as agreed between the entities. In the absence of any such agreement, the Director-General, Food Security must determine the issue in accordance with the method prescribed by the Minister in the Part 2 Rules. The complexity and changing nature of these arrangements means these details are appropriately dealt with in rules.

Joint ventures between entities can give rise to uncertainties as to which entity is the holder of an MSR product. Therefore, clause 19(3) seeks to ensure MSR products in Singapore are only counted once for the purposes of the MSR scheme and not double-counted. Clause 19 is not intended to capture the effects of mortgages and other security interests.

Finally, clause 19(1) states that if the stocks stored in Singapore are being used exclusively for the Singapore Armed Forces or visiting forces of a foreign country, then these stocks are not countable towards meeting an entity's MSR as they do not improve domestic food security and confidence in domestic food supplies, having already been allocated for other purposes.

Likewise, stocks that are being used for private or household domestic consumption are also excluded by clause 19(1) as these would never be large enough to matter for food security, and it would be challenging to monitor for compliance purposes. For the same reason, any stock being stored in a seagoing vessel for the consumption of crew or passengers is also not countable towards meeting an entity's MSR.



Also not counted is any stock of food that is an MSR product which is unsuitable, unsafe or a defined food.

Clause 20 defines what the MSR is.

It is basically an obligation on an entity that is made subject to the requirement (called an MSR entity) in relation to an MSR product to hold at least a quantity of stocks of the MSR product designated for the entity. The obligation operates at 2 different points in time:

- (a) each day (called the daily MSR), where the holding must be at least the quantity of stocks of the MSR product set out in a trigger notice;
- (b) for each relevant period, where the average holding of the MSR product in that period must be at least the average quantity of stocks of the MSR product set out in a trigger notice (called the average MSR).

The daily MSR and the average MSR quantities will be set out in a trigger notice given to the MSR entity. The level is intended to mitigate the impact of supply disruptions in the kind of food or agri-food production input.

If there is any increase in the price of an MSR product because of the daily MSR and average MSR, that would be offset by consumers benefitting from having a resilient agri-food supply that is robust enough to respond to disruptions should they occur.

Under the scheme, it is possible for an MSR entity to be given more than one trigger notice for different MSR products.

Clause 21 read with clause 20 state that the quantity of stocks of MSR product which an MSR entity has to hold daily, is the quantity specified in the trigger notice under clause 23 in force for the day that was given to the MSR entity in relation to that MSR product.

Clause 21 read with clause 20 also state that the average MSR for an MSR product designated for an entity for a relevant period applicable to the entity, is the quantity that is worked out in accordance with a formula in clause 23(3) for the relevant period and the entity. The quantity of average MSR must be specified in the trigger notice given to the entity in relation to that MSR product.

The relevant period will be set at a particular frequency (but at least one month) as determined by the Director-General, Food Security according to principles set out in rules made by the Minister.

The trigger notice may express the quantity in terms of a specific amount, or a formula or rate by which the amount is to be worked out. The quantity of MSR product for each entity will be fixed by the Director-General, Food Security having regard to food security factors and other factors as outlined in clause 25.

Clause 22 provides for the conditions which, if met, means an entity will be subject to the MSR. The conditions are that the Director-General, Food Security has given a trigger notice under clause 23 to the entity that the MSR has been triggered in relation to an MSR product and that the entity has not stopped engaging in all MSR activities in relation to the MSR product.

Clause 22(2) covers the conditions where the Director-General, Food Security has made a determination under clause 27 to deal with circumstances where entities have split, merged or been acquired, and the stocks of MSR products are transferred between entities.

Clause 23 provides the conditions which, if met, empowers the Director-General, Food Security to give an entity a trigger notice that will trigger the MSR for the entity in relation to an MSR product stated in the trigger notice.

A trigger notice in relation to an MSR product may be given —

- (a) only to an entity which is an agri-food supply chain participant in relation to the MSR product; and
- (b) only if the entity, during a period prescribed by the Part 2 Rules made by the Minister, undertakes an MSR activity in relation to the MSR product and, in doing so, exceeds the quantity prescribed by the Part 2 Rules for undertaking the MSR activity in relation to that MSR product.

The threshold in MSR activity involving an MSR product is to ensure that the MSR scheme binds entities that could significantly affect domestic levels of food or agri-food production inputs. It is also for this reason that a trigger notice can never be given to an ultimate consumer.

Clause 18(1) defines “MSR activity”, which must relate to an identified MSR product. The activity must be one undertaken in the course of business and involving an MSR product.

That can be importing an MSR product or manufacturing an MSR product, or some other activity, where prescribed by the Part 2 Rules made by the Minister in relation to the MSR product. The definition needs to be elaborated upon by subsidiary legislation because there could be significant changes to agri-food supply chains, which may necessitate expanding who should be made an MSR entity subject to a trigger notice.

Every trigger notice must specify the quantity of stocks of the MSR product the MSR entity given the trigger notice must hold on the relevant days for which the notice is in force, and the place or places in Singapore where those stocks must be held.

Those places may be spaces at a centralised storage facility made available by the Government, or at the MSR entity's own warehouses. To meet this obligation to hold MSR products onshore, it is expected that some MSR entities may need to change the way they manage their stock to reduce fluctuations in their stock levels.

The trigger notice stating the quantity of stocks of the MSR product remains in force for the relevant days occurring from the day the trigger notice comes into force and ending the day before the trigger notice is cancelled or a subsequent trigger notice regarding the same MSR product comes into force.

A trigger notice comes into force at least 6 months after the day the notice is given. This ensures an MSR entity is advised, at least 6 months in advance of the compliance period, the amount of MSR stock it will be required to hold on the particular relevant days. This is included to ensure MSR entities have sufficient time to prepare and vary any of their stock levels as required to meet the upcoming MSR compliance period.

The minimum interval of 6 months before a trigger notice comes into force can be varied subsequently in the Part 2 Rules made by the Minister.

Clause 23 does not fix the method of calculating the quantity. The Director-General, Food Security is vested with the discretion to determine the MSR quantity after taking into account these factors outlined in clause 25.

An MSR entity which is given a trigger notice may appeal against the notice to the Minister, under Part 12.

Clause 24 sets out when an MSR entity ceases to be subject to the MSR in relation to an MSR product. This can occur where the Director-General, Food Security is satisfied that the entity has permanently or indefinitely stopped undertaking all MSR activities in relation to that MSR product and the Director-General, Food Security cancels the trigger notice given to the entity.

Clause 25 sets out the criteria which the Director-General, Food Security has to apply —

- (a) in deciding whether or not to give a trigger notice under clause 23;
- (b) in determining under clause 23(3) the total minimum quantity of stocks of an MSR product that an entity must hold during a relevant period; or
- (c) in determining under clause 23(5) the quantity or average quantity of stocks of an MSR product to be specified in a trigger notice.

Those criteria are —

- (a) the food security factors (which is defined in clause 3(1));
- (b) the need to enhance resilience of the agri-food supply chain for Singapore;

- (c) the local eating patterns and preferences; and
- (d) the local food production capacity.

Clause 26 deals with a situation where the MSR may be temporarily suspended by the Minister in relation to a specified MSR product for a period (not exceeding 6 months). The suspension has to be by legislative instrument by an order in the *Gazette*, because this is tantamount to temporarily cancelling the effect of clause 20 enacted by the Legislature.

The suspension may be ordered only if both conditions below are met:

- (a) there is a disruptive event which directly affects the supply of the MSR product in Singapore occurring or which has occurred, or a threat of such a disruptive event;
- (b) the suspension under this clause is necessary to substantially prevent or substantially assist in mitigating the impact of the disruptive event, or the threatened disruptive event, on the supply of the MSR product in Singapore.

Clause 27 covers circumstances where entities have split, merged or been acquired. The Director-General, Food Security will need to make a determination under clause 27 regarding the MSR product quantity that will be transferred between entities. This aims to ensure MSR stock levels are not significantly impacted when mergers or acquisitions occur, to protect domestic food security.

Clause 28 imposes reporting obligations on an MSR entity in relation to an MSR product. This is to support food security planning by the Director-General, Food Security since there is no advance notice of when a key MSR entity might stop engaging in the essential business, even if the MSR entity may be licensed under Part 3 or 4.

An MSR entity has to give the Director-General, Food Security a written advice in advance if the entity intends to do any of the following:

- (a) undertake another MSR activity in relation to the same MSR product;
- (b) permanently or indefinitely cease undertaking an MSR activity in relation to the same MSR product;
- (c) cease undertaking an MSR activity in relation to the same MSR product in any other circumstances.

The advance period will be specified in the Part 2 Rules made by the Minister.

The advance advice has to be in writing, and at a minimum, must contain details of the situation to which the advice relates, and set out any matters that might affect the entity's capacity to meet the MSR in relation to an MSR product.

An MSR entity that intentionally or negligently contravenes this obligation shall be guilty of an offence. Failure to comply with this reporting obligation would likely result in inaccurate and misleading data leading to errors in calculating the appropriate level of in-country stocks and the MSR for different entities and MSR products, and has the potential to seriously undermine the integrity of the MSR scheme.

Clause 29 deals with the immediate consequences if an MSR entity does not meet the average MSR set for an MSR product under clause 20(b) (which requires the MSR entity to hold in Singapore a minimum average quantity of an MSR product for a relevant period).

Clause 29 makes the MSR entity in default of the average MSR for a relevant period liable to pay to the Director-General, Food Security an MSR charge. The MSR charge is an amount calculated by applying a multiplier prescribed by the Part 2 Rules to the MSR product shortfall for the relevant period. The MSR charge must be paid to the Director-General, Food Security not later than the 14th day after the written demand is given.

Clause 30 deals with the immediate consequences if an MSR entity does not meet the daily MSR set for an MSR product under clause 20(a) (which requires the MSR entity to hold in Singapore a minimum quantity of MSR product each day).

Clause 30 makes the MSR entity in default of the daily MSR liable to pay to the Director-General, Food Security an MSR charge. The MSR charge is an amount calculated by applying a multiplier prescribed by the Part 2 Rules to the MSR product shortfall for the relevant day. The MSR charge must be paid to the Director-General, Food Security not later than the 14th day after the written demand is given.

An MSR entity may find itself liable to pay an MSR charge for defaulting on the average MSR for a relevant period even though the entity meets the daily MSR throughout the same relevant period. Alternatively, an MSR entity may find itself liable to pay an MSR charge for defaulting on the daily MSR for any day in a relevant period and not accrue any liability for not meeting the average MSR for the relevant period that that day falls within.

It is also plausible for an MSR entity to find itself liable to pay 2 MSR charges for defaulting on the average MSR and the daily MSR.

Clause 31 is about the offence of contravening the daily MSR in clause 20(a) (which requires an MSR entity to hold in Singapore a minimum quantity of MSR products each day).

The offence is committed by an MSR entity if the entity intentionally or recklessly does not hold at least the quantity of stocks of the MSR product designated for the entity on the relevant day.

The maximum penalty reflects the seriousness of the contravening conduct and the risk that the conduct may pose to Singapore's food security. For a criminal breach of the daily MSR, the total maximum penalty is a fine not exceeding \$25,000, or an amount that is calculated according to clause 31, if higher.

To determine that amount of maximum fine, clause 31 provides a formula using a multiplier prescribed by the Part 2 Rules which may be greater than that prescribed in clause 30 for the MSR charge.

Division 3 of Part 2 consists of 5 provisions dealing with the obligation on agri-food supply chain participants and those closely connected with an agri-food supply chain to provide information on request to the Director-General, Food Security. The scope of subject matter may extend beyond food and agri-food production inputs as defined in the Bill. The veracity and accuracy of such data will also be crucial to the integrity of the proposed MSR scheme in Division 2.

Clause 32 empowers the Director-General, Food Security to require a person who is an agri-food supply chain participant, or who is closely connected with an agri-food supply chain, to provide information to the Director-General, Food Security, within a reasonable period specified in that requirement. The person need not be subject to an MSR requirement but must come within a class of persons prescribed in the Part 2 Rules for the purposes of this section.

These requirements will permit the Director-General, Food Security to collect more detailed information on stocks of different food and agri-food production inputs at national level, international supply chains and contingency arrangements connected with food and agri-food production inputs. This will allow for a more accurate assessment of Singapore's food resilience, help identify opportunities to improve food resilience, and monitor compliance with the proposed average MSR and daily MSR.

Clause 32(2) defines which persons are considered to be "closely connected" with an agri-food supply chain. This will include those persons (individuals and companies) providing either goods or services for use in the agri-food supply chain. In relation to animal products, this will include (but is not limited to) veterinarians and any other persons providing animal health or welfare services. This category will also include persons who manufacture, sell or distribute machinery or general primary production equipment, to those engaged in agriculture or animal husbandry.

Clause 32(2) also extends to any person performing activities capable of affecting activities in the agri-food supply chain. This may include, for example, persons keeping animals (such as those in zoos, or hobby chickens) where those animals could be a risk to, or at risk from, animals in the food chain in the event of a disease incursion or outbreak. This is just one example of how a person could be "closely connected" with the agri-food supply chain.

Excluded from clause 32 are individuals in an agri-food supply chain so far as they are in the agri-food supply chain by reason of them, or members of their households, being the ultimate consumers.

Clause 33 sets out what information may be required under clause 32.

The information required has to be about matters connected with a person's activities connected with the agri-food supply chain so far as the activities are in or relate to Singapore, and which is within the knowledge of the person to whom a requirement under clause 32 is given or is in the custody or under the control of that person.

It is therefore a defence to a charge of not providing information if the information required under clause 32 is beyond the control or knowledge of the agri-food supply chain participant, or person who is closely connected with an agri-food supply chain.

The information also has to be required under clause 32 for certain purposes only. This is information that the Director-General, Food Security considers necessary —

- (a) to determine whether to declare a food or agri-food production input an MSR product or an MSR activity for an MSR product, and holdings of MSR products. For example, an MSR entity may be required to update on changes in the location of their holdings of an MSR product;
- (b) to determine whether there are grounds to give a trigger notice, or to reduce the MSR for an MSR entity temporarily or otherwise, or to exercise any other power under any provision of the Bill directed at mitigating the impact on Singapore of agri-food supply chain disruptions or the impact of disruptive events on the supply of food or agri-food production inputs in Singapore;
- (c) to monitor or analyse markets connected with agri-food supply chains. This may include general commodity price levels or sectoral output statistics, which can be used to inform the use of food security measures under the Bill; and
- (d) to monitor the resilience of the agri-food supply chain in response to natural or man-made disasters, climate change, severe disturbances in agricultural markets and other disruptions in the supply of food and agri-food production inputs.

Finally, the information requirement imposed on a person under clause 32 does not apply to so much of the information as the person would in legal proceedings be entitled to refuse to provide on grounds of legal privilege.

Clause 34 states that every clause 32 requirement for information must specify the purposes behind the request for the data. The purposes for which information

may be required must be in, or be included within, at least one of the purposes stated in clause 33.

Clause 34 also sets out other requirements that a clause 32 requirement must satisfy to be properly given. These are largely procedural requirements as to stating the form in and time by which information is to be provided. The clause 32 requirement must also state that the failure to meet the clause 32 requirement is an offence.

Clause 35 imposes a statutory restriction on disclosure of information collected by virtue of a requirement under clause 32 to persons outside of the Singapore public sector. This does not limit the general permissibility of sharing of data within the Singapore public sector, as authorised under the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018.

If any information provided in response to a clause 32 requirement is proposed to be disclosed to the general public or to a person who is not another Singapore public sector agency, the information must be disclosed only in an anonymised form.

Clause 36 sets out the offence of not providing the information required under clause 32 or not providing the information in a timely manner. The offence of providing information which is false is dealt with separately in Part 13.

The offence is necessary because failure to comply with the information reporting obligation under clause 32 would likely result in inaccurate and misleading data leading to errors in food security planning.

Clause 36 also provides that a person required to give information to the Director-General, Food Security pursuant to a clause 32 requirement does not have a defence that doing so is a breach by the person of a duty of confidentiality or privacy under any prescribed written law, any rule of law, any contract or any rule of professional conduct. Clause 258 confers immunity on the person if the person gives the information in good faith in compliance with the requirement under clause 32. The obligation to give information to the Director-General, Food Security pursuant to a clause 32 requirement does not override the privilege against self-incrimination.

Division 4 of Part 2 consists of 5 provisions dealing with general matters.

The vast majority of entities liable to pay the MSR charge are likely to pay their liabilities without problem or delay, guided by the information sent by the Director-General, Food Security in the trigger notice and the written demand under clause 29 or 30, as the case may be. However, where there are problems in collecting the MSR charge, it is important that the Director-General, Food Security has the means to penalise late payment and recover the amounts in arrears.



Clause 37 provides that if any MSR charge is not paid before the end of the time delimited for payment by or under clause 29 or 30, interest at the rate prescribed by the Part 2 Rules (made under clause 40) of the amount unpaid is payable by the MSR entity to the Director-General, Food Security.

Clause 38 requires all MSR charges and late payment interest collected or recovered under the Bill, to be paid into the Consolidated Fund. Clause 38 further deems any MSR charge, when it becomes due and payable, to be a debt due to the Government. Any MSR charge and late payment interest that is unpaid may therefore be recovered as a debt in any court of competent jurisdiction by the Agency.

Clause 39 empowers the Minister to remit, in whole or in part, any MSR charge accrued under clause 29 or 30 and any late payment interest imposed under clause 37, where the Minister is satisfied of certain conditions. These are —

- (a) that payment of any MSR charge payable is likely to cause substantial hardship to an entity; or
- (b) that payment of any MSR charge payable by a particular entity is not compatible with the purposes of Part 2 having regard to the peculiar facts of the case.

Clause 40 empowers the Minister to make rules (called the Part 2 Rules) for the purposes of Part 2.

The Part 2 Rules may prescribe requirements in respect of legally enforceable arrangements to provide clarity to MSR entities and the Director-General, Food Security for the purposes of clause 19. It is intended that the Rules will help avoid incorporating any arrangements, such as security interests in the stocks, that are not intended to make the holder of the security a holder of the stocks for the purposes of Division 4.

The Part 2 Rules may prescribe a method that determines how MSR products can be counted towards meeting an entity's MSR if more than one entity owns the stock, and the conditions for when entities are considered to be holders of the stocks, or the holder of a proportion of stocks. Having this addressed by the Part 2 Rules allows flexibility to consult with the industry and to adjust if required because of new ownership arrangements adopted by the industry.

The Part 2 Rules may contain procedures that an MSR entity must comply with, in order to ensure the safety or efficacy of the MSR product when it is held. This extends to requirements to ensure suitability for consumption as food. For example, prescribing standards as to the manner of storage, and the maximum length of holding of the MSR product before supplying it in Singapore. The Part 2 Rules may also contain surveillance requirements in relation to the MSR product, so that it is secure from loss, theft, sabotage or unauthorised access.

Clause 41 is a saving and transitional provision aimed at preserving and transferring the present stockholding arrangements under the Price Control Act 1950 as regards rice to the MSR scheme that is in Division 2 of Part 2.

Broadly, an entity that is holding a licence to import under the Price Control Act 1950 when Part 2 comes into force, will be given a trigger notice and thus continue with immediate effect as being subject to an MSR requirement. Whether a licence to import is also granted under the Bill to the entity is immaterial. Unlike persons first given a trigger notice after Part 2 comes into force, those given a trigger notice under the transitional arrangements will not have a right of appeal against the trigger notice. This is to ensure a seamless transition from the scheme under the Price Control Act 1950 to the Bill.

### PART 3

#### IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSHIPMENT

Singapore imports most of its food today. Food importers today must make sure that the food they are planning to import is safe and suitable and fit for human consumption, and there are systems in place for border testing of food imports. There are also requirements to ensure so far as is practicable that all imported animal feed for food producing animals in Singapore is fit for its intended purpose.

The regulation of foods for export by Singapore's Government is presently a prerequisite for the acceptance of those foods by importing countries.

However, Singapore's existing legislative framework for food trading has developed over 35 years across commodity-specific lines across 3 different Acts. Today's regulatory systems differ, depending on the provisions in the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Control of Plants Act 1993 or the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999. Penalties for offences involving foods of animal origin are apparently higher because of their greater potential to transfer animal diseases, harmful organisms, chemical residues, or other contaminants. The import of animal feed for all animals is presently regulated under the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 and the Animals and Birds Act 1965, which is duplicatory.

Furthermore, increasing globalisation of food supply and increasingly complex supply chains have made it harder to manage imported food safety risks. Local consumer tastes regarding food have grown and the increased imports of a wider range of food further raise the risk of foodborne disease. The daily volume of trade here makes impracticable maintaining as a primary enforcement approach, that of relying on border inspection of incoming and outgoing consignments to detect point-in-time defaults.

Only a small portion of food in a lot can be tested and a negative result does not guarantee that the entire lot is safe. When food is tested for the presence of foodborne pathogens and certain kinds of chemical hazards, these may not be

evenly distributed throughout a food lot or consignment. For some foodborne pathogens and hazards, there are no practical tests that can be applied at the border (for example, it is difficult to test for viruses in foods such as norovirus and hepatitis A virus).

Border testing alone is also recognised among many countries as insufficient to provide assurance of an imported food's safety. Many countries require preventative controls throughout the supply chain to manage imported food safety risks.

Recognising that some foods will scientifically present a greater risk to consumers and public health, Part 3 will enable import inspection schemes (which are regulations) to be established, identifying foods and other controlled items which require prior clearance for import or export, what is needed for this clearance, and which are monitored via different levels of inspection for specific hazards. This seeks to reduce administrative burden on compliant licensees and enable faster clearance at the border through better targeting and a focus on higher risk commodities and licensee conduct.

The controlled items which require clearance and/or prior inspection are termed "examinable matter" in clause 42(1).

For the types of food where at-border testing alone is insufficient to provide assurance of food safety, Part 3 will require traders to provide assurance of food safety as part of the applicable standards which must be met. Among the newer standards required is evidence from importers to demonstrate that they have effective food safety controls in place throughout their supply chain.

In line with current practice, other items may also be imported under a foreign government certification arrangement, where the Agency can unilaterally or through mutual agreements with another national competent authority of a country exporting food to Singapore, recognise their food safety certifications as adequate for the purposes of the Bill. Consignments of import-controlled items accompanied by a recognised foreign government certificate may be inspected and tested at a reduced rate, thereby helping minimise delays in border clearance.

Recognised government certification is not new and is currently mandatory for meat and meat products.

The Bill will require the integrity of controlled items imported, exported or transhipped as well as the accuracy of descriptions and official marks that are applied to them.

In essence, Part 3 will require food importers to source safe and suitable food, keep the food safe during storage and transportation, keep good records and have procedures in place to recall food if it is unsafe or unsuitable, or becomes unsafe or unsuitable. Likewise for other import-controlled items like animal feed.

Part 3 comprises 7 Divisions, which regulate the import, export and transshipment of controlled items, contain offences relating to trading in controlled items, enable food and other controlled items to be held at the border where there is uncertainty about their fitness, and impose record-keeping duties on food importers so that they have the ability to trace food imported one step forwards and one step backwards.

Division 1 of Part 3 consists of 3 interpretive provisions.

Clause 42 contains definitions which are used only or mainly in Part 3. A key concept is that of controlled items, as trading in these is regulated. There are 3 groups of controlled items.

Import-controlled items make up the largest range viz. food (except a food additive as such), a prepacked food additive preparation, a regulated food contact article, an animal feed, and any agri-food production input that the Minister declares, by order in the *Gazette*, to be an import-controlled item.

Unlike the rest of the Bill, “agri-food production input” in Part 3 excludes the following even if essential in undertaking any primary production activity:

- (a) any animal reproductive material from a food producing animal;
- (b) any young of a food producing animal;
- (c) any seed, spore, bulb, root, cutting or other part of a plant from which plants grow or further plants grow;
- (d) any veterinary biologics, or any vaccines, antitoxins or other preparations made from living organisms, which are suitable for use in diagnosing, treating or immunising animals.

This is to minimise overregulation of the industry. The licensing of the import of these matters is and will continue to be covered under the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Wildlife Act 1965 and the Control of Plants Act 1993, which are administered by the National Parks Board.

Transshipment-controlled items consist of certain food only viz. eggs, any meat or meat product, and any fish or fish product. The definition may be extended by the Minister to any other food or any agri-food production input through an order in the *Gazette*.

Export-controlled items are either any transshipment-controlled item or rice.

Clause 43 defines the scope of the application of Part 3. Part 3 does not apply to controlled items imported, exported or transhipped before Part 3 comes into force.

Next, all imports of import-controlled items are subject to the provisions of Part 3 with a few exceptions. The exceptions relate to matters which are not significant in terms of threat to public health. For example, ship’s or aircraft’s

stores which are for the use of passengers or crew, and food imported for private consumption.

Clause 44 defines what imported for private consumption means.

Food (other than a food additive as such) or any prepacked food additive preparation of a particular kind or different kinds is taken to have been imported for private consumption if on the particular occasion of its bringing into Singapore, all the following conditions are met:

- (a) the food or prepacked food additive preparation has not been imported as a trade sample or for use in any food business;
- (b) the food or prepacked food additive preparation has not been imported for the purpose of donating it to other persons in Singapore;
- (c) the food or prepacked food additive preparation does not exceed the maximum quantity threshold;
- (d) the food or prepacked food additive preparation is imported by not more than one individual.

The quantity threshold is —

- (a) a total weight of not more than 15 kilograms (inclusive of any eggs), or another total volume or total weight that is prescribed at the time of that occasion by the Minister by subsidiary legislation; or
- (b) if any of the food is eggs — a clutch of not more than 30 eggs, or another number of eggs that is prescribed at the time of that occasion by the Minister by subsidiary legislation.

However, some foods present a greater risk to consumers and public health. These are classified as foods of higher regulatory concern. Even small quantity import of any food of higher regulatory concern must be done by a licensed importer and covered by a consignment permit, because these foods require specific food safety clearance and monitoring for specific hazards.

Examples of food of higher regulatory concern are any puffer fish, or any fish product wholly or partially derived from puffer fish, any live fertilised or embryonated egg, any raw or unpasteurised liquid milk, any edible insect-like species which is not catalogued, and any novel food in respect of which pre-market approval under Part 5 has not been granted.

Division 2 of Part 3 lists trading activities which are offences.

As in all other Parts of the Bill, the offences are divided generally into those which have a mental element and attract a higher punishment upon conviction, and those which are “strict liability”, where the prosecution is only required to prove the physical elements of the offence in order for the defendant to be found guilty.

The strict liability offences attract a lower punishment on conviction, for this reason.

Part 3 contains several proposed strict liability offences as there is a strong public interest in managing imported food safety risks appropriately, and in preventing foodborne illness which is a serious and costly public health and safety issue. Strict liability offences have been retained also because it can be reasonably expected that the potential defendants for offences in Part 3 would be aware of their duties and obligations. Strict liability offences are not inconsistent with the presumption of innocence.

Penalties are also divided based on whether the offender is an individual or an entity, with a custodial punishment for individuals, and a higher maximum fine for offenders which are entities. There is also a stepping up of the maximum punishment for repeat offenders.

Clause 45 contains the offence of importing a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed, when the importer knows, or ought reasonably to know, that it is a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed, as the case may be.

Clause 46 is the strict liability offence involving importing of a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed.

What is a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed is decided by the Minister in exercise of the powers set out in clause 69. These are food, a food contact article or an animal feed the import of which is banned.

Clause 47 makes it an offence if a person imports an object or a thing which is an import-controlled item, when the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing is an import-controlled item subject to the provisions of Part 3, and the person does not hold —

- (a) a current licence to import that import-controlled item; and
- (b) a current import consignment permit for the consignment of that import-controlled item.

For example, a motorist attempting to smuggle, in concealed compartments in his or her vehicle, 37 kilograms of beef patties intended for a food business.

Food imported for private consumption is not subject to the provisions of Part 3; see clause 43.

It is however not an offence if the person is either exempt from clause 47 under clause 320 or 321 in relation to the import of that import-controlled item, or is a person on whose behalf an import licence holder is importing the import-controlled item.

Clause 48 is the strict liability offence involving the unlicensed import of an import-controlled item.

The offences in clauses 47 and 48 are not entirely new. They replace the commodity-specific offences as follows viz.:

- (a) section 7(4) of the Control of Plants Act 1993 for importing fresh fruits and vegetables without a licence under that Act;
- (b) section 8(3) of the Control of Plants Act 1993 for importing fresh fruits and vegetables without a permit under that Act;
- (c) section 5(2) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 for importing any meat product or fish product without a licence under that Act;
- (d) section 6(4) of the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 for contravening section 6(1)(a) of that Act involving any meat or meat product or any fish or fish product;
- (e) section 8(3) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 for importing any egg that is food without a licence under that Act.

The difference is that a breach of a licence condition or permit condition is decriminalised under clauses 47 and 48. Under the Bill, a breach of a licence condition or permit condition is instead the subject of regulatory action under clauses 83 and 84.

Clause 49 makes it an offence if a holder of a current import consignment permit imports a consignment comprising any import-controlled item and the consignment does not conform to the import consignment permit in any of the following ways, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the consignment is non-conforming in that way:

- (a) the maximum mass or weight of the import-controlled item;
- (b) the place outside Singapore from which the import-controlled item originates;
- (c) the composition, method of manufacture or production, grade or quality of the import-controlled item;
- (d) the import-controlled item having the approval of a specified foreign government of a particular foreign country or a foreign food authority of a specified foreign country.

Clause 49 does not apply if the import-controlled item is failing. That is covered by another clause.

Clause 50 is the strict liability offence involving importing of a non-conforming consignment of an import-controlled item. The prosecution

does not need to prove that the person charged knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the consignment is non-conforming.

For example, 2 tonnes of vegetables of a particular kind are found in a consignment when brought into Singapore by a transporter contracted by the importer to transport the vegetables, where the consignment permit granted on application states only one tonne of that vegetable.

Clause 51 is an offence similar to that in clause 47 except that clause 51 concerns exporting and export-controlled items. Clause 51 makes it an offence for a person to export an object or a thing which is an export-controlled item when the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing is an export-controlled item, and the person is not a holder of a current licence to export and an export consignment permit for that export-controlled item or is not a person on whose behalf a licensed exporter is exporting the export-controlled item.

It is also not an offence if the person is exempt from this clause under clause 320 or 321 in relation to the export of that export-controlled item.

Clause 52 is the strict liability offence involving unlicensed export of an export-controlled item.

Clause 53 contains an offence similar to that in clause 49 except that it relates to exporting a non-conforming consignment of export-controlled items. Clause 53 makes it an offence if a holder of a current export consignment permit exports a consignment comprising any export-controlled item and the consignment does not conform to the export consignment permit in any of the following ways, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the consignment is non-conforming in that way:

- (a) the maximum mass or weight of the export-controlled item;
- (b) the place outside Singapore to which the export-controlled item is to be exported;
- (c) the composition, method of manufacture or production, grade or quality of the export-controlled item;
- (d) the export-controlled item having the approval of the Agency, a foreign government or foreign food authority as is required by any inspection scheme regulations.

Clause 53 does not apply to an export-controlled item which is failing because there is another offence.

Clause 54 is the strict liability offence involving exporting of a non-conforming consignment of an export-controlled item.

Clause 55 makes it an offence for a person to tranship a consignment comprising any transshipment-controlled item when the person knows, or ought



reasonably to know, that the consignment comprises the transshipment-controlled item, and the person is not granted a transshipment consignment permit covering the particular consignment.

It is not an offence if the person is exempt from clause 55 under clause 320 or 321 in relation to the transshipment of that consignment.

Clause 56 is the strict liability offence involving transshipment of a consignment comprising any transshipment-controlled item without a transshipment consignment permit covering the particular consignment.

Clause 57 makes it an offence for a person to enter an object or a thing for export or transshipment, or to export or transship an object or a thing, if that object or thing needs an inspection advice under the Bill, and no such inspection advice has been issued in respect of the object or thing, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing.

An object or a thing is entered for export or transshipment if, in the course of the preparation or production of the object or thing for export or transshipment, the object or thing is presented to, or information about the object or thing is given to, an officer of customs, or an authorised officer, acting for the purpose of the officer exercising a power or performing a function in relation to the object or thing under any written law regulating the export or transshipment of goods.

Clause 58 is the strict liability offence involving entering an object or a thing for export or transshipment, or exporting or transshipping an object or a thing, being an object or a thing that needs an inspection advice under the Bill, where no such inspection advice has been issued in respect of the object or thing.

Clauses 59 to 66 are offences which deal with import-controlled items only.

Clause 59 sets out the offence of importing a controlled item knowing it does not meet applicable standards, or is not covered by a recognised foreign government certificate where the inspection scheme regulations identify the import-controlled item as one that, if imported, must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate, and the person importing knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the import-controlled item does not meet an applicable standard or is not covered by the requisite recognised foreign government certificate.

A higher penalty is prescribed if the prosecution proves that the controlled item imported was unsafe food or was a type of regulated food contact article that had or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe, and the defendant knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that those circumstances applied with respect to the import-controlled item when imported.

Clause 60 is the strict liability offence of clause 59. This involves importing a controlled item which does not meet applicable standards or is not covered by a recognised foreign government certificate where the inspection scheme regulations identify the import-controlled item as one that, if imported, must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate.

For example, importing of any food product without labelling of allergens, which is a present requirement and will continue to be required under regulations made under the Bill.

Similarly, a higher penalty is prescribed if the prosecution proves that the controlled item imported was unsafe food, or was a type of regulated food contact article that had or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe.

For example, importing of vegetables found to contain the pesticide residue carbofuran, at levels with acute toxicity concerns.

Clause 61 contains an offence of intentionally dealing with an imported object or thing which is examinable matter without the prior approval of an authorised officer, when the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing was imported, and that an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing.

The term “deal with” in relation to any thing is defined in clause 3(1) to non-exhaustively refer to moving, altering or interfering with the thing in any physical manner, or supplying the thing or otherwise entering into a transaction whereby the ownership of the thing, or of any beneficial interest in the thing, passes from one person to another.

Clause 62 is an offence of intentionally dealing with an imported object or thing which is examinable matter without the prior approval of an authorised officer, when an inspection advice has not been issued in respect of the object or thing.

Clause 63 contains the offence of intentionally dealing with an import-controlled item which has been identified in an inspection advice as failing, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the import-controlled item was imported and has been identified in an inspection advice as failing, and the person does not have the approval of an authorised officer to deal with the import-controlled item in that manner.

Clause 64 makes it an offence for a person to have in possession an imported object or thing knowing that it is being or is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object or thing is imported and is a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed.

Clause 42(1) defines what is “failing”. This refers to any examinable matter that, as a result of an inspection, or inspection and analysis, under any inspection scheme regulations, is found to be one of the following:

- (a) a food that —
  - (i) does not meet an applicable standard (which includes a labelling requirement) for that food;
  - (ii) is unsuitable food, unsafe food or a defined food; or
  - (iii) if imported, is not covered by a recognised foreign government certificate where the inspection scheme regulations identify the food as one that, if imported, must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate;
- (b) a regulated food contact article that does not meet an applicable standard for that regulated food contact article;
- (c) an animal feed that does not meet an applicable standard for that animal feed, or is not fit for purpose;
- (d) an agri-food production input that does not meet an applicable standard for that agri-food production input;
- (e) a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed.

Clause 42(1) defines “applicable standard” in relation to the different controlled items. Where food is concerned, the definition extends beyond the composition or nature of food and includes labelling requirements. The standard also covers the handling and method of handling of food, so that there can be effective food safety controls in place throughout the supply chain (see clause 309).

Clause 65 makes it an offence if a person has in possession any object or thing knowing that it is being or is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply, when the object or thing is an import-controlled item that was imported and does not meet an applicable standard or has been identified in an inspection advice as failing, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the import-controlled item was imported and does not meet an applicable standard or has been identified in an inspection advice as failing.

A higher penalty is prescribed if the prosecution proves that the controlled item imported was unsafe food, was a type of regulated food contact article that had or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe, or was an animal feed not fit for purpose, and the defendant knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that those circumstances applied with respect to the import-controlled item.

Unlike clauses 59 and 60, the defendant in clause 65 is not limited to the importer and may extend to persons who acquire items from importers.

However, clause 65 does not extend to a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed and does not apply if the person had the approval of an authorised officer to possess the import-controlled item in that manner.

Clause 66 provides that an offence is committed where a person has in possession any import-controlled item knowing that it is being or is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply, and the person knows or ought reasonably to know that the import-controlled item was imported, and the import-controlled item does not meet an applicable standard or has been identified in an inspection advice as failing.

A higher penalty is prescribed if the prosecution proves that the controlled item imported was unsafe food or was a type of regulated food contact article that had or may have contaminated any food or caused or may have caused food to no longer be safe.

However, clause 66 does not extend to a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed and does not apply if the person had the approval of an authorised officer to possess the import-controlled item in that manner.

Clause 67 sets out a defence with respect to an offence under Part 3, under which the defendant has to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

- (a) the commission of the offence was due to an act or omission of another person (who is not an employee, agent or officer of the defendant), or an accident or some other cause outside the defendant's control; and
- (b) the defendant took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence by the defendant, or by another person under the defendant's control.

The general defence in section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 is disappplied so as to avoid legal confusion.

Clause 68 contains a rebuttable presumption as to possession of food for the purpose of supply, and knowledge that the food is likely to be supplied or offered or displayed for supply. The presumption does not extend to other controlled items.

Division 5 of Part 3 contains 7 clauses relating to prohibitions, the creation of inspection schemes for border checks of controlled items and the giving of inspection advice and holding orders.

Clause 69 empowers the Minister to declare, by an order in the *Gazette*, a prohibited food, a prohibited food contact article or a prohibited animal feed, which are things which are prohibited from import.

Under clause 69(1), the Minister may prohibit the import of a food, or a brand of food, because the Minister is satisfied that there is some uncertainty or concern associated with the food and that categorising it as prohibited food will assist in managing the risk that the food poses to human health in Singapore.

The uncertainty or concern is about the risk to the safety and suitability of the food, in light of information about —

- (a) the nature of the food or the source from which it is derived;
- (b) the hazards associated with the food;
- (c) the measures applied during the manufacturing or handling of the food, or during its production if the food is primary produce;
- (d) the likelihood of a particular contaminant being present in the food at a level determined as unacceptable in accordance with any applicable standard or any international standard, or any science-based criteria; or
- (e) the likelihood that the food is unsafe or unsuitable.

The Minister does not need to be satisfied in every case that the food is actually unsafe or unsuitable.

Under clause 69(2), the Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, prohibit the import of a regulated food contact article because the Minister is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that it is particularly dangerous to use with food because of its construction.

For example, a container that is made up of materials from which harmful chemicals are likely to migrate into the food at quantities which could endanger human health, whenever the container is used to hold hot and greasy food over short contact times, may be prescribed as a prohibited food contact article.

Finally, clause 69(3) empowers the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, to prohibit the import of an animal feed, or a brand of animal feed, because the Minister is satisfied that there is some uncertainty or concern associated with the animal feed and that if the animal feed did enter or continue to enter Singapore on import, it may have a significant adverse impact on any primary production activity in Singapore.

The uncertainty or concern must be about the fitness for purpose of the animal feed, or brand of animal feed, in light of information about —

- (a) the nature of the animal feed or the source from which it is derived;
- (b) the hazards associated with the animal feed;

- (c) the measures applied during the manufacturing or handling of the animal feed, or during its cultivation if the animal feed is a live animal;
- (d) the likelihood that the animal feed contains a substance that is proscribed under the animal feed regulations; or
- (e) the potential adverse impact to primary production activity in Singapore as a result of food producing animals consuming such animal feed.

Clause 70 confers a power on the Agency to ban the import of any live food producing animal of a particular kind from a particular country or place outside Singapore where it is necessary to alleviate or minimise any risk of the death of, or a serious physical harm to, any individual who might later consume in Singapore the animal, or any meat, meat product or fish product derived from such an animal.

A ban made under clause 70 may be in force for a period not exceeding 90 days (called the freeze period) unless earlier revoked. While the freeze period cannot exceed 90 days in the first instance, it may be renewed only once by the Agency for a further period not exceeding 30 days.

As the import of live animals and birds is licensed under the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Control of Plants Act 1993, or the Wildlife Act 1965, clause 70 provides that the ban must prevail over the provisions of those other Acts. Consequential and related amendments to those other Acts are made in Part 17 for this reason.

Clause 71 empowers the Agency, with the approval of the Minister, to make regulations establishing one or more inspection schemes applicable to any controlled item. The regulations may —

- (a) identify controlled items of particular kinds as controlled items of a kind that if imported, exported or transhipped must be inspected, or inspected and analysed;
- (b) identify controlled items of particular kinds as controlled items that if imported, exported or transhipped must be covered by a recognised foreign government certificate;
- (c) classify controlled items of particular kinds into particular categories;
- (d) prescribe conditions in relation to the import, export or transhipment of controlled items, or the import from or export to a specified country of controlled items, that are required to be complied with in respect of matters or things related to the controlled items themselves;
- (e) specify circumstances in which a controlled item is taken to be failing;

- (f) specify circumstances in which a controlled item is to be taken to be failing because of its relationship to another controlled item that is found to be failing;
- (g) set out the circumstances and manner in which a controlled item, other than a controlled item that is the subject of a holding order, is to be held pending the outcome of an inspection, or inspection and analysis; and
- (h) require the keeping and retention of records relevant to monitoring or evaluating compliance with the requirements of Part 3 for a period prescribed in the regulations.

Clause 72 is about the giving of inspection advice concerning consignments as part of border checks after checks are completed. After a controlled item that is required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, upon entering Singapore or before leaving Singapore, has been so inspected, or inspected and analysed, an authorised officer or a food inspector must issue an inspection advice in writing —

- (a) to the owner of the controlled item; and
- (b) if the controlled item is under customs control — to the person having possession of the controlled item at the time.

The inspection advice has to state —

- (a) whether the whole or a part of the controlled item dealt with in the advice is identified as failing; or
- (b) whether the consignment comprising the controlled item is identified as not conforming to any identifying detail of the consignment that is stated in the consignment permit.

In either case, the inspection advice must state how the failing controlled item or non-conforming consignment is to be dealt with.

If a consignment is failing, the relevant inspection advice will be given and if an offence is disclosed, this may be followed up with enforcement action.

The results of the border checks may provide information to decide if a recall to remove the failed controlled item from the domestic market or subsequent consignments from the same source is necessary.

Clause 73 provides that an authorised officer or a food inspector may issue holding orders (this would usually be done electronically) to hold controlled items or non-conforming consignments until the analysis required under the inspection scheme regulations has been completed.

Where an earlier consignment of controlled items from a source has been determined to be failing, a holding order may also be issued with respect of any controlled item of that same kind that is or is to be imported into Singapore after the making of the holding order from the same source. This is because where there

is a known or suspected food safety issue with an imported food, it is critical that the Agency must be able to temporarily suspend the further import or distribution of the affected food, identify importers of the unsafe food and where in the supply chain unsafe food has been distributed and work cooperatively and effectively with other relevant public sector agencies and the industry to manage the food safety risk and communicate that risk to the general public.

Consignments will only be cleared upon passing of the Agency's testing. If the consignments pass inspection and testing, authorised officers will issue the inspection advice under clause 72 to inform importers on the outcome of the inspection and analysis.

Clause 74 provides for the treatment, destruction or re-export of failing controlled items, whether for import, export or transshipment. A failed consignment or item could be ordered for destruction in a manner specified in the inspection advice (which reflects the manner agreed between the owner and the Agency) or for re-export from Singapore.

Clause 75 is about foreign government certificates.

Division 6 of Part 3 consists of 10 clauses relating to licensing of traders.

Clause 76 outlines the types of licences and permits which may be granted under Part 3 by the Agency.

There are 2 renewable licences which the Agency may grant under Part 3:

- (a) to import in the course of business an import-controlled item stated in the licence;
- (b) to export in the course of business an export-controlled item stated in the licence.

These licences replace the commodity-specific licences to import and export meat and fish, and to import fresh fruits and vegetables, under the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 and the Control of Plants Act 1993, respectively.

There are also 3 types of consignment permits which the Agency may grant under Part 3. These are non-renewable and are as follows:

- (a) an import consignment permit for each consignment of import-controlled items stated in the permit;
- (b) an export consignment permit for each consignment of export-controlled items stated in the permit;
- (c) a transshipment consignment permit for each consignment of transshipment-controlled items that is stated in the permit.

These permits replace the commodity-specific licence to import and export eggs under the Animals and Birds Act 1965, and the commodity-specific permits to



import and export meat and fish and to import fresh fruits and vegetables, under the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 and the Control of Plants Act 1993, respectively.

Clause 77 incorporates the general licensing procedures in Division 4 of Part 14 for the purposes of application for a licence or consignment permit that may be granted under Part 3.

Clause 78 outlines the criteria for the grant and renewal of any licence to import or export-controlled items in the course of business or for imposing licence conditions or modifying a condition of the licence.

Among the factors the Agency is empowered to have regard to is whether the applicant for the licence or licence renewal, or licensee, or an associate of the applicant or licensee, is or was disqualified by clause 298 from holding the licence applied for.

A person is disqualified from holding a licence under Part 3 when the person's previous licence under Part 3 is revoked. An associate is defined in clause 17.

Clause 79 outlines the criteria for the grant of an import consignment permit, an export consignment permit and a transshipment consignment permit.

Clause 80 outlines conditions which may be imposed on a licence or consignment permit granted under Part 3.

Clause 81 deals with how long a licence granted under Part 3 may be in force. The maximum validity of such a licence is 5 years. The validity of an import consignment permit, an export consignment permit and a transshipment consignment permit is also covered by clause 81.

Clause 82 provides the Agency with power to unilaterally modify licence conditions. The steps in doing so are set out in the general licensing procedures in Division 4 of Part 14, and these are incorporated by clause 82.

Clause 83 sets out the grounds that the Agency can rely on to take regulatory action concerning a holder of a licence granted under Part 3. The procedure that must be followed when taking regulatory action is set out in Division 4 of Part 14.

Some defaults (like breach of licence conditions) which are today offences, are decriminalised, and licensees may face a regulatory sanction instead under clause 83.

Regulatory action is not a criminal proceeding for an offence committed. Regulatory action is by the Agency, from whom the privilege to hold the licence is granted, and encompasses at the most extreme, the revocation of the licence granted. The Agency may respond to a licensee's defaults in other less extreme ways in lieu of licence revocation, such as —

- (a) suspend (in whole or in part) the licence for not more than 6 months;

- (b) direct the licensed importer or licensed exporter to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing that is specified in a direction to rectify any contravention or non-compliance that constitutes the ground for regulatory action;
- (c) modify any condition of the licence; or
- (d) direct the licensed importer or licensed exporter to pay, within a period specified in a direction, a financial penalty of any amount that the Agency thinks fit, but not exceeding \$5,000 for each contravention of or failure to comply with any specified matter or for each other ground of regulatory action.

Clause 84 sets out the grounds that the Agency can rely on to take regulatory action concerning an import consignment permit, an export consignment permit and a transshipment consignment permit. The procedure that must be followed when taking regulatory action is set out in Division 4 of Part 14.

Clause 85 deals with the effect of revocation, or suspension, etc., of a licence or permit granted under this Part.

Division 7 of Part 3 consists of 4 clauses, which impose requirements to ensure that imported food and other import-controlled items are traceable and can be recalled efficiently and effectively.

Today, there are no traceability requirements even though food recalls or food contact article recalls may be directed by the Director-General, Food Administration to be carried out by importers or food businesses under section 10F of the Sale of Food Act 1973. As not all importers that only operate at the border have effective traceability systems, there are challenges with confirming with these importers if they have sourced implicated lots of the food and if they have, where this food has been distributed to.

Clause 86 provides that Division 7 applies only to licensed importers, who import import-controlled items except agri-food production inputs. These are —

- (a) any food;
- (b) any prepacked food additive preparation;
- (c) any regulated food contact article; and
- (d) any animal feed.

Division 7 also only applies to import of any of the above import-controlled items made on or after the date of commencement of the Division.

Clause 87 outlines the information that a licensed importer must keep or have ready access to and for how long.

The information a licensed importer is required to keep or have ready access to is information which will enable the importer to trace food or the other import-controlled items one step backwards and one step forwards. The information relating to the food or an import-controlled item imported into Singapore must be retained for a period prescribed in regulations made under the Bill.

Contravention of any requirement in clause 87 is a strict liability offence, as records may be required during a food safety incident, and the consequences of not retaining the records may be severe.

Clause 88 provides that a licensed importer must have procedures and accurate information for identifying and locating imported import-controlled items to which Division 7 applies, and for tracing imported import-controlled items so that the imported controlled item can be traced one step backwards and one step forwards. The information must also be sufficient to allow an effective recall to be carried out under a direction given under Part 7.

This means that for every consignment of food imported, the importer must have the ability to identify the immediate supplier and the immediate customer.

Under clause 88, a licensed importer has to conduct simulations or other tests of those procedures if required by the Agency. A licensed importer must also establish and use the procedures for recalling —

- (a) food (other than a food additive as such) or any prepacked food additive preparation supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be unsafe or unsuitable or whose safety or suitability is in doubt;
- (b) regulated food contact articles supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be or might be dangerous to use with food; or
- (c) animal feed supplied in Singapore that the importer considers to be not fit for purpose or whose fitness for purpose is in doubt.

If the licensed importer decides to recall any imported import-controlled item on the ground that —

- (a) the food (other than a food additive as such) or any prepacked food additive preparation is or might be unsafe or unsuitable;
- (b) the regulated food contact article is or might be dangerous to use with food; or
- (c) the animal feed is or might be not fit for purpose,

the importer has to notify the Agency as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after making the decision, about the import-controlled item affected by the recall, and the reason for the recall.

Clause 89 makes it an offence for failing to provide information or failing to provide information in a timely manner when requested to do so by a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector about the matters in clause 87(1). A licensed importer is bound to state truly what the licensed importer is requested, and must give information in a readily accessible format, and within 24 hours after the request, or within any reasonable shorter period specified by the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be. This is to allow an assessment of risk to be efficiently and effectively undertaken in circumstances where the records relate to food that may pose a serious risk to human health.

It may be vital that the Agency can quickly obtain information from importers in order to prevent unsafe or unsuitable food from entering the domestic supply chain, and so the offence is intended to deter persons refusing or failing to provide information needed to prevent a serious risk to human health. For this reason, an individual would not be able to rely on the privilege against self-incrimination to not disclose the required information. See clause 259.

Any delay in confirming importers of a potentially unsafe food and its distribution in the supply chain, means there will be a delay in taking appropriate risk management action, such as a food recall. This increases the likelihood that more consumers could become ill.

## PART 4

### FOOD BUSINESSES

Food presents a major risk to the health of humans because of the potential of food to transfer harmful organisms and contaminants to humans. It is vital that the Bill contains an efficient and effective regulatory regime that manages domestic food safety and suitability issues and requires persons who deal with food to take responsibility for the safety and suitability of food.

Part 4 therefore continues to provide for the licensing of proprietors of food businesses. However, there are key changes in the regulatory framework and approach from present law.

The continual need for efficient regulation in the face of fast-evolving business practices and models, and food production and handling technology, needs to be balanced by minimising compliance costs. Part 4 therefore adopts a risk-based approach and requires licences to be taken out only by proprietors of the food businesses specified in the First Schedule to the Bill as licensable food businesses. See clause 6.

Part 4 regulates both retail and non-retail food businesses and primary production activities, in a single framework. It is important to ensure that regulatory requirements are applied consistently and in a coordinated way across food business sectors and groups, depending on factors such as risk and

science-based standards. This is unlike the present law, which regulates these sectors under 5 separate Acts viz. the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Control of Plants Act 1993, the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, the Fisheries Act 1966 and the Sale of Food Act 1973. Under Part 4, food businesses which are licensable should not have to take out so many licences.

Part 4 also moves away from the traditional food safety philosophy, which emphasises end-point inspection of the food or detection of point-in-time defaults in food handling. In lieu of prescriptive food regulation, Part 4 moves more towards emphasising preventative measures devised by the food business licensees themselves for ensuring food safety and hygiene along the licensee's entire food handling process.

Two new regulatory tools are made mandatory in Part 4 viz. a farm management plan for every food business licensee undertaking primary production activities, and a food control plan for licensable food businesses with more stringent requirements expected of some licensable food businesses given the higher risk assessment by the Agency. These terms are relevant in clause 91 (applications for or to renew food business licences).

Under this new approach, it is the food business licensee itself that designs and implements the farm management plan or food control plan unique to the requirements of that particular business, and carries the responsibility for ensuring that documented processes in the plan are followed. See more details under clause 93.

The farm management plan or food control plan has to be specifically tailored to the specific food business and accepted by the Agency. Non-compliance with the farm management plan or food control plan accepted by the Agency is a ground for regulatory action.

This object is to place greater responsibility on licensees to have in place enough preventative measures which minimise risks and assure the safety and suitability of the food in their production process.

The new regulatory tools will not completely replace existing food hygiene or food safety regulations. For example, while the plans have to detail how hygienic and safe conditions for the food or primary produce are to be maintained by the specific licensee, and must contain details about the provision of training for the licensee's staff for this purpose, the regulations made under the Bill will set baseline requirements applicable to all food businesses.

Clause 90 contains definitions of terms which are used exclusively or mainly in Part 4.

Division 2 of Part 4 contains provisions on the licensing of licensable food businesses, set out in the First Schedule. The scheme here replaces the 2 business licensing schemes in the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 and the Sale of

Food Act 1973 which are divided along retail and non-retail lines. Primary production activities to produce food will also be folded within Part 4, replacing the commodity-specific licensing schemes dispersed between the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Control of Plants Act 1993 and the Fisheries Act 1966, respectively. Part 17 contains consequential and related amendments to those Acts to carve out primary production activities from regulation under those Acts.

Clause 91 incorporates the general licensing procedures in Division 4 of Part 14 for the purposes of application for a food licence that may be granted by the Agency under Part 4.

Clause 92 outlines the criteria for the grant and renewal of any food business licence or for imposing licence conditions or modifying a condition of a food business licence.

Among the factors the Agency is empowered to have regard to is whether the applicant for the food business licence or licence renewal, or food business licensee, or an associate of the applicant or licensee, is or was disqualified by clause 298 from holding the licence applied for.

A person is disqualified from holding a licence under Part 4 when the person's previous licence under Part 4 is revoked. An associate is defined in clause 17.

Clause 93 outlines conditions which may be imposed on a food business licence. Among the new conditions imposed on a food business licensee is that of preparing itself to deal with any disruptive event occurring, and to prevent any intentional engaging in conduct, by any individual, so as to jeopardise the safety of food or primary produce which is manufactured, prepared or otherwise handled or produced by the licensee.

A food business licensee is also subject to a licence condition to carry on the licensable food business authorised by the licence in accordance with an accepted farm management plan or an accepted food control plan.

The farm management plan or food control plan has to identify significant food safety hazards to that business and state how those hazards are to be monitored and controlled. The licensee has also to detail in its farm management plan or food control plan how to maintain hygienic and safe conditions for primary production or food handling and include provisions on the training of staff for this purpose. In order to maintain public confidence in this new approach which contains elements of self-regulation, and as an aid to the licensee concerned in designing and complying with the plan, there may be included a need for regular audits by the licensee of its operations.

Clause 94 deals with how long a food business licence granted under Part 4 may be in force. The maximum validity of such a licence is 5 years.

Clause 95 provides the Agency with power to unilaterally modify food business licence conditions. The steps in doing so are set out in the general

licensing procedures in Division 4 of Part 14, and these are incorporated by clause 95.

Clause 96 sets out the grounds that the Agency can rely on to take regulatory action concerning a holder of a licence granted under Part 4. The procedure that must be followed when taking regulatory action is set out in Division 4 of Part 14.

Some defaults (like breach of licence conditions) which are today offences, are decriminalised, and licensees may face a regulatory sanction instead under clause 96.

Regulatory action is not a criminal proceeding for an offence committed. Regulatory action is by the Agency, from whom the privilege to hold the licence is granted, and encompasses at the most extreme, the revocation of the licence granted. The Agency may respond to a food business licensee's defaults in other less extreme ways in lieu of licence revocation, such as —

- (a) suspend (in whole or in part) the licence for not more than 6 months;
- (b) direct the food business licensee to do, or to refrain from doing, such things as are specified in a direction to rectify any contravention or non-compliance that constitutes the ground for regulatory action;
- (c) modify any condition of the licence; or
- (d) direct the food business licensee to pay, within a period specified in a direction, a financial penalty of any amount that the Agency thinks fit, but not exceeding \$5,000 for each contravention of or failure to comply with any specified matter or for each other ground of regulatory action.

Clause 97 deals with the effect of revocation, or suspension, etc., of a food business licence.

Division 3 of Part 4 consists of 4 clauses, which impose requirements to ensure that selected food business licensees adopt measures that ensure their food products are traceable and can be recalled efficiently and effectively.

Today, there are no traceability requirements even though food recalls or food contact article recalls may be directed by the Director-General, Food Administration to be carried out by food businesses under section 10F of the Sale of Food Act 1973. As not all food businesses today have effective traceability systems, there are challenges with confirming with these food businesses if they have produced or distributed implicated lots of the food and if they have, where this food has been distributed to.

Clause 98 provides that Division 3 applies only to a licensable food business that is prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, as subject to the Division (called the relevant food business licensee).

Clause 99 outlines the information that a relevant food business licensee must keep or have ready access to and for how long.

The information a relevant food business licensee is required to keep or have ready access to is information which will enable the licensee to trace food one step backwards and one step forwards. The information relating to the food must be retained for a period prescribed in regulations made under the Bill.

Contravention of any requirement in clause 99 is a strict liability offence, as records may be required during a food safety incident, and the consequences of not retaining the records may be severe.

Clause 100 provides that a relevant food business licensee must have procedures and accurate information for identifying and locating food, and for tracing food so that the food can be traced one step backwards and one step forwards. The information must also be sufficient to allow an effective recall to be carried out under a direction given under Part 7.

This means that for every food supplied, the relevant food business licensee must have the ability to identify the immediate supplier and the immediate customer.

Under clause 100, a relevant food business licensee has to conduct simulations or other tests of those procedures if required by the Agency.

If the relevant food business licensee decides to recall any food on the ground that the food is or might be unsafe or unsuitable, the food business licensee has to notify the Agency as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after making the decision, about the food affected by the recall, and the reason for the recall.

Clause 101 makes it an offence for failing to provide information or failing to provide information within a specified time when requested to do so by an authorised officer or a food inspector about the matters in clause 99(1). A relevant food business licensee is bound to state truly what the food business licensee is requested, and must give information in a readily accessible format, and within 24 hours after the request, or within any reasonable shorter period specified by the authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be. This is to allow an assessment of risk to be efficiently and effectively undertaken in circumstances where the records relate to food that may pose a serious risk to human health.

It may be vital that the Agency can quickly obtain information from food business licensees in order to prevent unsafe or unsuitable food from entering or further moving along the domestic supply chain, and so the offence is intended to deter persons refusing or failing to provide information needed to prevent a serious risk to human health. For this reason, an individual would not be able to rely on the privilege against self-incrimination to not disclose the required information. See clause 259.



Division 4 of Part 4 sets out 3 principal offences relating to the carrying on of a food business.

Clause 102 makes it an offence if a person, being an owner or an occupier of any premises, uses, or allows the premises to be used, to carry on a licensable food business, and the person is not a holder of a current food business licence to carry on that licensable food business at those premises or is not exempt under clause 320 or 321 from the requirement to hold a licence.

Clause 103 contains offences which may be committed by a food business licensee in connection with food workers.

A “food worker” is defined in clause 3(1) to mean an individual who is or is to be employed by, or works or is required to work with or for, a proprietor of a food business in any capacity involving any of the following activities in the course of the operations of the food business:

- (a) manufacturing food;
- (b) preparing food;
- (c) dishing up or plating (and not merely serving) food;
- (d) any other activity that is prescribed by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, for the purposes of the Bill.

As defined, a driver delivering ready-to-eat food and a waiter or waitress or cashier is not automatically a food worker. These may be included in future where there is a need, by way of a ministerial order.

It is an offence if the food business licensee for a licensable food business causes or allows an individual to carry out any work as a food worker in the course of the operations of the licensable food business and the individual is not registered as a food worker, generally or in respect of that licensable food business, and the food business licensee knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the individual is not registered as a food worker, generally or in respect of that licensable food business.

Where the food business licensee is a sole proprietor like a stall-holder running his or her own licensable food business, it is also an offence if the food business licensee carries out any work as a food worker in the course of the operations of the licensable food business and he or she is not registered as a food worker, generally or in respect of that licensable food business and he or she knows, or ought reasonably to know, that he or she is not registered as a food worker, generally or in respect of that licensable food business.

Clause 104 is an offence connected with a food business which is not a licensable food business specified in the First Schedule.

It is an offence for a proprietor of such a food business —

- (a) to engage in conduct, or cause or permit an individual to engage in conduct, in the course of carrying on the food business at any premises, which is prescribed in any regulations as prohibited conduct for that food business; or
- (b) to engage in conduct, or cause or permit an individual to engage in conduct, in certain circumstances in the course of carrying on the food business at any premises, which are prescribed in any regulations as disallowed circumstances for that food business.

An example of prohibited conduct would be the preparation for sale or supply of raw fish and it is envisaged that such activities will be prescribed in regulations made under Part 15.

## PART 5

### DEFINED FOOD AND PRE-MARKET APPROVAL

Clause 105 defines the expression “pre-market approval”. This is an approval granted by the Agency, on application, with respect to either a novel food or a genetically modified food for the food to be available for consumption by the general public in Singapore.

A pre-market approval with respect to a novel food or a genetically modified food may be granted after the Agency assesses the public health and safety considerations having regard to —

- (a) the potential for adverse effects in humans;
- (b) the composition or structure of the novel food or genetically modified food;
- (c) the process by which the novel food or genetically modified food has been prepared;
- (d) the source from which the novel food or genetically modified food is derived;
- (e) the likely patterns and levels of consumption of the novel food or genetically modified food; and
- (f) any other relevant matters.

Clause 106 sets out the offence of supplying defined food in Singapore when the person supplying knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the food is a defined food. It is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

Clause 107 sets out the offence of supplying defined food without a fault element in clause 106. This is a strict liability offence and attracts a lower maximum punishment. It is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

Clause 108 sets out a defence of due diligence for the offences in clauses 106 and 107.

Clause 109 provides for applications for pre-market approval.

Clause 110 deals with the grant of pre-market approval. The Agency may, at the request of an applicant for pre-market approval in respect of a novel food or a genetically modified food, grant the pre-market approval subject to an exclusive use condition.

A refusal by the Agency to grant pre-market approval is an appealable decision, and the unsuccessful applicant may appeal to the Minister against that refusal. Please see Part 12.

Clause 111 provides that a pre-market approval is valid until it is either cancelled under clause 112, or in the case of a novel food, it earlier ceases to be a novel food. There is no expiry date for a pre-market approval.

Clause 112 sets out the circumstances where a pre-market approval may be cancelled by the Agency. These circumstances can be one of the following:

- (a) the pre-market approval had been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (b) any condition of the pre-market approval is contravened or not complied with;
- (c) after the grant of the pre-market approval, there has been a material change to —
  - (i) the method by which the novel food or genetically modified food is manufactured, prepared, preserved, packaged or stored;  
or
  - (ii) any other information relating to the novel food or genetically modified food which was provided in connection with the application for the pre-market approval;
- (d) the public interest of Singapore requires the cancellation of the pre-market approval.

Due process needs to be observed before a pre-market approval is cancelled. A cancellation by the Agency of a pre-market approval is an appealable decision. The holder of the cancelled pre-market approval may appeal to the Minister against that cancellation. Please see Part 12.

Clause 113 provides for the transfer of pre-market approval, subject to the approval of the Agency.

## PART 6

### PROVISION OF NON-PACKAGED DRINKING WATER

Part 6 consists of 4 clauses which deal exclusively with the safety of drinking water supply in Singapore. The provisions incorporate with some changes the scheme in Part 9 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987.

Part 9 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 will be repealed by Part 17 as a consequence.

Drinking water in Part 6 refers to piped or non-packaged drinking water.

Clause 114 contains definitions of terms used specially in Part 6. The key terms are “drinking water producer”, “drinking water production” and “drinking water service”.

A drinking water producer is defined to mean a person who carries on drinking water production in the course of business. The Public Utilities Board (PUB) is an example of a drinking water producer.

Drinking water production refers to an undertaking that involves —

- (a) water harvesting or collection (including, for example, water storage by means of a tank or other infrastructure), recovering water from a water resource not supplied by a reticulated water system (like a reservoir), or extracting groundwater (such as via a well) or water from the air; and
- (b) treating or recycling the water harvested, collected, recovered or extracted to obtain drinking water.

As Part 6 applies to a drinking water producer who provides a drinking water service, clause 114 also defines “drinking water service”. This means a service that involves first, drinking water production and then, supplying to another the drinking water obtained from drinking water production by either or both methods, viz. —

- (a) by a reticulation system; or
- (b) in bulk.

This is unlike Part 9 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, which regulates the providers of drinking water to the public or a section of the public.

However, certain supply of drinking water is excluded from being a drinking water service. These include a supply of drinking water regulated under other written law, and the supply of drinking water solely to the PUB by another

drinking water producer e.g. desalination works under the Design-Build-Own-Operate scheme. However, if any of these drinking water producers supply the drinking water produced also to their employees or guests, then the drinking water producer will be treated as providing a drinking water service.

Finally, a supply to another of drinking water obtained directly from a drinking water producer without any altering of the drinking water is also not to be regarded as a drinking water service.

By clause 114(1), drinking water is not treated as altered if it is chilled or its temperature is otherwise changed, or the drinking water is fluoridated to the extent which is solely to promote good oral health, or where impurities enter drinking water solely from the passage of water in the network infrastructure. The application of water conditioning devices to drinking water, like alkaline water units, and purification devices (which may include filters, ultraviolet light or remineralisation units) are also not treated as altering the water.

Clause 115 provides that a drinking water producer providing a drinking water service commits an offence if any drinking water supplied in the course of providing that service is unwholesome.

However, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person charged took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence by the person charged and by any person under the control of the person charged.

Drinking water is defined as unwholesome unless the water conforms to the prescribed requirements in any Part 6 Regulations concerning the quality, purity and general appearance of drinking water, and does not, based on any prescribed methodology or assessment in any Part 6 Regulations, contain any contaminant, substance or organism, either alone or in any combination, at a concentration or value that constitutes a potential danger to human health.

The Agency's power to make Part 6 Regulations is outlined by clause 312.

Clause 116 empowers the Director-General, Food Administration to respond to incidents where drinking water supplied, or to be supplied, by a drinking water producer as part of a drinking water service is unwholesome, or may be the means by which an illness is being, or has been, or will be, transmitted.

The Director-General, Food Administration is also conferred power to avert, eliminate or minimise a risk, or a perceived risk, to human health among the general public in relation to drinking water.

The response will be in the form of written directions given to all or any of the following:

- (a) a proprietor of a food business, whether or not a food business licensee;

- (b) a drinking water producer providing a drinking water service;
- (c) a person who supplies drinking water that has been directly obtained from the PUB or another drinking water producer;
- (d) condominium management corporations, Town Councils and like persons who control, manage and administer any common property comprising any network infrastructure for distributing drinking water to occupants of premises in a subdivided building.

The written directions to any of the above persons can range from stopping certain activities or taking remedial steps to restore water quality, to requiring a drinking water producer providing a drinking water service to notify affected consumers that drinking water supplied by the drinking water producer as part of its drinking water service should be boiled, or treated in some other way, before drinking.

Clause 117 makes it an offence for a person given a direction under clause 116(1) to intentionally carry on an activity in contravention of the direction, to neglect or refuse to comply with the direction, or to fail to comply with a condition specified in the direction.

There is generally a right of appeal to the Minister under Part 12 against a clause 116 direction. Exception is made for circumstances where the direction must be complied with immediately.

## PART 7

### FOOD SAFETY AND SUSTAINABLE PRIMARY PRODUCTION MEASURES

Foodborne illness continues to be recognised as a serious and costly public health and safety issue for the Government, industry and society. Part 7 contains a variety of measures to reduce or swiftly address the incidence of foodborne illnesses to prevent or reduce the possibility of a serious danger to public health or to mitigate the adverse consequences of a serious danger to public health, and to effectively manage biosecurity risks that threaten adequate and sustainable food production in Singapore.

There is generally a right of appeal to the Minister under Part 12 against a Part 7 direction. Exception is made for circumstances where the direction must be complied with immediately.

Directions aimed at ensuring food safety are in Division 2 of Part 7 whereas directions aimed at protecting primary production activities from biosecurity threats and ensuring sustainable food production are in Division 3 of Part 7. The directions in Division 2 are presently set out in Part 2A of the Sale of Food Act 1973.

The powers in Part 7 are mostly vested in the Director-General, Food Administration instead of the Agency. The Director-General, Food Administration is required to exercise these powers subject to any general or special directions of the Agency; see clause 277(2). The powers in Part 7 are non-delegable.

Clause 118 therefore provides that the powers in Part 7 must either be exercised by the Director-General, Food Administration personally or by an authorised officer duly appointed by the Director-General, Food Administration to act in his or her name. This ensures direct accountability of the Director-General, Food Administration for the exercise of powers under Part 7.

Clause 119 lists whom may be given a direction under Part 7. It provides that the Director-General, Food Administration may give a direction, individually or as a class, to persons listed in clause 119(1) or (2).

Clause 120 details what must be contained in Part 7 directions. It makes clear that in making a Part 7 direction, it is not necessary for the Director-General, Food Administration to give any person who may be affected by the direction a chance to be heard before the direction is given. Clause 120 also provides that if a person to whom the Part 7 direction is given fails or refuses to comply with it, the Director-General, Food Administration is allowed to carry out the direction, and the Agency may recover the costs and expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out the direction as a debt due from the person to whom the direction was given.

Clause 121 provides for how Part 7 directions are to be given and specifies when the direction has effect. In addition to the modes prescribed in clause 121(2) or (3) or 304, a Part 7 direction may be given, if the name and address of the addressee is unknown, by affixing the direction to the premises concerned.

For a direction addressed to a class of persons, clause 121 provides that it is sufficiently given if it is given to each of the persons in the class as earlier provided, or if it is published both in a daily newspaper circulating in Singapore or in any other news media that, in the opinion of the Director-General, Food Administration, will be most likely to bring the direction to the attention of the persons who belong to the class, as well as on the Agency's official website.

Clause 122 provides for when a Part 7 direction takes effect and ceases to have effect.

Certain Part 7 directions are not appealable to the Minister in the first instance. These are Part 7 directions given because the Director-General, Food Administration has reasonable grounds to believe that the direction is necessary or desirable to prevent or control a threat (actual or imminent) to public health or an imminent risk of death or serious illness, or a significant threat to supply sources of food for the general public.

These comprise a movement control direction that stops the sale or supply or other distribution of material further in the food supply chain or stops the movement or relocation of animals, and a recall direction affecting food (not animal feed). They are non-appealable as the directions are given to address urgent situations.

Any of these directions takes effect upon its giving but expires on (and including) the 10th day after that date it takes effect. The period is fixed and matches the general time needed for scientific tests to be properly done to verify the true hazard or source of contamination, and whether the situation requires other agencies to be involved in the interest of public health or public safety, such as the Ministry of Health where a zoonotic disease that can spread between animals and humans is detected.

A fresh Part 7 direction may be given at the end of the 10 days if the situation warrants it. This subsequent direction is appealable under Part 12.

Clause 123 is a Part 7 direction relating to food premises. This direction may be given where the Director-General, Food Administration is satisfied (whether or not from the report of an authorised officer or a food inspector) that —

- (a) any food premises is in an unclean or unsanitary condition or in a state of disrepair;
- (b) the slaughtering of animals to produce meat or meat products or the meat processing is carried on in any food premises in a manner that makes the meat or meat products unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable;
- (c) primary production activity is undertaken in any food premises in a manner that makes the primary produce unsafe, or likely to be unsafe; or
- (d) any food is supplied or handled in the food premises in a manner that makes the food unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable.

The direction is to be given to a proprietor of the food premises concerned and may —

- (a) require that certain things be done within a specified time in the direction e.g. to take steps to put the food premises (including any machinery or equipment in it) into a clean and sanitary condition, or to change equipment or take specified steps to ensure that any food supplied or handled in the food premises is not unsafe and not unsuitable; and
- (b) direct that until the steps abovementioned are complied with, the proprietor of the food premises concerned must stop using those



premises, or a specified area of those premises, to carry out business or an activity specified in the direction, and must not remove, and must prevent and disallow the removal of, any food specified in the direction from those premises for any purpose except with the prior consent of an authorised officer or a food inspector.

A proprietor of a food business is defined in clause 3(1) to mean the person carrying on the food business, or if the latter person cannot be identified, the person in charge of the food business.

Clause 124 is a Part 7 direction concerning food vending machines and other equipment. The Director-General, Food Administration may give this direction if satisfied from the report of an authorised officer or a food inspector that —

- (a) a food vending machine is in such an unclean or unsanitary condition as to make any food obtained from the machine unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable; or
- (b) an equipment used in any slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products, any manufacturing of food, any primary production activity or the supply or handling of food, is in such an unclean or unsanitary condition or a state of disrepair, as to make the resulting meat or meat products, primary produce or food (as the case may be) unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable.

The direction is to be given to the owner of the food vending machine or equipment concerned, and may require that certain things be done within a specified time in the direction. For example, to put the food vending machine or other equipment into a clean and sanitary condition, which may include disinfection and until that is done, to stop using, and to prevent and disallow the use of, the food vending machine or equipment.

Clause 125 provides for a direction by the Director-General, Food Administration to impose movement controls under clause 126, or an obligation to declare information under clause 127. The Director-General, Food Administration may give either direction whether or not there is a report from an authorised officer or a food inspector.

The Director-General, Food Administration may give a direction under this clause if he or she reasonably suspects —

- (a) the existence of a hazard or a source of contamination that may adversely affect any primary produce or food, any live food producing animal or other thing that may become food, or any regulated food contact article; and
- (b) that a movement control direction under clause 126 or a declaration direction under clause 127 is necessary to minimise, manage or eradicate, over a limited period or over an indefinite period, the risk to

human health created by the suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination.

Clause 126 relates to movement control directions, which may impose movement or related controls to determine, minimise, manage or eradicate the risk to human health created by the suspected non-compliance or suspected source of contamination.

For example, the controls may restrict or prohibit the transport, supply, sale, production, or processing and handling of food or any thing that may become food, or require the taking of specific actions (such as sampling and testing) to determine the risk (if any) to human health or to minimise, manage or eradicate the risk to human health.

This provision is similar to the present section 10E of the Sale of Food Act 1973.

Clause 127 imposes an obligation to the addressee of the direction to give information to the Director-General, Food Administration.

This direction under clause 127 will not be necessary where traceability requirements in Parts 3 and 4 enable the necessary information to be obtained. The declaration direction is needed where the information lies with persons who are not licensed importers or food business licensees.

The declaration direction is not a power of investigation for use in ascertaining if an offence has been committed or a regulatory breach has occurred. The information must be needed because of the suspected hazard or suspected source of contamination, such as (but not limited to) a thing or an activity, a particular premises (where, for example, there may be contamination from the land or the environment), or a particular person, or a particular food business or a specified class of food businesses (where, for example, the contamination may have been caused by a human act or omission).

Clause 128 provides for a direction by the Director-General, Food Administration to recall food or regulated food contact articles. The direction may be given for the purpose of examining, rectifying, controlling or disposing of food or a regulated food contact article, after taking into account any relevant information or warnings about the food or regulated food contact article that the Director-General, Food Administration has received from any authorised officer or food inspector, or any international organisation or any foreign food authority, or if the Director-General, Food Administration has reasonable grounds to believe that the direction is necessary to prevent or reduce the likelihood of physical harm being caused to humans or to mitigate the adverse consequences of that likelihood.

This provision is similar to the present section 10F of the Sale of Food Act 1973.

The types of directions under clause 128 are to recall food that is unsafe or unsuitable or is a defined food, or the safety or suitability of which is in doubt, to recall a regulated food contact article that has, when used with food, caused food to be no longer safe or suitable, to recall a regulated food contact article if there is doubt about whether it may contaminate food, to recall food or a regulated food contact article that is mislabelled or incorrectly identified, and to take food or a regulated food contact article recalled to a specified place.

If a person to whom the recall direction is given fails or refuses to comply with it, the Director-General, Food Administration may take any reasonable steps necessary to ensure control of the food or regulated food contact article, and the Agency may thereafter recover the costs and expenses reasonably incurred in ensuring control of the food or regulated food contact article as a debt due from the person to whom the direction was given.

Clause 129 provides for a direction by the Director-General, Food Administration to manage and control food or regulated food contact articles. A direction under this clause may be given where the Director-General, Food Administration reasonably believes that food or a regulated food contact article that is already the subject of a movement control direction under clause 126 is unsafe or unsuitable and further controls are required, or the Director-General, Food Administration has recalled food or a regulated food contact article under clause 128.

A direction under clause 129 may be about doing or not doing any of the following to the food or regulated food contact article, namely, condemning or destroying it, disposing of or re-exporting it, identifying it, processing and handling it or re-processing it, labelling or relabelling it, storing it, transporting it, examining, sampling or testing it, or advertising or selling it.

Clause 130 is a new direction aimed at the food worker, although it is currently applied in practice. The new direction is in lieu of imposing vocational controls on individuals who work as food workers. The direction only affects a food worker who works in a licensable food business. The provision seeks to improve over the present practice by targeting the individual food worker in default instead of affecting the entire licensable food business and every other food worker of the business in every instance.

Under clause 130, the direction can be given where the Director-General, Food Administration reasonably believes that there is or has been committed, in the course of the carrying on of a licensable food business, a contravention or non-compliance by an individual employed or engaged by a food business licensee as a food worker in the licensable food business or with an applicable requirement of this Bill relating to the handling of food intended for supply.

The purpose of a direction under clause 130 is limited —

- (a) to ensure the continued competence of a particular individual or particular individuals employed or engaged as a food worker or food workers in a licensable food business in handling food in such a way that does not makes the food unsafe or unsuitable, or likely to be unsafe or unsuitable; and
- (b) to minimise or prevent the future personal conduct of a particular individual or particular individuals, when employed or engaged as a food worker or food workers in a licensable food business, that makes or is likely to make the food unsafe or unsuitable.

The direction may be given either to the food business licensee who is a proprietor of the licensable food business where the default by the food worker occurred, or to the defaulting individual or any other individual then employed or engaged as a food worker by the food business licensee, or to all.

A direction under clause 130 may require a particular individual or particular individuals to do one or more of the following within a period stated in the direction:

- (a) to stop handling food in the course of the licensable food business unless he or she is diagnosed by a medical practitioner as not suffering from a prescribed infectious disease or other condition that is liable to render food handled as unsafe or unsuitable, or unless he or she is immunised against a prescribed infectious disease;
- (b) to undergo specified training or retraining in food safety and food handling, and be assessed as competent in each subject of the training or retraining;
- (c) to alter or improve the method of handling of food by that individual while in the course of the licensee's licensable food business;
- (d) to engage in conduct, or to refrain from engaging in conduct, specified in a direction relating to his or her personal hygiene and health practices when handling food as a food worker employed or engaged in a licensable food business. For example, not spitting, or wearing an attire or accessory for the purpose of protecting food that he or she handles against contamination (like gloves or a spit-guard) or ensuring that the individual is, or his or her clothing is kept, in a clean and sanitary condition.

A direction under clause 130 may also require the food business licensee concerned to do one or more of the following within a period stated in the direction:

- (a) to take specified steps to change or improve the method of handling food by food workers in the course of carrying on the licensee's licensable food business;
- (b) to stop one or more individuals handling food in the course of the licensee's licensable food business unless the individual is diagnosed or immunised as described above.

Under clause 131, the Director-General, Food Administration is empowered to give a direction about publishing a statement to the general public, or to a class of persons specified in the direction, for the purpose of protecting the public or class of persons. This provision is similar to the present section 10H of the Sale of Food Act 1973.

Under clause 131, the Director-General, Food Administration may specify the content of the publication such as the nature of the problem (including the reasons why the food or regulated food contact article is considered to be unsafe or unsuitable), the remedy to the problem, and preventative steps to prevent the problem from arising in the future. Statements published under clause 131 are protected by absolute privilege.

Clause 132 empowers the Agency to publish in Singapore a statement for the purpose of protecting human health or informing the general public. The statement may be about all or any of the following:

- (a) the safety or suitability of food or a regulated food contact article;
- (b) anything contained or implied in advertisements about food or a regulated food contact article, generally or in a particular advertisement, or in a class or classes of advertisements;
- (c) the performance or non-performance of any function or duty imposed on any person by any provision of the Bill.

The statement is protected by qualified privilege.

Under clause 133, a general preventative or corrective action direction by the Director-General, Food Administration may be given. Such a direction is about the taking of preventative or corrective action in respect of primary produce, food or regulated food contact articles that the Director-General, Food Administration reasonably believes is necessary (whether or not from the report of an authorised analyst or authorised officer) to ensure compliance with an applicable requirement of this Bill with respect to primary produce, food or regulated food contact articles.

Division 3 of Part 7 contains the newer set of Part 7 directions which the Director-General, Food Administration may give to deal with biosecurity threats so as to ensure sustainable food production.

Clause 134 provides for a direction corresponding to any of the directions mentioned in clauses 123, 124 and 125 except that these are to be given in relation to an animal feed and animal feed production.

Clause 135 is a direction to recall animal feed similar to clause 128 relating to food. The direction under clause 135 is for the purpose of examining, rectifying, controlling or disposing of any animal feed, after taking into account any relevant information or warnings about the animal feed being not fit for purpose that the Director-General, Food Administration has received from any authorised officer or food inspector, any international organisation or any foreign food authority.

The recall direction for animal feed may be given only if the Director-General, Food Administration has reasonable grounds to believe that the direction is necessary to prevent or reduce the possibility of a serious danger to the health of any food producing animals or to mitigate the adverse consequences of a serious danger to the health of any food producing animals.

Clause 136 is a corresponding direction to that in clause 129.

Clause 137 is about biosecurity directions. The Director-General, Food Administration may give a biosecurity direction if —

- (a) an event has happened or is happening, and has had or is having an adverse effect on the production of primary produce in any part of Singapore, or the health of food producing animals or to their habitats in any part of Singapore;
- (b) the event was or is being caused by, or may be or may have been caused by a biosecurity matter; and
- (c) it is necessary to exercise powers under this clause to mitigate or prevent a significant threat or likely significant threat to securing or maintaining consumer confidence in supply sources of safe and suitable food for the general public.

A biosecurity direction may require the addressee to take certain actions at stated premises and within a stated period of time. This may include —

- (a) directing primary food producers to take measures to prevent spread of disease e.g. movement restrictions of animals, vaccination of animals, isolation of new stocks before introduction into the farm or of sick animals;
- (b) stipulating that primary food producers must implement the appropriate mitigation measures should the farm's impact on the environment be observed to be not acceptable e.g. improving feeding practices, reducing stocking density; and

- (c) requiring proper management of waste and the implementation of environmental monitoring and management actions to mitigate impact from sea-based farms.

If the addressee is a food business licensee undertaking any primary production activity, the biosecurity direction may order the licensee to revise the licensee's farm management plan to prevent or mitigate any significant hazard relating to the primary production activity, or to food producing animals or to their habitats, and to submit the revised farm management plan for acceptance by the Agency.

Clause 138 is a direction corresponding to that in clause 133, about the taking of preventative or corrective action in respect of primary production activity or the production of animal feed.

Division 4 of Part 7 contains offences connected with Part 7 directions.

Clause 139 makes it an offence if a person to whom a Part 7 direction is addressed, without reasonable excuse carries on an activity in contravention of the direction, or without reasonable excuse neglects or refuses to comply with the direction, or without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a condition specified in such a direction.

Clause 140 provides for an offence of removing a copy of any direction affixed to a food premises under clause 121, 123 or 124 while that direction remains in force.

Under clause 141, a person bound by a Part 7 direction who suffers loss as a result of the making of the direction may apply to the Agency for compensation if the person considers that there were insufficient grounds for the making of the direction. If there were insufficient grounds for the making of the direction, the Agency has to pay just and reasonable compensation to the applicant.

## PART 8

### OFFENCES RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Part 8 sets out various offences connected with food safety and various defences and presumptions related to these offences.

Food safety offences are presently distributed in several laws. These are the Sale of Food Act 1973 and the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, the Food Regulations and the Environmental Public Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations. There are offences which are similar in substance, but the penalties differ markedly. There is uncertainty whether an offence is a strict liability offence or not.

Part 8 is a consolidation of many existing offences into a single piece of legislation and rationalises the different elements and penalties in the present law so as to ensure appropriate, proportionate and consistent enforcement.

The offences in Part 8 are also divided generally into those which have a mental element and attract a higher punishment upon conviction, and those offences which are “strict liability”, where the prosecution is only required to prove the physical elements of the offence in order for the defendant to be found guilty. The strict liability offences attract a lower punishment on conviction.

Part 8 therefore makes clear when an offence in food legislation is or is not a strict liability offence. Strict liability offences are necessary due to the strong public interest in managing food safety risks appropriately, and in preventing foodborne illness which is a serious and costly public health and safety issue. Strict liability offences have been retained also because it can be reasonably expected that the potential defendants for offences in Part 8 would be aware of their duties and obligations. Strict liability offences are not inconsistent with the presumption of innocence.

The penalties in Part 8 are further divided based on whether the offender is an individual or an entity, with a custodial punishment for individuals, and a higher maximum fine for offenders which are entities. There is also a stepping up of the maximum punishment for repeat offenders.

The differentiation adopted for offences in Part 8 is necessary to support a calibrated approach to contraventions.

The maximum penalties in Part 8 have also been revised upwards having regard to the trend in sentencing by the courts and so as to be consistent with the existing penalties in the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999, which is the highest among existing food legislation. This consistency is needed to maintain public confidence that comparable food safety offences and the penalties for offences which are often prosecuted today, are being reflected in the Bill.

In total, Part 8 contains 20 offences. There are another 7 offences in Part 10 connected with labelling and advertising.

Intervention via the criminal law is necessary because food safety lapses invariably occur in settings where those who may be adversely affected and thus require protection viz. the consumer, are typically unable to properly assess the safety of a food product or take control or other steps to protect themselves before consuming the food. The consumer is unlikely to sue in a civil action in most circumstances for falling ill as a result of consuming food, because of difficulties in identifying the source and cause of many illnesses (the food would already have been consumed with any pathogen or contaminant), and the often-low costs typically incurred by most consumers.

While Parts 3 and 4 do contain provisions which require traders and food business proprietors to take further responsibility for food safety, than what they take on today, by putting their own systems in place, there is a limit to the effectiveness of relying on self-regulation measures to protect the consumer. In Singapore, the food industry covers a broad range of business types with many



small-to-medium enterprises. In the Singapore food service and retail sectors, the workforce employed is largely transient and also very varied in terms of background, education, knowledge and motivation in terms of food safety. The diverse nature of the local food industry makes it unlikely for industry-set standards to develop and be complied with. Legislative intervention by the Government is necessary.

Division 1 of Part 8 contains general provisions relating to the interpretation and application of Part 8. Division 2 contains the offences and Division 3 sets out the defences to offences in Part 8.

Clause 142 sets out the scope of application of Part 8. It does not matter in the Part that the food concerned in an offence was supplied or intended for supply outside Singapore.

Clause 143 defines “hazardous food contact article”. This is connected to an offence under clause 162 or 163.

Clause 144 makes it an offence for a person to handle any food intended for supply in a way that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food unsafe.

What constitutes “handling” of food is defined by clause 9 to include —

- (a) preparing or manufacturing the food;
- (b) processing the food;
- (c) storing, packing or labelling the food;
- (d) transporting or delivering the food;
- (e) displaying the food;
- (f) dishing up or plating the food;
- (g) serving the food; and
- (h) supervising the performance of any abovementioned activity by another individual.

The definition may be extended by regulations made by the Agency.

For example, preparing food on a contaminated or dirty surface, such as the floor, or handling ready-to-eat food using utensils which were used to contain raw food, without prior washing. These are well-known situations where there will be a failure of microbiological standards that can lead to food poisoning.

With respect to the offence in clause 144, the food handled must be food that is intended for supply, not just intended for sale. The expression “supply” has been defined in clause 8 to be wider. Food intended to be given away or for donation can come within the scope of clause 144.

Clause 145 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 144. It is an offence if a person handles any food intended for supply in a way that makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food unsafe. The strict liability offence attracts a lower penalty.

For example, a food handler is unaware that the thermometer of a cooking equipment is faulty, but uses it to prepare food for sale, causing the food to be unsafe for consumption.

Clause 146 makes it an offence if a person supplies food that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, is unsafe.

Clause 147 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 146. It is an offence if a person supplies any food that is unsafe.

Clause 148 makes it an offence for a person who handles any food intended for supply in a way that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food unsuitable. It is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

Clause 149 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 148. It is an offence if the person handles any food intended for supply in a way that makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food unsuitable. It is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

Clause 149 is narrower in scope than clause 148 and does not cover some activities defined by clause 9 as constituting food handling. The offence in clause 149 does not cover transporting or delivering food, and supervising the transporting or delivering of food by another individual.

By the expanded meaning of “unsuitable” food in clause 12, food is unsuitable if the food is outdated or is in packaging that is damaged to the extent of affecting the food’s reasonable intended use. Clause 149 is made narrower so as not to criminalise the mere delivery of food that is outdated (for example, where the food would only have remained suitable to consume for a particular period of time after leaving the control of the food producer), or food in damaged packaging (for example, dented cans) due to rough handling during transport or its storage.

Clause 150 makes it an offence if a person supplies any food, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the food is unsuitable food.

Clause 151 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 150. It is an offence if a person supplies any food that is unsuitable food.

Clause 152 makes it an offence if a person handles any food intended for supply in a way that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food a defined food. It is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

For example, the intentional addition of a non-catalogued insect-like species as an ingredient in the preparation of food for sale, such as an insect which is gathered from the wild.

Clause 153 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 152. It is an offence if a person handles any food intended for supply in a way that makes, will make, or is likely to make, the food a defined food. It is immaterial whether the food concerned is safe.

Clause 154 makes it an offence if a person undertakes any primary production activity and the primary produce resulting from that activity is unsafe, and the person, when undertaking the primary production activity, knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the primary produce resulting from that activity would or would likely be unsafe.

For example, the operator of a fish farm uses a banned veterinary drug or dye (such as malachite green) despite being informed by the Agency that the drug or dye is prohibited for fish farm use for safety reasons.

Another example is continuing to produce for sale eggs which have been detected to have Salmonella in the course of the farmer's own testing and monitoring processes.

Clause 155 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 154. It is an offence if a person undertakes any primary production activity resulting in primary produce that is unsafe.

An example of this can occur in oyster farming, where the oysters bred for sale are found by the Agency to have a norovirus but the farmer did not earlier detect the presence through self-testing.

Clause 156 makes it an offence if a person undertakes any primary production activity and the primary produce resulting from that activity is unsuitable food, and the person, when undertaking the primary production activity, knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the primary produce resulting from that activity would or would likely be unsuitable food.

Clause 157 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 156. It is an offence if a person undertakes any primary production activity resulting in primary produce that is unsuitable food.

For example, producing eggs that are contaminated with faecal waste.

Clause 158 makes it an offence if a person undertakes any primary production activity and the primary produce resulting from that activity is a defined food, and the person, when undertaking the primary production activity, knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the primary produce resulting from that activity would or would likely be a defined food. It is immaterial whether the defined food concerned is safe.

For example, knowingly cultivating fresh fruits or vegetables using genetically modified seeds, and the resulting fruits or vegetables are not approved by the Agency under Part 5.

However, it will not be an offence if the resulting defined food is not made available for consumption as food by the general public in Singapore, such as cultivation as part of research and development.

Clause 159 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 158. It is an offence if a person undertakes any primary production activity, resulting in primary produce that is a defined food. It is immaterial whether the defined food concerned is safe.

However, as in clause 158, it will not be an offence if the resulting defined food is not made available for consumption as food by the general public in Singapore, such as cultivation as part of research and development.

Clause 160 makes it an offence if a person supplies any imported food and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the food was imported on the basis that it was for private consumption only.

What is imported for private consumption is defined in clause 44.

The purpose of the offence in clause 160 is to prevent any person who made use of the private consumption exception and imported food without a licence and consignment permit, to then supply the food imported. These foods would not have been subject to inspection at the border or not have been imported in accordance with preventative controls throughout the supply chain to manage imported food safety risks.

The offence does not cover food which is a prohibited food or a food of higher regulatory concern mentioned in clause 44(4). This is because the import of these foods is either wholly prohibited or restricted to per consignment controls, and there are offences in Part 3 to address contraventions of these controls.

Clause 161 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 160. It is an offence if a person supplies any imported food that was imported on the basis that it was for private consumption only.

Clause 162 makes it an offence if a person supplies a hazardous food contact article in the course of a business, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the object is a hazardous food contact article.

Clause 163 is the strict liability equivalent of clause 162. It is an offence if a person supplies a hazardous food contact article in the course of a business. For example, the sale of bowls or pans containing hazardous phthalates or heavy metals, which will leach into food when the bowls or pans are used as hot food containers.

Division 3 of Part 8 has 8 clauses which set out various defences to offences in Part 8.

Clause 164 is a general defence applicable for all offences in Part 8 that involve a food or a regulated food contact article. The defence is additional to any other defence available to the defendant under the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act 2024.

The general defence in clause 164 is —

- (a) the commission of the offence was due to an act or omission of another person (but not an employee, agent or officer of the person charged), or an accident or some other cause outside the defendant's control; and
- (b) the defendant took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence by the defendant, or by another person under the control of the person charged.

Clause 165 is a defence applicable to offences concerned with handling of food. The defence is that the defendant caused the food to which the offence relates to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of immediately after the food was handled in the manner that was likely to render it unsafe or unsuitable or a defined food.

Clause 166 is a defence applicable to offences involving the supply of unsafe or unsuitable food or hazardous food contact articles. The defence basically is reliance by the defendant when acquiring the food or food contact article, on a written statement (like a warranty) supplied by or on behalf of the person from whom the defendant bought the food or food contact article, and that when the defendant supplied the food or food contact article, it was in the same condition as it was when the defendant bought it.

Clause 166 is a re-enactment of the present defence in section 33 of the Sale of Food Act 1973 in modern language. However, the standard in clause 166(1)(d) is higher than section 33(1)(b) of the Sale of Food Act 1973, where “the accused had no reason to believe that the food or food contact article sold did not conform to such warranty or statement”. In clause 166(1)(d), the reasonable objective person serves as the test.

There is also the explicit requirement that the supplied food/food contact article is in the same state as of the time of its purchase.

For packaged food, there is an additional lower defence that the person charged could not reasonably have found out that the food would be unlawful.

There is no longer a distinction between foreign-origin warranties and those given locally. The information flow in the world is substantially borderless today, thanks in a large part to the internet. The differentiation presently in section 33(2) of the Sale of Food Act 1973 is dispensed with.

Procedurally, the defence under clause 166(1) is only available if the defendant, not later than 14 clear days before the date of the hearing, gives the

prosecution written notice of the defendant's intention to rely on the written statement together with a copy of the written statement, and gives a copy of the written notice to the person from whom the defendant received the written statement, and informs the person that the defendant intends to rely on the written statement.

The defendant has more time to give notice to the prosecution, which is presently set at within 7 days after service of the summons.

Clause 167 is a defence applicable to offences involving the supply of unsafe or unsuitable food. The defence is that the food in question is to be exported to another country, and the food complies with the laws (if any) in force at the time of the alleged offence in the country to which the food is to be exported.

Clause 168 is a defence applicable to the offence in clause 162 or 163 relating to the supply of hazardous food contact articles. The defence is that the defendant reasonably believed that the food contact article concerned was not intended for use in connection with the handling of food.

Clause 169 is a re-enactment of section 27(b) of the Sale of Food Act 1973 in modern language.

If an employee commits an offence under Part 8, his or her employer is taken to have committed the same offence. But it is a defence for the employer who is charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the employer could not, by the exercise of due diligence, have prevented the commission of the offence.

There is a change from the present law so that it works more fairly. This will be consistent with the general defence approach which applies to everyone else who is not an employee.

Clause 170 deals with the liability of employees and agents, and corresponds to section 27(a) of the Sale of Food Act 1973. The general rule is that it is no defence in proceedings for an offence under Part 8 that the person charged was, at the time of the commission of the offence, an employee or agent of another person. However, as an improvement over section 27(a) of the Sale of Food Act 1973, it is a defence for the employee or agent charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that he or she was under the personal supervision of the proprietor of the food business in relation to which the offence was committed, etc.

Clause 171 seeks to clarify the legal interplay between different criminal laws.

## PART 9

## FOOD AND HEALTH PROMOTION

Part 9 is administered by the Ministry of Health and consists of 5 clauses.

Clause 172 sets out definitions of terms used exclusively in Part 9. Of note are the definitions of “non-communicable disease of public health interest” and “target food”.

A “target food” must always relate to some non-communicable disease of public health interest. This is defined to mean one or more identifiable foods the consumption of which contributes, or might, based on the available scientific evidence, contribute, to the occurrence of a non-communicable disease of public health interest.

Clause 173 empowers the Minister for Health to make a determination that a disease is a non-communicable disease of public health interest. The determination is made only where the Minister is satisfied that one or more identifiable foods consumed contributes to the occurrence of that disease, and that the disease —

- (a) is likely to adversely affect the health of the population in Singapore over a period of time;
- (b) causes or is likely to cause significant chronic disease, disability or mortality in the population in Singapore;
- (c) interferes with or is inconsistent with the goals of public health; or
- (d) is associated with poor health outcomes in the population in Singapore.

Notice that such a determination has been made has to be published either in the *Gazette* or in some other way that will secure adequate publicity about the determination being made.

Clause 174 empowers the Minister for Health to make Part 9 Regulations to promote the general public’s health through better diet and nutrition. The requirements in the Part 9 Regulations will also be relevant to labelling and advertising offences in Part 10.

Part 9 Regulations may relate to —

- (a) one or more identifiable foods which are target foods related to the occurrence of a non-communicable disease of public health interest, for the purpose of preventing or reducing the occurrence of that disease in Singapore;
- (b) any identifiable foods, for the purpose of informing individuals adequately about the food, and influencing and assisting them, to make food choices affecting their health and wellbeing and that of their

families. For example, requiring Nutri-Grade marks on food for supply; or

- (c) the advertising of identifiable food or how it is promoted for sale, for the purpose of promoting public health.

It is envisaged that Part 9 Regulations may prohibit the import of target foods or restrict the import of other foods, such as the ban on import and use of partially hydrogenated oils in the manufacture of food. If so prohibited, the target food then becomes a prohibited food as defined by clause 42. Consignments of such prohibited foods will be treated as failing and stopped at the border.

It is further envisaged that Part 9 Regulations may restrict or prohibit —

- (a) the manner in which target foods are manufactured, prepared, distributed or supplied, or used in the manufacture or preparation of other foods; and
- (b) the manner in which the general public, or certain members of the general public, may acquire or obtain access to target food.

Advertising and labelling restrictions may also be prescribed in Part 9 Regulations. The requirements may extend to —

- (a) restricting or prohibiting the content used in advertising or labelling of food for supply, such as advertising prohibitions for beverages rated as having high sugar and saturated fat content;
- (b) requiring warnings or dietary and nutritional information to be included in content used in advertising or labels;
- (c) prescribing the form of the content or warning required, such as its size and colour, or the size, colour and font type of the content or warning and how it is displayed; and
- (d) restricting or prohibiting the medium or way food is advertised or sponsored or is promoted for sale, including requiring or prohibiting advertising in relation to the food at specified times or at specified premises.

Clause 175 provides for the appointment of Part 9 enforcement officers by the Director-General of Health, to support the enforcement of any Part 9 Regulations or any provision in Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations.

Clause 176 empowers a Part 9 enforcement officer to give a remedial notice requiring a person to remedy a contravention which can be remedied, or have such a contravention remedied. A remedial notice may be given if the Part 9 enforcement officer reasonably believes that a person —

- (a) is contravening a provision of any Part 9 Regulations; or



- (b) has contravened a provision of any Part 9 Regulations in circumstances that make it likely the contravention will continue or be repeated.

It is an offence to fail to comply with the remedial notice unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

If the remedial notice is given in relation to a contravention by a person of a relevant provision and the contravention is an offence, the person cannot be prosecuted for that offence unless the person fails to comply with the remedial notice and does not have a reasonable excuse for the non-compliance.

A remedial notice can contain the reasonable steps that the Part 9 enforcement officer considers necessary to remedy the contravention, or to avoid further contravention, of the relevant provision. Examples of reasonable steps are withdrawing or rectifying advertisements of foods, or publishing in Singapore a rectification notice to inform the general public of non-compliant advertisements, or immediately suspending the sale or supply of a specific food.

## PART 10

### MISLEADING OR DECEPTIVE CONDUCT AND OTHER MARKETING OFFENCES

Part 10 has 12 clauses containing offences relating to labelling and advertising about food and regulated food contact articles, and various defences to these offences.

Consumers need accurate and adequate information on food packaging and labels in order to make an informed choice. Consumers cannot make properly informed decisions about the foods they are buying without the help of food businesses.

On the other hand, food businesses commonly devise claims and place information about their products on product packaging and labelling or in broader advertising strategies such as on the internet and broadcasting, so as to influence consumers' decision-making and improve sales. Consumers are known to have been more influenced by celebrity endorsements and novelty rather than nuanced advice or empirical data from medical practitioners and nutritionists, particularly where health or nutritional claims are made. Contemporary placentophagy is one emerging risk.

There is, however, information asymmetry which makes it difficult for any consumer to verify food claims. Food credence attributes like food safety, provenance, the manufacture or production method (e.g. "free-range" and if organic or genetically modified) and the food's standard, quality or value, are matters of quality that cannot be assessed by an ordinary food buyer simply by looking or examining the product at the point of sale.

Intervention via the criminal law is necessary because the consumer is typically unable to properly assess the safety of a food product he or she is buying or take control or other steps to protect himself or herself before consuming the food. The consumer is also unlikely to sue in a civil action in most circumstances for falling ill as a result of consuming labelled or advertised food, because of difficulties in identifying the source and cause of many illnesses (the food would already have been consumed with any pathogen or contaminant), and the often-low costs typically incurred by most consumers.

Part 10 is therefore directed at protecting consumers from misleading or deceptive food claims (intentional or unintentional) and at ensuring that information about food on product packaging and labelling or disseminated via advertising strategies, is accurate and can be substantiated. This is to ensure that even in an environment with increasing product differentiation and competition for the consumer's dollar, product marketing remains consistent with scientific advice, to ensure honest labelling which is aligned with the primary ingredients, and to restrict use of nutrition and implied health claims.

Clause 177 sets out definitions which are used mainly or exclusively in Part 10. The notable definitions are "relevant advertising regulations" and "relevant regulations". These 2 definitions reflect the division of responsibility between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment regarding labelling and advertising relating to food.

There are definitions in clauses 3 and 7 which are also very relevant to Part 10, such as "content" and "advertisement".

Clause 178 sets out another important definition used in Part 10, namely, "falsely describe" food.

Clause 179 makes it an offence if a person, in the course of carrying on a food business, engages in conduct that is misleading or deceptive or is likely to mislead or deceive, in relation to the packaging or labelling of food intended for supply, or the supply of food. This is a general offence that does not limit the application of the other offences in Part 10.

For example, a manufacturer of multigrain biscuits sells its products which are made of gluten-free flour and other grains which contain gluten (e.g. barley, rye), with packaging bearing the words "gluten-free", implying that the whole product is gluten-free when only one of the ingredients is gluten-free.

A distributor of fruit juice sells the product with packaging bearing the words "zero sugar", implying that the product does not contain any sugar, when in fact it contains naturally occurring sugars.

Clause 179 does not apply to advertising as that is dealt with by clause 184.

Clause 180 makes it an offence if a person, in the course of carrying on a food business, supplies food that is packed or labelled in a way that falsely describes the

food, and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the packaging or labelling falsely describes the food.

There is also another offence where a person supplies in the course of carrying on a food business, any food to another person, and gives the other person a false warranty for the food, when he or she knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the warranty is false.

For example, a manufacturer of alternative protein patties sells its products in packaging bearing the words “100% plant-based” when the patties contain some ingredients of animal origin.

Clause 181 is the strict liability equivalent of the offence in clause 180. It is an offence if a person, in the course of carrying on a food business, supplies to another person food that is packed or labelled in a way that falsely describes the food, or supplies food to another person and gives that person a false warranty for the food.

For example, a provision shop sells a honey product with packaging bearing a label “Victoria Honey” when the product is in fact made up predominantly of sugars of corn and sugar cane, and its provenance is not Victoria, Australia but another country.

Clause 182 is a form of misleading or deceptive conduct relating to meat or meat products. It is an offence where a person, during the slaughter of animals to produce meat or meat products, or during meat processing, does something to the meat —

- (a) with the intention of deceiving someone else about the species of animal the meat is from; or
- (b) that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, is likely to result in someone else being deceived about the species of animal the meat is from.

This is made a specific offence in recognition of the several food-based religious practices in Singapore’s society and the importance of religious harmony.

Clause 183 sets out offences connected with labelling.

It is an offence if a person labels, or causes to be labelled, any food in connection with the supply or possible supply of the food in the course of carrying on a food business, or the promotion of the supply or use of the food in the course of carrying on a food business, in a way that —

- (a) contains any content which is prohibited by any relevant regulations for that food;

- (b) does not contain any content which is required by any relevant regulations to be used in relation to that food; or
- (c) contains content in a form contrary to any relevant regulations as they apply in relation to that food.

Clause 183(2) also makes it an offence if a person supplies, in the course of carrying on a food business, any food that —

- (a) is labelled in a way that contains any content which is prohibited by any relevant regulations for that food, does not contain any content which is required by any relevant regulations to be used in relation to that food, or contains content in a form contrary to any relevant regulations as they apply in relation to that food; or
- (b) is not labelled in the manner which is required by any relevant regulations in relation to that food.

The offences in clause 183 are strict liability. The relevant regulations can either be the regulations made under Part 15 or the Part 9 Regulations.

A label is defined in clause 3 to include any tag, brand, stamp, mark, stencil or written statement, any representation or design, or any descriptive matter, that —

- (a) is attached to, annexed or affixed to the goods or any container or packaging of or thing used in connection with the goods;
- (b) is written, printed, stamped or located on the goods or any container or packaging of or thing used in connection with the goods;
- (c) is determined on the basis of anything encoded on or in relation to the goods;
- (d) is displayed or used in connection with, or is accompanying, the goods or anything on which the goods are mounted for display or exposed for supply; or
- (e) is otherwise applied to the goods or any container or packaging of or thing used in connection with the goods in a manner from which it may reasonably be inferred that it is applicable to those goods.

The definition of “label” extends to cover content accessible directly via hyperlinks and QR codes on labels; see clause 3(3). As the space on labels is valuable, it is increasingly common for labels to contain hyperlinks or QR codes which set out or link the consumer to content extrinsic to the label. The expanded definition is directed at addressing a situation where the physical label may be in full conformity with the relevant regulations but the extrinsic content may not.

To avoid overlapping laws, the linked content which is on a label is generally not an advertisement; see clause 7(5).

Clause 184 criminalises advertising that is non-compliant with advertising requirements prescribed in regulations made under the Bill. One set of requirements may be set out by the Minister for Health by way of Part 9 Regulations in connection with health promotion. The other set of requirements may be set out by the Agency in connection with food safety.

A person commits an offence if the person publishes, or causes or authorises to be published, in Singapore any advertisement about a food or a regulated food contact article, and the advertisement contains any content that —

- (a) contravenes any requirement of the relevant advertising regulations that are applicable to the food or regulated food contact article; or
- (b) is or contains a false description of the food, or is false as to the suitability of the regulated food contact article.

Clause 7(1) defines what it means to publish in Singapore. Publishing in Singapore has been defined to mean communicating, distributing, or making available or making known, the content to the general public.

Where content is made available or known, distributed or communicated in electronic or digital form using a social media service, telecommunication service (like SMS or MMS) or relevant electronic service (like an online instant messaging service or by email), the content is taken to be published in Singapore if it originates from a point in Singapore or is between a point and one or more other points, where the firstmentioned point is outside Singapore and at least one of the other points is inside Singapore.

However, no offence is committed if the advertising is not Singapore-linked. Clause 177(2) provides that an advertising is Singapore-linked only if the person who publishes, or causes or authorises the publishing, in Singapore of the advertisement concerned is, at the time of advertising —

- (a) an individual physically present in Singapore;
- (b) an entity which is registered in Singapore (even if incorporated outside Singapore), or is incorporated, under any written law; or
- (c) a corporation sole or corporation aggregate established under a private Act.

The offence in clause 184 therefore does not extend to any person outside Singapore publishing a non-compliant advertisement, even if the content is accessible to people physically present in Singapore.

For example, an individual proprietor of a food business outside Singapore may post an advertisement on the internet about the food product, which contains a food production substance that is not an approved food production substance for that food, under the regulations made under the Bill. Alternatively, the advertisement may be one that does not contain the required nutritional grading

or health warning for the food product, which is mandatory content for health promotion reasons. That advertisement originating outside Singapore can be viewed by anyone in Singapore and offers online purchases and delivery of the food product, with a price list in Singapore dollars as well as other foreign currencies. The advertisement when posted is not Singapore-linked. However, as the advertisement's content continues to be made known and published in Singapore while it remains online and accessible to anyone in Singapore (see clause 7 definition of "publish in Singapore"), the offence under clause 184 may be made out when that individual proprietor enters Singapore and the advertisement has not been taken down.

The offence in clause 184 is strict liability, no different than section 16A of the Sale of Food Act 1973 today. It is not necessary for the prosecution to prove that a person charged knew or had reason to believe that the advertisement in question contains any content that —

- (a) contravenes any requirement of the relevant advertising regulations that are applicable to the food or regulated food contact article; or
- (b) is or contains a false description of the food, or is false as to the suitability of the regulated food contact article.

Like section 16A of the Sale of Food Act 1973, clause 184(5) and (6) also places an evidentiary burden on the defendant who is alleged to have published an advertisement which is false as to age, composition, etc., of the food or the safety or suitability of the food or a regulated food contact article. Failing to adduce evidence to the contrary when it is alleged that a person has published a false advertisement, will result in the advertisement being found to be false. However, the provisions do not place a legal burden on the defendant to prove that the advertisement is not false.

The purpose for placing the evidentiary burden on the defendant remains necessary to protect the consumer. Food businesses commonly devise claims and place information about their products on product packaging and labelling or in broader advertising strategies such as on the internet and broadcasting, so as to influence consumers' decision-making and thus improve sales.

There is, however, information asymmetry which makes it difficult for any consumer to verify food claims. Whether or not a food claim is true, or a testimonial is used in a genuine manner is only likely to be in the knowledge of the defendant. As such, an evidentiary onus on the defendant would ensure that all relevant information will be put before the court.

In the absence of a reverse onus, the prosecution would have difficulty ascertaining whether a claim is real and/or accurate. The Agency would then need to invoke the use of extensive information gathering powers, which would impose compliance costs on businesses.

On the other hand, a food business making a genuine representation about food it is supplying should easily be able to adduce evidence that the food claim/testimonial is real/accurate by producing relevant evidence.

Clause 185 sets out the offence of advertising defined food. A person commits an offence if the person advertises a food and the food is a defined food at the time of the publication or communication, and the advertising is Singapore-linked. It is immaterial whether the defined food concerned is safe.

Clause 186 sets out a defence with respect to an offence under Part 10 (except clauses 184 and 185), under which the defendant has to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

- (a) the commission of the offence was due to an act or omission of another person (who is not an employee, agent or officer of the defendant), or an accident or some other cause outside the defendant's control; and
- (b) the defendant took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence by the defendant, or by another person under the defendant's control.

The general defence in section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 is disapplied so as to avoid legal confusion.

Clause 187 sets out a defence to a charge for an offence under clause 183 involving labelling of food. It is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the food in question is to be exported to another country, and the food complies with the laws (if any) in force at the time of the alleged offence, of the country to which the food is to be exported, being laws that deal with the same subject matter as the provision of the Bill is concerned.

Clause 188 sets out various defences for a person charged with an offence under clause 184 or 185 in relation to advertising any food or regulated food contact article.

The first defence is where the person charged can prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person was acting in the course of a business of delivering, transmitting or broadcasting information or material (in whatever form or by whatever means) or making data available, and the nature of the business is such that persons undertaking it have no control over the nature or content of the information or material or data. This is akin to but does not affect the general immunity of network service providers under section 26 of the Electronic Transactions Act 2010.

The second defence is where the person charged proves, on a balance of probabilities, that —

- (a) the advertisement about the food or regulated food contact article was so published as an accidental or incidental accompaniment to the

publication of any other matter not forming part of any promotion of the food or regulated food contact article in question; and

- (b) the person does not receive any direct or indirect benefit (whether financial or not) for publishing that advertisement, in addition to any direct or indirect benefit that the person receives for publishing that other matter.

For example, the broadcaster includes images of a non-compliant food advertisement shown on a football pitch which is the subject of a live broadcast receivable in Singapore.

The third defence is where the person charged proves, on a balance of probabilities, that the person —

- (a) is a person whose business is to publish or arrange for the publication of advertisements and that the person received the advertisement for publication in the ordinary course of business; and
- (b) has no financial interest in the food or regulated food contact article featured in the advertisement.

However, none of the defences are available if the person charged for an offence under clause 184 or 185 in relation to advertising any food or regulated food contact article —

- (a) had previously been informed in writing by the Agency or a Part 9 enforcement officer that publishing in Singapore of the advertisement about the food or regulated food contact article, or a similar advertisement, would constitute an offence under Part 10;
- (b) ought reasonably to have known that the publishing in Singapore of the advertisement about the food or regulated food contact article was an offence under Part 10; or
- (c) is the proprietor of a food business or is otherwise engaged in the conduct of a food business for which the advertisements concerned were published.

## PART 11

### CERTAIN AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTION INPUTS

Part 11 relates to only 2 agri-food production inputs viz. animal feed and plant pesticides used in the cultivation of plants for human consumption as food. Part 11 has 3 Divisions.

Animal feed (as defined in clause 16) can present a major risk to the health of humans because of the potential of animal feed, if not fit for purpose, to transfer harmful organisms and other contaminants to humans when people consume



animal products from food producing animals. Animal feed that is not fit for purpose can also present a risk to food producing animals and a reduction in yields of food derived from these animals.

Likewise for plant pesticides, which is defined in clause 3(1) as a substance or a mixture of substances that is represented, imported, supplied or prepared, or used in the course of cultivating plants, as a means of directly —

- (a) destroying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by or attacks of, any pest in relation to a plant;
- (b) destroying a plant;
- (c) modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or
- (d) attracting a plant pest for the purpose of destroying it.

However, the Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, exclude from the definition of “plant pesticide” certain substances. It is envisaged that an order in the *Gazette* may be made to exclude a plant pesticide that is manufactured or prepared from or using food exclusively, and to exclude organisms from the definition so as not to apply the Bill to predatory insects, predatory mites, parasitoids and nematodes which are used as alternatives to chemical pesticides in the control of plant pests.

Part 11 recognises that the health and safety of human beings is a priority when regulating chemicals like plant pesticides. There is the potential of a plant pesticide, if its quality, safety or efficacy for the purposes for which it is to be used, has not been satisfactorily established, to transfer harmful chemical residues and other contaminants to humans when people consume plants cultivated using the plant pesticide.

Division 1 of Part 11 contains interpretive provisions for terms used only or mainly in Part 11, and outlines the scope of application.

Division 2 of Part 11 seeks to minimise and manage risks to human health from consuming animal products which may arise from the animal feed fed to food producing animals. To that end, this Division establishes a licensing regime to ensure, so far as is practicable, that all animal feed produced for food producing animals is fit for purpose.

The scheme in Division 2 replaces the scheme in the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 so far as that Act affects manufacturing of animal feed intended for food producing animals. However, Division 2 is wider than the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 as it goes beyond licensing the manufacture of animal feed. Division 2 extends to regulating the rearing of animals as animal feed, such as breeding frogs for fish farming. Division 2 will not regulate the sale of such animal feed.

Division 3 of Part 11 prohibits using in the growing of food a plant pesticide product that is not registered by the Agency. To minimise and manage risks to human health arising from the use of plant pesticides in the growing of food, a registration regime for plant pesticide products is established in Division 3. The object is to ensure that, so far as is practicable, plant pesticide products used in the growing of food are safe, by continuing with vocational control over individuals who carry out prescribed pesticide work.

The scheme in Division 3 replaces the scheme in the Control of Plants Act 1993 so far as that Act affects cultivation of plants for human consumption as food. The Control of Plants Act 1993 as amended in Part 17 will continue to regulate the use of pesticides in horticulture and the cultivation of plants not intended for human consumption as food.

Clause 189 contains definitions of terms used only or mainly in Part 11.

An important term defined is the “feed control plan” which, like that for food businesses, is a regulatory tool to enable moving away from prescriptive regulation enforced primarily by end-point inspection of the finished product, to placing responsibility on licensed animal feed producers to put in place preventative measures to minimise risks and assure fitness of the animal feed in their respective production processes. The term “feed control plan” is relevant in clause 191 (applications for or to renew an animal feed production licence) and in clause 196 where non-compliance with a feed control plan accepted by the Agency may be a ground for regulatory action.

Clause 190(1) disapplies Division 2 of Part 11 to animal feed production —

- (a) in the course of any research and development activity undertaken directly by the person; or
- (b) for feeding directly to any food producing animal that the person keeps as a pet.

Clause 190(3) disapplies Division 3 of Part 11 to the use of any plant pesticide in the cultivation of —

- (a) any plant which is not an edible plant;
- (b) any edible plant which is not for supply, such as for domestic and home gardening; or
- (c) any edible plant for the primary purpose of the retail sale of the whole edible plant in a pot, such as herbs or the tangerine kumquat tree widely available during Chinese New Year period.

An “edible plant” has been defined in clause 3(1) to mean a species of plant that is capable of being consumed as food. Besides vegetables and fruits, the definition extends to the pomegranate plant which is also often sold for “feng shui” reasons.

However, a cannabis plant would not be an edible plant because its leaves contain a psychoactive substance, which clause 4(3) excludes from the scope of the Bill.

Clause 190(3) also disapplies Division 3 of Part 11 to the use of any plant pesticide in the raising or producing of an animal.

Division 2 of Part 11 is divided into 3 Subdivisions.

Subdivision (1) provides for the licensing of animal feed production. Subdivision (2) imposes record-keeping obligations on licensees for traceability of animal feed, similar to that imposed on licensed importers of food and proprietors of licensable food businesses. Subdivision (3) contains the offences relating to unlawful animal feed production.

Clause 191 incorporates the general licensing procedures in Division 4 of Part 14 for the purposes of an application for an animal feed production licence that may be granted under this Part.

Clause 192 outlines the criteria for the grant and renewal of any animal feed production licence or for imposing conditions on or modifying a condition of an animal feed production licence.

Among the factors the Agency is empowered to have regard to is whether the applicant for the licence or licence renewal, or animal feed production licensee, or an associate of the applicant or animal feed production licensee, is or was disqualified by clause 298 from holding the animal feed production licence applied for.

A person is disqualified from holding an animal feed production licence when the person's previous animal feed production licence is revoked. An "associate" is defined in clause 17.

Another criterion is whether the licence applicant or animal feed production licensee has, and will keep and maintain, a feed control plan relating to the applicant's or animal feed production licensee's production of animal feed which is accepted by the Agency.

Clause 193 outlines conditions which may be imposed on an animal feed production licence.

Clause 194 deals with how long an animal feed production licence may be in force. The maximum validity of such a licence is 5 years.

Clause 195 provides the Agency with power to unilaterally modify licence conditions. The steps in doing so are set out in the general licensing procedures in Division 4 of Part 14 and these are incorporated in clause 195.

Clause 196 sets out the grounds that the Agency can rely on to take regulatory action concerning a holder of an animal feed production licence granted under

Part 11. The procedure that must be followed when taking regulatory action is set out in Division 4 of Part 14.

Regulatory action is not a criminal proceeding for an offence committed. Regulatory action is by the Agency, from whom the privilege to hold the licence is granted, and encompasses, at the most extreme, the revocation of the licence granted. The Agency may respond to a licensee's defaults in other less extreme ways instead of licence revocation, such as —

- (a) suspend (in whole or in part) the licence for not more than 6 months;
- (b) direct the animal feed production licensee to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing that is specified in a direction to rectify any contravention or non-compliance that constitutes the ground for regulatory action;
- (c) modify any condition of the animal feed production licence; or
- (d) direct the animal feed production licensee to pay, within a period specified in a direction, a financial penalty of an amount that the Agency thinks fit, but not exceeding \$5,000 for each contravention of or failure to comply with any specified matter or for each other ground of regulatory action.

Clause 197 deals with the effect of revocation of an animal feed production licence.

Clause 198 provides that the obligations in this Subdivision bind only every animal feed production licensee in respect of the production of animal feed by the animal feed production licensee. The obligation may be imposed on an animal feed production licensee even for making animal feed for the animal feed production licensee's own farm animals to consume. It is immaterial that the animal feed is not supplied or is for export or exported.

Clause 199 outlines the information that an animal feed production licensee must keep or have ready access to and for how long.

The information that an animal feed production licensee is required to keep or have ready access to, is information which will enable the licensee to trace the animal feed one step backwards and one step forwards. The information relating to the animal feed must also be retained for a period prescribed in the animal feed regulations.

Contravention of any requirement in clause 199 is a strict liability offence.

Clause 200 provides that an animal feed production licensee must have procedures and accurate information for identifying and locating animal feed produced by the animal feed production licensee, and for tracing the animal feed so that the animal feed can be traced one step backwards and one step forwards.

The information must also be sufficient to allow an effective recall to be carried out under a direction given under Part 7.

Under clause 200, an animal feed production licensee has to conduct simulations or other tests of those procedures if required by the Agency.

An animal feed production licensee must also establish and use the procedures for recalling of animal feed supplied in Singapore by the animal feed production licensee and that the licensee considers to be not fit for purpose or whose fitness for purpose is in doubt.

If an animal feed production licensee decides to recall any animal feed on the ground that the animal feed is or might be not fit for purpose, the animal feed production licensee has to notify the Agency as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after making the decision, about the animal feed affected by the recall, and the reason for the recall.

Clause 201 makes it an offence for failing to provide information or failing to provide information within a specified time when requested to do so by an authorised officer or a food inspector about the matters in clause 199(1). An animal feed production licensee is bound to state truly what the animal feed production licensee is requested, and must give information in a readily accessible format, and within 24 hours after the request, or within any reasonable shorter period specified by the authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be.

It may be vital that the Agency can quickly obtain information from animal feed production licensees in order to prevent animal feed which is not fit for purpose from being further supplied or fed to food producing animals, and thereby entering the food supply chain and endangering human health. The offence in clause 201 is intended to deter persons refusing or failing to provide information needed to prevent this potentially serious risk to human health. For this reason, an individual would not be able to rely on the privilege against self-incrimination to not disclose the required information. See clause 259.

Clause 202(1) makes it an offence for a person to produce in Singapore, in the course of a business, any animal feed, when the person is not a holder of a current animal feed production licence, or is not exempt under clause 320 or 321 in relation to producing animal feed.

Clause 202(2) also makes it an offence for a person to produce in Singapore, in the course of a business, any animal feed at or on any premises that is not specified in an animal feed production licence granted to the person.

Clause 203 makes it an offence for a person to produce any animal feed in Singapore that is not fit for purpose where the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the animal feed is not fit for purpose.

Clause 204 is the strict liability equivalent offence of the offence in clause 203.

Division 3 of Part 11 also has 3 Subdivisions.

Subdivision (1) provides for the registration of plant pesticide products. Subdivision (2) provides for the vocational control over certified pesticide operators. Subdivision (3) contains the offences relating to unlawful plant pesticide use, defences to those offences and presumptions.

Clause 205 deals with the registration of plant pesticide products on an application to register. Registration is on a product basis and not according to chemical constituents. When registering a plant pesticide product, the Agency must also approve a label for the plant pesticide product. The label may be approved only if the label meets all applicable labelling criteria covered by clause 207.

Clause 206 describes the criteria and procedure in evaluating a plant pesticide product for registration.

Clause 207 describes the criteria and procedure in evaluating a label for containers of a plant pesticide product for approval, after registering the product. The applicable labelling criteria for a label is whether the label contains adequate instructions relating to such of the following as are appropriate:

- (a) the circumstances in which the plant pesticide product should be used;
- (b) how the plant pesticide product should be used;
- (c) the frequency of the use of the plant pesticide product;
- (d) the withholding period after the use of the plant pesticide product;
- (e) the re-entry period after the use of the plant pesticide product;
- (f) the disposal of the plant pesticide product when it is no longer required;
- (g) the disposal of containers of the plant pesticide product;
- (h) the safe handling of the plant pesticide product and first aid in the event of an accident caused by the handling of the plant pesticide product.

Other matters may be set out in the pesticide control regulations made by the Agency.

Clause 208 provides that the registration of a plant pesticide product remains in force for the period prescribed in the pesticide control regulations and for so long as the registration is not cancelled or suspended under clause 209.

A label for a registered plant pesticide product ceases to be an approved label when the registration of the registered plant pesticide product is cancelled or whenever that registration is suspended under clause 209.

Clause 209 sets out the grounds upon which a regulatory sanction against a person who applied to register the registered plant pesticide product (called the registrant) may be taken.

Regulatory sanction refers to cancelling or suspending the registration of a plant pesticide product on a variety of grounds. In clause 209, these are —

- (a) the registrant applies for the registration of the plant pesticide product to be cancelled;
- (b) the registrant is convicted of an offence under clause 220 (intentionally removing, altering, defacing or destroying an approved label on a container of a registered plant pesticide product);
- (c) the Agency is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to stop the use of the plant pesticide product in the interest of public health, or because of or to prevent any physical harm or further physical harm, or any risk or further risk of physical harm, to the environment;
- (d) the Agency becomes aware of a circumstance that would have required or permitted the Agency to refuse to register the plant pesticide product, had the Agency been aware of the circumstance immediately before registering the plant pesticide product;
- (e) the supply or use in Singapore of the plant pesticide product has stopped for a continuous period exceeding 12 months; or
- (f) the use of the plant pesticide product is being or has been advertised in Singapore by a registrant in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive.

The procedure that must be followed when taking regulatory action is set out in Division 4 of Part 14.

The Agency's decision to take regulatory action under clause 209 is an appealable decision. See Part 12.

Clause 210 incorporates the general licensing procedures in Division 4 of Part 14 for the purposes of any application to be appointed as a certified pesticide operator.

A certified pesticide operator is an individual who carries out prescribed pesticide work, which clause 189 defines to mean the carrying out of any of the following kinds of work as may be prescribed (if any) by the pesticide control regulations:

- (a) the supply or use of plant pesticides for a fee or reward;
- (b) the piloting or use of aircraft in connection with the supply or use of plant pesticides (whether or not for a fee or reward);

- (c) the carrying on of a business involving any of the activities referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), including the employment or engagement of individuals to carry out any of those activities for that business.

Clause 211 outlines the criteria the Agency considers before appointing an individual as a certified pesticide operator or for imposing appointment conditions or modifying a condition of the appointment.

Clause 212 deals with how long an appointment as a certified pesticide operator may be in force. The maximum validity of any such appointment is 3 years.

Clause 213 sets out the grounds upon which the Agency may take regulatory action against a certified pesticide operator. The procedure that must be followed when taking regulatory action is set out in Division 4 of Part 14.

The regulatory action covers cancelling the appointment of the certified pesticide operator, directing the certified pesticide operator to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing that is specified in a direction (which may include completing any course, training, assessment, examination or test), suspending the appointment for not more than 6 months, or modifying any condition of the appointment.

The Agency's decision to take regulatory action against a certified pesticide operator is an appealable decision. The certified pesticide operator concerned may appeal to the Minister against that decision. See Part 12.

Subdivision (3) contains offences involving plant pesticides and sets out defences and presumptions connected with prosecuting the offences.

Clause 214 makes it an offence for an individual to carry on, or cause or permit to be carried on, any prescribed pesticide work for reward, when he or she is not a certified pesticide operator authorised to carry out that kind of prescribed pesticide work, or he or she is not doing so under the direction or supervision of a certified pesticide operator authorised to carry out that kind of prescribed pesticide work.

An individual who is exempt under clause 320 or 321 from this clause will not be guilty of an offence.

Unlike clause 215, the offence in clause 214 may be committed only by an individual, and not an entity.

Clause 215 makes it an offence for a person to intentionally use, or cause or permit the use of, a plant pesticide that is an unregistered plant pesticide product in either —

- (a) the cultivation of any edible plant; or  
(b) any place where any primary production activity is undertaken,



and where the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the pesticide used is an unregistered plant pesticide product.

Clause 216 is the strict liability offence involving the intentional use, or causing or permitting the use of, a plant pesticide that is an unregistered plant pesticide product in either —

- (a) the cultivation of any edible plant; or
- (b) any place where any primary production activity is undertaken.

Knowledge that the plant pesticide used is an unregistered plant pesticide product is not an element of the offence.

Clause 217 makes it an offence for a person to intentionally use, or cause or permit the use of, a registered plant pesticide product in the cultivation of any edible plant, in a way that contravenes or does not comply with any relevant instruction on an approved label for the plant pesticide product and where the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the use is in contravention of, or is not in compliance with, the relevant instruction.

Clause 218 is the strict liability offence involving the intentional use, or causing or permitting the use, of a registered plant pesticide product in the cultivation of any edible plant, in a way that contravenes or does not comply with any relevant instruction on an approved label for the plant pesticide product. Knowledge that the plant pesticide is a registered plant pesticide product, and that the use is in contravention of, or is not in compliance with, any relevant instruction on an approved label for the plant pesticide product are not elements of the offence.

Clause 219 makes it an offence for a person who, without reasonable excuse, keeps a registered plant pesticide product in a container that does not bear a label that is identical to the approved label for that product.

It is a strict liability offence. The prosecution does not need to prove that the person charged knew or had reason to believe that the container of the registered plant pesticide product did not bear a label that is identical to the approved label for that product.

However, it is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the person charged did not know, and could not reasonably have been expected to know, that the plant pesticide product was in the container.

Clause 220 makes it an offence for a person who, without reasonable excuse intentionally removes, alters, defaces or destroys, or causes or allows to be intentionally removed, altered, defaced or destroyed, an approved label on a container of a registered plant pesticide product, except in certain described circumstances in clause 220(2).

The exceptional circumstances are removing, altering, defacing or destroying a label on a container of a registered plant pesticide product —

- (a) in the course of disposing of the container which is empty; or
- (b) for the purpose of altering or replacing a label attached to the container containing the registered plant pesticide product in order to meet an applicable requirement of this Bill relating to information on approved labels for that plant pesticide product.

Clause 221 sets out a defence to an offence under clause 215(1) or 216(1). It is a defence for the person charged to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that —

- (a) the person did not cultivate the edible plant as food, or for the purpose of supplying it as food;
- (b) the person had, in the course of supplying or offering or exposing for supply by retail, any edible plant, displayed or caused to be displayed, conspicuously within the premises or place where the plant was supplied or offered or exposed for supply, such number of warning notices stating that the edible plant is not cultivated or supplied as food as will give any customer in the premises or place adequate notice of that fact;
- (c) the person cultivated the edible plant in the course of, or for the purpose of, that plant being exported; or
- (d) a contract or arrangement has been entered into, or an understanding has been arrived at, for the edible plant to be exported, whether or not the person charged is a party to that contract, arrangement or understanding.

The clear elements of the defence are intended to benefit those engaged in commercial cultivation of plants and increase business certainty and confidence in how to come within the safe harbour that is clause 221.

The defence in clause 221 does not affect the defence in section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 which applies to any strict liability offence, and to any other exception in Chapter 4 of the Penal Code 1871 if applicable.

Clause 222 contains defences to an offence in clause 217(1) or 218(1).

The first defence is if the person charged proves, on a balance of probabilities, that the person complied with the relevant instructions on an approved label for a registered plant pesticide product (being an approved label that was, at the time of the alleged offence, affixed or attached to, or appeared on, the container of the plant pesticide that was used).

The second defence is if the person charged —

- (a) used a registered plant pesticide product at a concentration or rate lower than that specified in the relevant instructions on an approved label for the plant pesticide product (provided that the lower concentration or rate was not prohibited by the relevant instructions); and
- (b) otherwise complied with the relevant instructions on the approved label.

The defences in clause 222 do not affect the defence in section 26H(4) of the Penal Code 1871 which applies to any strict liability offence, and to any other exception in Chapter 4 of the Penal Code 1871 if applicable.

Clause 223 contains a presumption as to the use of a plant pesticide, which is relevant to proving an offence in this Subdivision.

If a police officer or an authorised officer, after lawfully entering certain premises, finds at that time —

- (a) any container of plant pesticide on the premises containing at least 10 grams (or 10 millilitres) of plant pesticide; or
- (b) any individual in those premises intentionally concealing, intentionally removing or intentionally destroying any container on the premises containing at least 10 grams (or 10 millilitres) of plant pesticide,

every adult occupier of those premises at that particular time is to be presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have intended to keep the plant pesticide to apply, spray, spread or disperse the plant pesticide by any means.

The presumption is a rebuttable one. It also applies only if the premises entered are premises used (in whole or in part) by any person to undertake any primary production activity involving the cultivation of any edible plant.

## PART 12

### APPEALS

Clause 224 sets out the decisions under the Bill (except in Part 9) which are appealable to the Minister.

Clause 224 sets out in a table the list of appealable decisions and provides for the persons aggrieved by an appealable decision who may appeal to the Minister against the decision. The appeal has to be in accordance with the clause in order for it to be considered. This includes observing a time limit to make the appeal.

Clause 225 relates to the appeal procedure, which includes making the appeal within a prescribed period after the date of receipt of the appealable decision that

is appealed against. The period will be prescribed in rules made by the Minister under clause 229.

Clause 226 states that it is the function and duty of the Minister to consider and determine an appeal made to the Minister under clause 224. However, the Minister is not under any duty to hear, consider or determine any appeal if it appears that the bringing of the appeal is, or the proceedings of the appeal are, frivolous or vexatious.

The Minister may determine an appeal made under clause 224 by —

- (a) dismissing the appeal and confirming the decision appealed against;
- (b) allowing the appeal and referring the matter back to the initial decision-maker to reconsider the case, thereby revoking the decision appealed against; or
- (c) allowing the appeal and substituting or varying the decision appealed against.

However, where the appealable decision appealed against is a Part 7 direction or a written direction under clause 116, the Minister cannot substitute or vary the decision appealed against.

The Minister's decision on appeal is final; there is no further appeal or reconsideration against the Minister's decision, even if the Minister substitutes his or her decision.

Clause 227 makes it clear that for an appealable decision, the making of an appeal against it does not affect the operation of the decision appealed against or prevent the taking of any action to implement the decision, and unless otherwise directed by the Minister under this clause, the decision appealed against must be complied with until the determination of the appeal.

Clause 228 enables the Minister to designate other political office-holders in his or her Ministry to hear and determine, in the Minister's place, any appeal made under clause 224.

Clause 229 empowers the Minister to make rules governing appeals under this Part.

## PART 13

### MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

Part 13 sets out the monitoring and investigating powers that food security officers, authorised officers, food inspectors and Part 9 enforcement officers may exercise in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Bill.

The Part sets out 2 groups of powers. The first are called monitoring powers and these are more limited and are exercisable against regulated persons as part of

monitoring to ensure their compliance with the respective regulatory requirements. The second group of powers are investigating powers into offences under the Bill, which may be committed by regulated persons as well as those who are not regulated by some licence or permit.

There are no powers of arrest in Part 13.

Division 1 of Part 13 contains 2 clauses of general application.

Clause 230 contains definitions of terms used exclusively in Part 13. A notable definition is “relevant material”, which lists things which regulated activities under the Bill will relate to or involve, viz., any primary produce, any food, any animal feed, any regulated food contact article, any plant pesticide, any non-packaged drinking water, and any MSR product that is none of the above. The term “relevant material” is integral to the exercise of monitoring powers.

The other notable definition is “evidential material”, which is a term integral to the exercise of investigating powers.

Clause 231 makes it clear that Part 13 does not affect a police officer’s powers or duties under any provision of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 or other written law. The Part also does not affect any other power specially vested in a food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer under any other provision of the Bill.

Division 2 of Part 13 contains 12 clauses about monitoring powers.

Clause 232 sets out who may exercise monitoring powers. They are a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector, who is appointed under the Bill as a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector (as the case may be) for the purposes of that provision.

In other words, a mere appointment as such an officer or inspector is not enough to be vested with monitoring powers. The appointment must relate to the specific monitoring power in a provision in this Division.

Clause 233 delimits the purposes for monitoring powers. Monitoring powers in this Division cannot be exercised for purposes outside of clause 233.

For a food security officer, the purposes are any of the following:

- (a) to determine whether the holding of an MSR product by an entity that is subject to a minimum stockholding requirement in relation to the MSR product, has been, or is being, complied with;
- (b) to determine for the purposes of clause 27 whether a divesting entity’s minimum stockholding requirement in relation to an MSR product is being assumed by, or divided with, another receiving entity or entities;

- (c) to determine whether information given in compliance, or purported compliance, with a provision in Part 2 (such as a clause 32 requirement) or any Part 2 Rules is correct.

For an authorised officer or a food inspector, a monitoring power may be exercised for one or more of the following purposes, only:

- (a) to determine whether to grant a licence or permit or other authorisation under the Bill;
- (b) to determine whether there is any ground to take regulatory action;
- (c) to determine whether information given in compliance, or purported compliance, with a provision in the Bill (other than Part 2 or any Part 2 Rules) is correct.

Clause 234 lists what the monitoring powers are. They are the power in clause 236 to enter premises, the post-entry powers in clause 237, and the different powers detailed in clauses 238, 239, 240, 241, 242 and 243, respectively.

Clause 235 sets out where monitoring powers may be exercised. Monitoring powers are not exercisable at large. In general, the premises are those occupied by regulated persons to conduct the activities authorised by their respective licences, permits or other authorisations.

Clause 236 details the power of entry into premises in clause 235 for the purposes of monitoring. Where the premises involved is a conveyance, there are additional details in clause 243. There is no need for a warrant to enter but there is no power of forcible entry.

Clause 237 details what next can be done after entering those premises. These include power —

- (a) to observe any activity conducted in the premises;
- (b) to examine any animal, object or thing in the premises;
- (c) to inspect and examine the premises;
- (d) to make or direct the making of a sketch, photograph or film, or an audio or a video recording, of any part of the premises, and the immediate vicinity of those premises unless the immediate vicinity is or consists of a private residence and any activity conducted in or on the premises;
- (e) to open or require to be opened any door, window, lock, fastener, cupboard, compartment, box, container or any other thing;
- (f) to interrupt any regulated activity being carried out in the premises;
- (g) to search any part of the premises; and

- (h) to request to inspect, and to inspect, free of charge any document found on the premises.

Clause 238 details the power to obtain information and documents. A food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector may require a person who is required under any provision of the Bill to keep records —

- (a) to provide for inspection any document or information within the period and in the manner specified by the officer or inspector; and
- (b) to allow an inspection and taking of extracts from, or making copies of, any such document or information, free of charge.

Clause 238 also empowers a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector (as the case may be) to access data in computers as part of monitoring powers. This extends to requiring any person having charge of, or otherwise concerned with the operation of, the computer or equipment to provide assistance in gaining such access, such as providing a password or authentication code.

This can extend to the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector taking possession of the document or any thing containing the information (but not a mobile phone or wearable device like a smart watch) if, in the opinion of a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector concerned, the inspection or copying of or extraction from the document or thing cannot reasonably be performed without taking possession, the document or thing may be interfered with or destroyed unless possession is taken, or it may be evidential material or be required as evidence in any regulatory action instituted or commenced under the Bill.

Clause 239 details a post-entry power which is particularly relevant when there is a need to inspect, examine or test relevant material.

If, after entering any premises, a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector reasonably believes that any compartment, box, container or other thing in the premises contains any relevant material, the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) may identify the relevant material (by marking or sealing or locking any door or opening containing or affording access to the relevant material). Alternatively, the owner or any individual who appears to be in charge of the relevant material may be required to hold it at the premises where it is or to move it to, and hold it at, any other reasonable place that the officer or inspector specifies.

Clause 240 is a post-entry power peculiar to animals which are found on premises mentioned in clause 236. The power is basically that of examining a live food producing animal. A food security officer therefore does not have this power.

Under clause 240, the owner or a person in control of a live food producing animal in those premises can be required to present the animal in a manner suitable

for examination and identification, and to hold, isolate, separate it, or to treat all or any of those live food producing animals, for the purpose of the examination. The owner or a person in control of a live food producing animal in those premises may also be required to move or bring the animal to a convenient place within a reasonable distance of those premises, to allow the authorised officer or food inspector to exercise monitoring powers in relation to the animal.

The presentation or movement of any live food producing animal required is at the cost of the owner or person in control of the animal.

If the owner or person in control of a live food producing animal fails to present or to move the animal as required, an authorised officer or a food inspector may proceed to capture, collect, muster, extract, harvest, or pen the animal for the relevant purpose, and the Agency can then recover the expenses reasonably incurred by the authorised officer or food inspector from the owner or person in control of the animal to whom the requirement or direction was addressed.

Clause 240 provides that no compensation is payable in respect of any animal which is damaged or otherwise destroyed by virtue of any examination or identification under the clause unless the damage or destruction is directly attributable to the negligence or default of the authorised officer or food inspector.

Clause 241 details the power to take and sample relevant material.

Clause 242 details the power to test samples taken under clause 241.

Clause 243 deals with the peculiarities where any premises to be entered under clause 235 are a conveyance. The power includes requesting or directing the individual in control of the conveyance to stop and detaining the conveyance for as long as is reasonably necessary for the food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) to exercise his or her monitoring powers in relation to the conveyance.

Division 3 of Part 13 contains 9 clauses relating to investigating powers.

Clause 244 provides that an investigating power is exercisable by a food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer, provided that he or she is so appointed in relation to that power.

Clause 245 delimits the purposes for investigating powers. Investigating powers in this Division cannot be exercised for purposes outside of clause 245.

For a food security officer, an investigating power is exercisable only —

- (a) to inquire into anything where the food security officer suspects on reasonable grounds that —
  - (i) an offence under clause 28(3), 31(1), 35(3) or 36(1) or any Part 2 Rules has been or is being committed;



- (ii) an offence under clause 253, 254, 255, 256 or 257 involving a food security officer has been or is being committed; or
- (iii) a civil penalty provision (the MSR obligation in clause 20) has been or is being contravened; or

(b) to gather evidential material that relates to such an offence abovementioned or a civil penalty provision, that the food security officer suspects on reasonable grounds has been or is being committed.

For an authorised officer or a food inspector, an investigating power is exercisable for one or more of the following purposes, only:

- (a) to inquire into anything where the authorised officer or food inspector suspects on reasonable grounds that any offence under the Bill has been or is being committed, excluding offences under Part 2 or those connected with health promotion;
- (b) to gather evidential material that relates to any offence under the Bill (excluding offences under Part 2 or those connected with health promotion) that the authorised officer or food inspector suspects on reasonable grounds has been or is being committed;
- (c) to determine whether there is any ground to give a section 116 direction or a Part 7 direction to any person;
- (d) to determine whether —
  - (i) any food is unsafe food, unsuitable food or a defined food;
  - (ii) any controlled item is failing;
  - (iii) any animal feed is not fit for purpose; or
  - (iv) any non-packaged drinking water is unwholesome.

A Part 9 enforcement officer may exercise an investigating power for one or more of the following purposes, only:

- (a) to inquire into anything where the Part 9 enforcement officer suspects on reasonable grounds that a Part 9 offence or an offence under Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations has been or is being committed;
- (b) to gather evidential material that relates to any offence abovementioned that the Part 9 enforcement officer suspects on reasonable grounds that has been or is being committed.

Clause 246 lists what investigating powers are. Basically, they are monitoring powers plus the special powers in Division 3. A Part 9 enforcement officer has a reduced scope of investigating powers, because of the nature of offences they enforce under Parts 9 and 10.

Clause 247 provides where investigating powers may be exercised. They are not confined to premises occupied by regulated persons but subject to the purposes in clause 245.

The premises in relation to which a food security officer may exercise an investigating power are in clause 247(1).

The premises in relation to which an authorised officer or a food inspector may exercise an investigating power are in clause 247(2) and (3).

The premises in relation to which a Part 9 enforcement officer may exercise an investigating power are in clause 247(4) viz. any food premises, and any other premises where food is supplied or to be supplied or from which food is supplied or to be supplied. None of these can be a private residence.

Clause 248 describes the special powers of entry without warrant, which includes forcible entry. In all cases, the food security officer, authorised officer, food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer must be first unable to enter, or be refused entry to, the premises concerned. However, clause 248 does not confer any power of forcible entry in relation to a private residence.

For a food security officer, he or she has all the powers of entry in clause 236 to enter and remain at any of the premises mentioned in clause 247(1) without a warrant. In addition, a food security officer may make a forcible entry into any of those premises if all the following circumstances are met:

- (a) the food security officer suspects on reasonable grounds that —
  - (i) an offence under clause 28(3), 31(1), 35(3) or 36(1) or any Part 2 Rules has been or is being committed;
  - (ii) an offence under clause 253, 254, 255, 256 or 257 involving a food security officer has been or is being committed; or
  - (iii) a civil penalty provision (the MSR in clause 20) has been or is being contravened,

and there is evidential material in those premises relevant to such an offence or contravention of a civil penalty provision;
- (b) the food security officer is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to secure the evidential material in order to prevent the material from being concealed, lost or destroyed.

For an authorised officer or a food inspector, he or she has all the powers of entry in clause 236 to enter and remain at any of the premises mentioned in clause 247(2) or (3) without a warrant. In addition, an authorised officer or a food inspector may make a forcible entry into any of those premises if all the following circumstances are met:

- (a) the authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) suspects on reasonable grounds that any offence under the Bill (except an offence connected with Part 2 or 9) has been or is being committed and there is evidential material in those premises relevant to such an offence;
- (b) the authorised officer or food inspector is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to secure the evidential material in order to prevent the material from being concealed, lost or destroyed.

Clause 248 also confers additional powers on an authorised officer or a food inspector to make a forcible entry into premises if —

- (a) he or she suspects on reasonable grounds that there is in the premises any of the following relevant material:
  - (i) any food which is unsafe food, unsuitable food or a defined food;
  - (ii) any primary produce which is unsafe;
  - (iii) any controlled item which is failing;
  - (iv) any animal feed which is not fit for purpose;
  - (v) any non-packaged drinking water for supply which is unwholesome;
  - (vi) any unregistered plant pesticide; and
- (b) he or she is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to make a forcible entry to prevent or reduce a serious danger, or an imminent risk, of death or serious illness of any person from any of those relevant material being handled, used or supplied in connection with any regulated activity which has been or is being undertaken at those premises.

For a Part 9 enforcement officer, he or she has all the powers of entry in clause 236 to enter and remain at any of the premises mentioned in clause 247(4) without a warrant. In addition, a Part 9 enforcement officer may make a forcible entry into any of those premises if all the following circumstances are met:

- (a) the Part 9 enforcement officer suspects on reasonable grounds that a Part 9 offence, or an offence under Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations, has been or is being committed and there is evidential material in those premises relevant to such an offence;
- (b) the Part 9 enforcement officer is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to secure the evidential material in order to prevent the material from being concealed, lost or destroyed.

Clause 249 contains enhanced powers of gathering information.

A food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer may, by written order, require any individual whom the investigator reasonably believes to be acquainted with any fact or circumstance relevant to the offence concerned or contravention of a civil penalty provision, to attend before the same or another similar investigator to answer any question (to the best of that individual's knowledge, information and belief), to provide information, or to provide for inspection any document.

Clause 250 provides for a power to seize without warrant.

Clause 251 provides for the detention of food, food contact articles, and other evidential material seized and the handling thereafter.

Clause 252 is a scoped power conferred only on an authorised officer or a food inspector to obtain identity particulars from an individual. The power is exercisable only vis-à-vis an individual in a public place who is transporting or delivering food, or is handling or otherwise in possession of food for sale. An authorised officer or a food inspector may detain the individual only for so long as is reasonably necessary.

Division 4 of Part 13 contains 5 clauses which are offences connected with enforcement and administration of the Bill.

Clause 253 contains various offences of obstructing the course of investigations or exercise of monitoring powers. First, the offence of wilfully preventing, obstructing or delaying an investigator or outsourced enforcement officer from entering or re-entering premises.

There is also an offence of intentionally altering, suppressing or destroying any document or any information or material which the person has been required to provide.

It is also an offence if the person, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with any request, requirement or direction which is made or given by an investigator or an outsourced enforcement officer to that person.

Clause 254 deals with the offence of intentionally interfering with any seals or markings of an investigator.

Clause 255 deals with impersonation of a food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector, a Part 9 enforcement officer or an outsourced enforcement officer.

Clause 256 makes it an offence if a person forges certain documents, or applies, knowing it to be forged, a certain document. These documents are any of the following:

- (a) an inspection advice;

- (b) a recognised foreign government certificate;
- (c) an FSSA authorisation;
- (d) a registration mark for a plant pesticide;
- (e) an authorised analyst's certificate under clause 288.

Clause 257 is about the offence of providing false documents, information or materials in or in connection with —

- (a) an application (whether for that person or for another) for an FSSA authorisation like a licence or permit;
- (b) an appeal under Part 12; or
- (c) a requirement or direction of an investigator,

and the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the document, information, material or statement is false or misleading or omits any matter or thing without which the document, information, material or statement is misleading.

Division 5 of Part 13 contains 16 clauses, which is a collection of provisions on evidential and ancillary matters.

Clause 258 provides that a person is not excused for not complying with a requirement imposed under certain provisions to give any information on the ground that the person is subject to a duty of confidentiality or privacy under any prescribed written law, any rule of law, any contract or any rule of professional conduct, that prevents or restricts the person from complying with the requirement.

Clause 258(2) and (3) affords protection to such a person under an obligation as to secrecy or other restriction upon the disclosure of information imposed by law, provided that the breach is attributable, or occasioned by, the person in good faith complying with a requirement imposed under the relevant provision of the Bill to provide information.

However, clause 258 does not relieve the person from the obligation not to disclose any information subject to legal privilege.

Clause 259 provides that a person is not excused for not complying with a requirement imposed under certain provisions of the Bill to give any information on the ground that the disclosure of the information would tend to expose the person to a criminal charge for an offence under the Bill, a repealed law or other written law.

Clause 259 also makes clear that by merely informing the investigated person that he or she is not so excused from disclosing the information does not constitute an inducement, threat or promise under section 258(3) of the Criminal Procedure

Code 2010, for the purposes of any proceedings for an offence under each provision of the Bill. An advocate and solicitor, or a legal counsel is not compelled to disclose or produce privileged communications for the purposes of investigations under the Bill.

Clauses 260 to 263 are rebuttable presumptions designed to facilitate proceedings for offences under the Bill. Many of these are existing under the Sale of Food Act 1973.

Clause 260 contains a presumption as to contents of a package of food vis-à-vis any label on the package of food. There is also a presumption as to the identity of the person who imported, produced, sold, or manufactured the food in the package, based on the information on the outside or inside of the package of food, or on any label of the package of food.

Clause 261 contains a presumption as to the supply or offer for supply of food or food contact article, when any food or food contact article is supplied or displayed or offered for supply. This is a re-enactment of section 28 of the Sale of Food Act 1973.

Clause 262 contains a presumption as to samples of food, primary produce or animal feed taken. The sample is presumed to be representative of the quantity of food, primary produce or animal feed from which the sample was taken until the contrary is proved. The sample is also presumed to be representative of the lot, or production run from which the identified quantity was taken until the contrary is proved.

Clause 263 contains a presumption that the import of any food or prepacked food additive in a quantity that is more than that which is imported for private consumption under clause 44 must be treated as an import of the food or prepacked food additive for the purpose of supply.

Clause 264 provides that the onus of proving that —

- (a) at the time of the alleged offence a person was exempted from a provision of the Bill; or
- (b) anything was done or omitted to be done with lawful excuse or authority or reasonable excuse,

lies upon the person making that assertion.

Clause 265 is a re-enactment of section 36 of the Sale of Food Act 1973, with an improvement.

A witness for the prosecution is not compelled to disclose the fact that the witness received information, the nature of the information received or the name of the person from whom the information was received.

An authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer appearing as a witness in any criminal proceedings is not compelled to produce any document containing any confidential matter made or received in his or her capacity as an authorised officer, a food inspector or a Part 9 enforcement officer, as the case may be.

However, a court hearing proceedings for an offence under the Bill may order the disclosure of any matter, or the production of a document, referred to in those subsections if the court considers that it is necessary in the interests of justice.

Clause 266 empowers a court to order a person found guilty of an offence involving advertising to undertake corrective advertising activities.

Clause 267 is a re-enactment of section 37 of the Sale of Food Act 1973. A person who is convicted of an offence under the Bill may be ordered by the court to pay all fees and other expenses for or incidental to the analysis of any food or thing in respect of which the conviction is obtained, and any other reasonable expenses incurred by the prosecution.

Clause 268 provides for all seized items to be liable to forfeiture by a court, except in the exceptional instances in clause 269. Sections 370, 371 and 372 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 relating to the handling of property seized by a police officer apply, with the necessary modifications, to any seized item under the Bill.

Certain large conveyances are excluded from clauses 268 and 269.

Clause 269 empowers the court, in any criminal proceeding against a person for an offence under the Bill, to order that any item seized in connection with the offence be forfeited under certain conditions.

Clause 270 provides for immediate forfeiture of seized items by the Agency in exceptional circumstances. The forfeiture can take place ahead of any finding of guilt in a criminal proceeding involving the seized item.

Immediate forfeiture by the Agency is allowed where the seized item is unfit for human consumption or not fit for purpose as an animal feed, or it is a biosecurity matter or any thing else which is a suspected hazard or the suspected source of contamination giving rise to a risk to human health, and the seized item is perishable or may rapidly depreciate in value, is injurious to health or is hazardous, is decayed or putrefied, or for any other reason is desirable to dispose without delay.

A complaint of the seizure to a Magistrate's Court can be made within 48 hours after the seizure. If no such complaint has been made with respect to the item seized, the Agency may proceed to destroy or otherwise dispose of the item. If the item is a living thing, the Agency may instead detain and treat it if not incurably diseased or injured, and then dispose of it at once in any manner that the Agency thinks fit.

Clauses 271 and 272 are standard provisions providing for the liability of officers of offenders who are corporations or unincorporated associations or partnerships.

Clause 273 empowers an authorised officer specially authorised by the Chief Executive of the Agency to compound any offence under the Bill which is prescribed as a compoundable offence. All composition sums must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

## PART 14 ADMINISTRATION

Part 14 is a general Part dealing with administrative matters.

Divisions 1, 2 and 3 concern the personnel necessary to administer the Bill. Division 4 contains the provisions of general application to all licensing schemes in the Bill. Division 5 deals with more administrative issues.

Clause 274 provides for the appointment by the Minister of a Director-General, Food Security to administer Part 2. The Director-General, Food Security is empowered to delegate the exercise of all or any of the powers conferred or duties imposed upon him or her by the Bill (save some exceptions) to any food security officer.

Clause 275 provides for the appointment by the Minister of food security officers for the purposes of Part 2 or 13 or the Part 2 Rules.

Clause 276 states that the Agency is to administer the Bill except —

- (a) Part 2 or the Part 2 Rules;
- (b) Part 9 and any Part 9 Regulations; or
- (c) Part 10 if involving any Part 9 Regulations.

Clause 277 provides for the appointment of the Director-General, Food Administration from among suitable officers of the Agency.

Clause 278 provides for the appointment of authorised officers from among suitable officers of the Agency or auxiliary police officers.

Clause 279 provides for the appointment by the Agency of food inspectors from civil servants or employees or officers of a public authority other than the Agency.

Clause 280 provides the Agency with power to further limit authorised officers and food inspectors in the exercise of powers conferred on them by the Bill. This may be done via a written authorisation given to the authorised officer or food inspector, as the case may be. The written authorisation can set any of the following limits:



- (a) limit when, and where in Singapore, the authorised officer or food inspector may exercise those powers or any of them;
- (b) limit the circumstances in which the authorised officer or food inspector may exercise those powers or any of them.

Clause 281 requires the Director-General, Food Security to issue identification cards and necessary equipment to food security officers. The identification card must be carried at all times by the food security officer when exercising powers under the Bill.

Clause 282 requires the Agency to issue identification cards and necessary equipment to each authorised officer and each food inspector. The identification card must be carried at all times by the authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) when exercising powers under the Bill.

Clause 283 provides that if asked to do so, a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector must produce his or her identification card for inspection before exercising any power conferred on him or her.

There is also an offence of a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector using any identification card issued under clause 281(1) or 282(1) otherwise than in the course of, or for the purpose of, performing the functions of a food security officer, an authorised officer or a food inspector.

Clause 284 is a standard provision in many Acts. Every food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector is taken to be a public servant for the purposes of the Penal Code 1871.

Division 2 of Part 14 comprises 2 clauses concerning another class of enforcement personnel called outsourced enforcement officers. Their role is to assist the Director-General, Food Security or the Agency in the administration of any provision of the Bill in any particular area in Singapore, except any provisions which the Ministry of Health administers.

Under clause 285, the Agency is empowered to appoint an individual who is at least 18 years of age, is not its employee or officer and is not a civil servant, to be an outsourced enforcement officer. The Agency has to issue to each outsourced enforcement officer an identification card, which must be carried at all times by an outsourced enforcement officer when exercising powers under any provision of the Bill.

Clause 286 sets out the powers of outsourced enforcement officers. These are less extensive than that conferred on any food security officer, authorised officer or food inspector. These powers are confined to regulated premises mentioned in clause 235, and none of those can be a private residence.

Division 3 of Part 14 consists of 4 clauses on authorised analysts, who are individuals appointed to carry out analysis of samples taken in the exercise of a

monitoring power or investigating power, and whose certificate of analysis is sufficient evidence of the facts stated in the certificate.

Clause 287 empowers the Agency to appoint an individual, whom the Agency considers to be appropriately qualified, to be an authorised analyst.

Clause 288 provides that only an authorised analyst may supply a certificate of analysis.

Clause 289 describes the effect of an authorised analyst's certificate of analysis. This is no different from what is in section 34 of the Sale of Food Act 1973.

The production by the prosecution of a certificate of analysis in the prescribed form and purporting to be signed by an authorised analyst is sufficient evidence of the facts stated in the certificate, unless the person charged requires the authorised analyst to be called as a witness. If a person charged intends to require an authorised analyst to be called as a witness in any proceedings for an offence under the Bill, the person charged must give notice of the person's intention to the prosecution not less than 3 clear days before the day on which the summons is returnable.

Clause 290 makes it clear that an analysis by an authorised analyst is not always required for a conviction, if it appears to the court that the offence is sufficiently proved without an analysis.

Division 4 of Part 14 sets out the provisions of universal application to all activity-based regulatory schemes in Parts 3, 4, 5 and 11. The provisions in this Division need to be read together with those specific Parts, where applicable.

Clause 291 contains definitions of terms used mainly or exclusively in Part 14. In this Part, "FSSA authorisation" excludes registration of a plant pesticide product as the procedure for that is detailed in Part 11 to address the peculiar requirements of regulating a product, unlike the other FSSA authorisations.

Clause 292 sets out the general procedure for applications for the different FSSA authorisations under the Bill.

Clause 293 empowers the granting by the Agency of applications made under the Bill for an FSSA authorisation with or without modifying the conditions of the authorisation. The specific criteria that must be met before the authorisation may be granted are set out in Parts 3, 4, 5 and 11, respectively.

Clause 294 is the general power to impose conditions upon the grant of an FSSA authorisation. The specific conditions that must be imposed are set out in Parts 3, 4, 5 and 11, respectively.

Clause 295 sets out the due process which the Agency must observe when modifying conditions of an FSSA authorisation or in carrying out regulatory action against a holder of an FSSA authorisation.

Clause 296 provides that every FSSA authorisation (other than a pre-market approval), and any rights, benefits or privileges under the authorisation, are not transferable or assignable to any other person.

Clause 297 provides that in taking any regulatory action against a holder of an FSSA authorisation because of the conviction of any person of a criminal offence, the Agency may accept the person's conviction as final. This is a common provision in many licensing schemes.

There is an extended meaning in the Bill of "convicted" for the purposes of regulatory actions only. Clause 297(3) provides that a person is taken to have been convicted of an alleged offence if —

- (a) the person has not been found guilty of the offence but asks for the offence to be taken into account when being sentenced for another offence; or
- (b) the person has been found guilty of the offence but is discharged without conviction.

Clause 298 establishes a debarment scheme to deal with former holders of certain FSSA authorisations following regulatory action against them. The FSSA authorisations are import or export licences, food business licences or animal feed production licences, only.

Where such an FSSA authorisation has been wholly revoked under the Bill following regulatory action against the holder thereof under clause 83, 96 or 196, the person who was the former holder of that invalidated authorisation will be disqualified, for such period as may be specified by the Agency, from holding the same authorisation. The period of disqualification is up to 3 years.

In addition, the person who was the former holder of that authorisation may also be disqualified, for up to 3 years, from holding such other FSSA authorisations as the Agency may specify. The Agency is only allowed to specify authorisations that are associated with the invalidated authorisation. The Minister will make rules in the *Gazette* that group different authorisations together where the nature of the licensable activities covered by the respective authorisations are similar.

Where the invalidated authorisation was a food business licence for a type of licensable food business, the former licensee may also be disqualified, for up to 3 years, from being an executive staffer of the same type of licensable food business at any premises.

There is a right of appeal to the Minister for a former holder of an FSSA authorisation who is aggrieved by any debarment decision of the Agency under this clause.

Clause 299 deals with financial penalties which the Agency may impose following regulatory action. All financial penalties must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Clause 300 makes it an offence if a holder of an FSSA authorisation refuses or fails to show the holder's FSSA authorisation without delay when requested to do so by any police officer, or a food security officer, an authorised officer, a food inspector, a Part 9 enforcement officer or an outsourced enforcement officer who is duly authorised to do so.

As FSSA authorisations may be issued in digital form, there are special provisions that deal with the production of digital FSSA authorisations, similar to what has been enacted in 2020 in amendments to the Active Mobility Act 2017 for digital competency test certificates in respect of test-needed-to-drive vehicles, and in 2021 in amendments to the Road Traffic Act 1976 for digital competency test certificates in respect of test-needed-to-ride-on-road vehicles.

Clause 300 deals with how these are to be treated as produced, namely, by producing a mobile communication device or other electronic device on which the digital FSSA authorisation is displayed, to the police officer, authorised officer, food inspector, Part 9 enforcement officer or outsourced enforcement officer concerned.

Clause 301 requires the surrender or return of an FSSA authorisation where an FSSA authorisation is revoked or cancelled or expires and is not renewed. There are special provisions to deal with an FSSA authorisation granted in digital form, namely, to remove the digital FSSA authorisation from each mobile communication device or other electronic device on which the digital FSSA authorisation is capable of being displayed.

Division 5 of Part 14 consists of 7 clauses.

Clause 302 provides that if any provision in the Bill requires an authorised officer or a food inspector to reasonably believe something before exercising a power, it is sufficient if the Director-General, Food Administration or a more highly ranked authorised officer or food inspector reasonably believes it and directs the authorised officer or food inspector (as the case may be) to exercise the power. A similar provision is provided for food security officers.

Clause 303 is a re-enactment of sections 15 and 16 of the Control of Plants Act 1993 and is to enable Singapore to comply with its international obligations in regard to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The provision provides for the protection by the Agency of certain confidential information received by the Agency in relation to an application for registration of a plant pesticide product that utilises a new ingredient.

Clause 304 deals with the service of documents permitted or required by the Bill to be given to a person. It is a standard provision in many Acts. Clause 304

does not deal with service of court documents like summonses, as these are regulated by the Rules of Court or other written laws.

Clause 305 is another standard provision in many Acts. It protects from personal liability any food security officer, authorised officer, food inspector, Part 9 enforcement officer or any member, officer or employee of the Agency, or any other person acting under the direction of the Agency, for anything done or omitted to be done in the execution or purported execution of any provision of the Bill, provided that it is done or omitted in good faith and with reasonable care.

Clause 306 confers on a District Court or a Magistrate's Court jurisdiction to try any offence under the Bill and to punish accordingly despite any limits set under other written law like the Criminal Procedure Code 2010.

## PART 15

### REGULATIONS AND CODES

Part 15 sets out powers to make subsidiary legislation.

Clause 307 contains the general power of the Agency to make regulations. The power to make regulations is subject to the approval of the Minister, and the Agency may prescribe anything that is required or permitted to be prescribed, or is otherwise necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to, under any provision of the Bill. The power to make regulations does not extend to giving effect to provisions in Part 2, 9 or 12 since these are specially provided for in the respective Parts.

Clause 308 contains the power for the Agency to prescribe fees and charges.

Clause 309 provides for regulations which set out standards regarding food and agri-food production inputs, and labelling requirements.

Clause 310 provides for regulation making to establish one or more food safety schemes for the purposes of Part 4. A food safety scheme has to apply to an identified licensable food business and state the aspects of the licensable food business to which the scheme applies.

Clause 311 provides power to make other regulations, such as controls over content of advertising about food or regulated food contact articles.

Clause 312 deals with Part 6 Regulations. It empowers the Agency, with the approval of the Minister, to make regulations (called Part 6 Regulations) prescribing anything that is required or permitted to be prescribed under Part 6 or is otherwise necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to Part 6.

Clause 313 deals with animal feed regulations. It empowers the Agency, with the approval of the Minister, to make regulations (called animal feed regulations) prescribing anything that is required or permitted to be prescribed by Division 2 of

Part 11 or is otherwise necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to Division 2 of Part 11.

Clause 314 deals with pesticide control regulations. It empowers the Agency, with the approval of the Minister, to make regulations (called pesticide control regulations) which are required or permitted to be prescribed by Division 3 of Part 11 or are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to Division 3 of Part 11.

Clause 315 allows the Agency, when making regulations under the Bill, to refer to external documents made either by itself or by other agencies and incorporating the contents thereof as if the contents formed part of those regulations. Modern food safety standards, procedures and practices are developed nowadays by expert technical bodies and other authorities, and may change quickly and frequently in response to important safety-related factors. In order to ensure that the regulations under the Bill reflect the most current safety standards, procedures and practices, clause 315 seeks to facilitate the process by which these materials can be lawfully and effectively incorporated, adopted or applied in a timely way.

Clause 316 requires all subsidiary legislation made under the Bill to be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after their publication in the *Gazette*. The provision applies to Part 2 Rules, Part 9 Regulations, the inspection scheme regulations made under Part 3 and the various regulations made under provisions in Part 15.

Clause 317 empowers the Agency to issue one or more codes of practice applicable to licensees generally or particular types of licensees or to approve as a code of practice applicable to licensees or particular types of licensees any document prepared by a person other than the Agency if the Agency considers the document as suitable for this purpose.

The subject matter that a code of practice may deal with are —

- (a) the management and operations of a food business or a type of food premises or generally;
- (b) the benchmarks of good practice in the operations of food businesses generally or of a particular type of food business or at particular food premises; and
- (c) the duties and obligations of any food business licensee in relation to the operation of the food business.

Every food business licensee must comply with the relevant codes of practice applicable to the licensee. There can be regulatory action following from a failure to comply with a binding code of practice.

However, a code of practice issued or approved under this clause does not have legislative effect.

Instead, clause 318 provides that a code of practice is admissible in evidence in any proceedings under the Bill where a person is alleged to have committed an offence under the Bill and the matter to which the alleged contravention or failure relates is also one to which, in the opinion of the court in the criminal proceedings, a code of practice relates. It provides that the observance or failure to observe any provision in such codes of practice may serve as a basis for determining whether criminal liability has arisen or whether administrative action should be taken by the Agency under the Bill.

## PART 16 MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 319 is a standard provision in modern Acts. It expressly states that the Bill binds the Government, with the usual exception that the Government is not liable to prosecution. While the Government cannot be liable to be prosecuted for an offence, there is no immunity from prosecution for a person employed or contractor engaged by the Government.

However, there may be a need to partially disapply or modify the application of the Bill to any regulated activity undertaken by any part of the Government —

- (a) in the interest of ensuring the efficiency or effectiveness of policies, programme management or service planning and delivery by that part of the Government; or
- (b) in the public interest of Singapore.

In these situations, the Bill will apply in relation to every regulated activity undertaken by the Government, with the modifications, and subject to the restrictions, specified in rules made by the Minister.

Clause 320 confers a legislative power on the Minister to disapply all or any provisions of the Bill (except those in Part 9 or any Part 9 Regulations, any provision in Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations and Part 12) to any class of persons, food businesses, premises, food or activities. The Minister is to do this by an exemption order in the *Gazette*.

Clause 321 confers on the Director-General, Food Administration an administrative power to exempt except in relation to Parts 2 and 9 or the Part 9 Regulations, or any provision in Part 10 involving any Part 9 Regulations. This is an extension of existing section 55 of the Sale of Food Act 1973.

As is the case under section 55 of the Sale of Food Act 1973, the administrative power of exemption in clause 321 is narrower than the Minister's legislative power of exemption.

The administrative exemption may be granted only where the Director-General, Food Administration is personally satisfied that the criteria in

clause 321(2) are satisfied in the particular case. The power of exemption under clause 321 can only be for a period specified, a particular person, food business, premises, food or activity, and from the operation of any (not all) of the provisions of the Bill.

For traceability obligations in clause 87, 88, 89, 99, 100 or 101, a licensed importer or a proprietor of a licensed food business may be exempt from all or any of those obligations only where the Director-General, Food Administration is personally satisfied that the criteria in clause 321(3) and (4) are satisfied in the particular case.

The exemption by the Director-General, Food Administration must be in writing, time-limited and given to the particular person concerned. The exemption under clause 321 need not be published in the *Gazette* as it is an administrative act.

## PART 17

### AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ACTS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Part 17 contains amendments to other Acts which are consequential on or related to amendments in other Parts of the Bill.

Division 1 of Part 17 contains amendments to the Animals and Birds Act 1965.

The amendments are mostly directed at demarcating the regulatory coverage under the Animals and Birds Act 1965 and that under the Bill, to avoid duplicative regulatory requirements for and enforcement against importing and primary production activities which involve live food producing animals.

The import of live animals remains subject to regulation under the Animals and Birds Act 1965. Importers of live food producing animals will continue to apply for a single licence under the Animals and Birds Act 1965 and do not need an additional licence and permit under the Bill. However, the regulation of the import of eggs for the purpose of sale or handling as food for human consumption will cease to be regulated under the Animals and Birds Act 1965 but will be regulated as food under Part 3.

The power to make subsidiary legislation under section 59 of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 for the purpose of regulating and controlling the keeping, breeding or feeding of animals and birds is delimited by the amendments, and will cease to extend to prohibiting or regulating the keeping, breeding or feeding of any animal or bird for human consumption.

Likewise, the subsidiary legislation making power under section 80(2)(k) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 is limited to regulating methods of production except animal or bird production for human consumption.



A new section 8A is introduced to the Animals and Birds Act 1965, which is connected to clause 70 under which the Agency is empowered to give a directive banning the import of any live food producing animal of a particular kind from a particular country or place outside Singapore for a period.

That period cannot exceed 90 days in the first instance but may be renewed once by the Agency for a further period not exceeding 30 days (called the freeze period).

The new section 8A is introduced prohibiting the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare from granting, during the freeze period, under section 8 of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 any licence that is for the import of any living animal or bird if the licence authorises an import that would be inconsistent with the Agency's directive under clause 70. The new section 8A also empowers the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare, during that freeze period, to revoke or suspend any licence granted under section 8 of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 for the import during the freeze period of any living animal or bird inconsistent with the directive.

Before revoking or suspending any licence granted, the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare must give notice to the licensee concerned of the intention to revoke or suspend the licence and give the affected licensee an opportunity to make representations. The Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare may reject the representations or may suspend the licence instead of revoking it.

There is no right of appeal against the decision of the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare under this new section 8A, unlike decisions under section 62 of the Animals and Birds Act 1965.

The last related amendment is to section 41 of the Animals and Birds Act 1965, concerning animal welfare. The present definition of an "animal-related business" excludes "any business in respect of animals intended for consumption". The amendment removes this exclusion.

With this amendment, a food business proprietor will no longer be liable to lower penalties for breaching animal welfare requirements as an animal owner but will be put in the same position as all other animal-related businesses.

Division 2 of Part 17 contains a consequential amendment to the Third Schedule to the Central Provident Fund Act 1953. Clause 328 replaces the reference to the Sale of Food Act 1973 with the Food Safety and Security Act 2024.

Division 3 of Part 17 contains a consequential amendment to the Schedule to the Consumer Protection (Trade Descriptions and Safety Requirements) Act 1975, which carves out certain subject matter from the application of that Act. Clause 329 carves out the Food Safety and Security Act 2024. Any trade

description relating to food, regulated food contact articles, animal feed and plant pesticide products is not covered by the Consumer Protection (Trade Descriptions and Safety Requirements) Act 1975.

Division 4 of Part 17 contains consequential and related amendments to the Control of Plants Act 1993.

The amendments reflect the proposed division of responsibility between the Agency and the National Parks Board, over regulating cultivation of plants in Singapore, which can be edible as well as purely ornamental and therefore have different risk profiles. The National Parks Board will continue with responsibility for the administration of the Control of Plants Act 1993 after the Bill is enacted, but without need for the Agency's officers administering some provisions of that Act under delegated authority because those plants are food.

As a result, the focus of the Control of Plants Act 1993 as amended by the Bill is sharpened to what is required in the interest of better regulation. The scope of the Control of Plants Act 1993 is restricted by the amendments in the Bill as follows:

- (a) only the cultivation of plants not as food or not to produce food will be licensed under the Control of Plants Act 1993; see the amendments to the long title and section 9 of the Control of Plants Act 1993 in clauses 330 and 334. Farming of edible plants will be regulated under Part 4 as a food business;
- (b) the registration of and other controls over the use of plant pesticide products and the vocational control of individuals who apply plant pesticides on non-edible plants, are abolished; see the deletion of sections 11 to 16 in clause 335;
- (c) the regulation of the export of plants is made clear that this is for phytosanitary reasons; see the amendment to section 28 in clause 336.

The regulation of importing, exporting and transshipping of fresh fruits and vegetables will cease under the Control of Plants Act 1993, as that is replaced by Part 3 administered by the Agency. See clause 330.

The Control of Plants Act 1993 retains its objects of protecting plants and plant products in Singapore against pests and diseases and of controlling of the introduction of pests into Singapore. As insects (even edible insects) can be pests, power is given to the Minister for National Development to make rules to support the Agency's directive under clause 70 banning the import of any live food producing animal of a particular kind from a particular country or place outside Singapore for a period. It is envisaged that rules similar to the new section 8A of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 will be made.

Division 5 of Part 17 contains 17 amendments to the Environmental Public Health Act 1987.

Clause 341 amends section 2 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 by removing definitions made redundant by the deletion of significant parts of Part 4 (on retail food establishments) and the deletion of the whole of Part 9 (relating to non-packaged drinking water) of that Act.

Clause 342 replaces the heading of Part 4 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 since it will have a reduced scope, dealing with temporary fairs and non-food hawking only after the amendments in clauses 344, 345, 346, 347 and 348 have taken effect.

Clause 343 replaces section 31W of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 so that the Agency is charged with the administration of Part 4 of that Act.

Clause 344 deletes section 32 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 on the licensing of retail food establishments. The latter are licensable food businesses and are to be regulated under Part 4 of the Bill.

Clause 345 replaces section 33 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 so that the licensing of hawkers is confined to those who hawk, sell or expose for sale any goods of any kind but not any food. Those who hawk, sell or expose for sale any food are licensable food businesses regulated under Part 4 of the Bill.

Clause 346 deletes section 34 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 on itinerant hawkers.

Clause 347 replaces section 35 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, and inserts new sections 35A and 35B, in connection with licensing the promoting, organising or staging of any temporary fair.

Under the new section 35, a person cannot promote, organise or stage any temporary fair on any premises without a permit from the Agency. The trade fair may or may not have food stalls.

The new section 35A provides for a debarment scheme for a person who was the holder of a trade fair permit. Like clause 298, the former permit holder is disqualified from holding another trade fair permit, for a period (not exceeding 3 years) that the Agency specifies. The former permit holder may appeal to the Minister against the period of disqualification specified by the Agency.

The Minister may determine the appeal either by dismissing the appeal and confirming the decision of the Agency appealed against, or shortening the period of disqualification.

The new section 35B is directed at associates of disqualified persons. It operates in addition to section 99 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 which contains the general provisions on the granting of licences and permits under that Act. The new section 35B provides that the Agency, in deciding whether an applicant should be granted a trade fair permit or to impose conditions on a trade fair permit or whether to modify any condition of such a permit, the

Agency must have regard to whether the applicant for or a holder of such a permit, or an associate of an applicant for or a holder of such a permit, is or was disqualified by the new section 35A from holding the trade fair permit.

The new section 35B(3) defines an associate in the same manner as clause 17.

Sections 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 are deleted by clause 348.

Consequential amendments to sections 41A, 42 and 42A of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 are made by clauses 349, 350 and 351, respectively, because of the reduced scope of Part 4 of that Act.

Clause 352 deletes Part 9 of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 relating to non-packaged drinking water.

Clauses 355, 358 and 359 make amendments to sections 91, 110 and 111, respectively, of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 as a consequence of the deletion of Part 9 of that Act.

Clauses 353, 354, 356 and 357 make amendments to sections 82, 84A, 99 and 108A, respectively, of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 as a consequence of vesting in the Agency the function of administering Part 4 of that Act.

Clause 360 deletes the First Schedule to the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 as a consequence of the deletion of section 32 of that Act.

Division 6 of Part 17 contains related amendments to the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965. The amendments are organised according to the stages envisaged for bringing the different Parts of the Bill into force.

Most amendments have the primary effect of limiting the scope of the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965. The scope is limited in 2 stages. One stage will confine the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 to regulating import of feeding stuff for food producing animals, and the manufacture or processing for sale, of feeding stuff for non-food producing animals. Sale per se will cease to be regulated. The final stage will confine the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 to feeding stuff which are not for consumption by food producing animals, such as pet food and food for wild animals exhibited in a zoo or an aquarium.

The Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 will in the final stage be renamed the “Feeding Stuffs (Pets and Non-food Producing Animals) Act 1965”.

Another amendment is to transfer in the final stage of the administration of the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965, once renamed, from the Director-General, Food Administration to the Agency and then to the National Parks Board.

The last stage will also involve amendments to sections 4 and 8 of the Feeding Stuffs Act 1965 to abolish regulation under that Act of the import and sale of feeding stuffs which are not for consumption by food producing animals.

Division 7 of Part 17 contains amendments to the Fisheries Act 1966.

Clause 372 amends section 2 to remove references in the Fisheries Act 1966 to fish culturists because these persons will be regulated as food businesses engaged in primary production activities viz. aquaculture. The definition of “fish pond” is also deleted as it is a definition relevant to aquaculture only.

Clause 373 amends section 23(1) of the Fisheries Act 1966 to remove the power to search, examine and investigate the operation of any fish ponds.

Clause 374 amends the rule-making power in section 27(2) of the Fisheries Act 1966 to delete rules to provide for the licensing, control, supervision and protection of the cultivation of fish or any particular species of fish and to regulate or prohibit any method of cultivation of fish.

Division 8 of Part 17 contains a consequential amendment in clause 375 to section 2 of the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act 2024, replacing the references in that Act to the Sale of Food Act 1973 with the Bill.

Division 9 of Part 17 contains a list of related amendments to section 2 of the Infectious Diseases Act 1976, by removing the Director-General, Food Administration from exercising powers under that Act. Clause 382 also deletes sections 38 and 39 of the Infectious Diseases Act 1976 because the fitness for consumption of food and water supplied to vessels will be covered by the Bill.

Division 10 of Part 17 contains an amendment to section 2 of the National Parks Board Act 1996.

The amendment in clause 390 replaces the definition of “animal-related services”, the promotion of which is among the functions of the National Parks Board. The new definition expressly excludes services like bathing, grooming, boarding, training treatment, vaccination or inoculation of animals, trapping or restraining of animals, or exhibiting (whether or not for sale) of animals, where those services involve a food producing animal within the meaning of the Bill.

The amendment is to clearly demarcate the statutory responsibilities of the National Parks Board and the Agency and avoid duplicative regulatory requirements for and enforcement against activities which involve live animals.

Division 11 of Part 17 contains amendments to the Sale of Food Act 1973. The amendments in clauses 391 to 394 are grouped according to the staging that is planned to bring the different provisions in the Bill into force. Clause 395 repeals the Sale of Food Act 1973 after all those amendments have taken effect.

Division 12 of Part 17 contains amendments to the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019.

Under clause 396, the definitions in section 2 of the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019 are amended to ensure consistency in expressions between that Act and the Bill, which is to be administered by the Agency.

Under clause 397, section 5 of the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019, which sets out the functions of the Agency, is amended for 2 main reasons. The first is the change in the Agency's function from supporting the Director-General, Food Administration in whom all statutory powers for food safety regulation are presently vested, to being the principal responsible to regulate the primary production activities and the production of animal feed to ensure the safety and resilience of food supply.

Consistent with Part 2, the Agency has the new function to support the Director-General, Food Security in the administration of Part 2 and the minimum stockholding requirement for the holding in Singapore of a minimum quantity of stocks of certain foods and agri-food production inputs in Singapore.

The Agency is also conferred the function of, acting as an agent of the Government, in the procurement, holding, distribution and disposal of stockpiles of certain foods and agri-food production inputs in Singapore, and to act as agent of the Government in the collection and recovery of any MSR charge payable under Part 2.

Clause 398 amends section 6 of the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019, as a consequence of the new function of acting as an agent of the Government in order for the Government to maintain a minimum quantity of stocks of certain foods and agri-food production inputs in Singapore or to otherwise ensure food security in Singapore. The powers are expanded to allow for entering into contracts by and on behalf of the Government in this case.

Division 13 of Part 17 contains a consequential amendment to the Weights and Measures Act 1975.

Clause 399 makes an amendment to section 2(1) of the Weights and Measures Act 1975 by updating the cross-reference from the Sale of Food Act 1973 to the Bill.

Division 14 of Part 17 contains amendments to the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999. The amendments in clauses 400 and 401 are grouped according to the staging that is planned to bring the different provisions in the Bill into force. Clause 403 repeals the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 after all those amendments have taken effect.

Clause 402 validates various amounts purportedly collected as fees by the Agency or Director-General, Food Administration on certain licences and permits under the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 and the Sale of Food Act 1973.

Division 15 of Part 17 contains an amendment in clause 404 to the Wildlife Act 1965, which is connected to clause 70 under which the Agency is empowered

to give a directive banning the import of any live food producing animal of a particular kind from a particular country or place outside Singapore for a period.

That period cannot exceed 90 days in the first instance but may be renewed once by the Agency for a further period not exceeding 30 days (called the freeze period).

Some live insects or invertebrates imported for food production would be wildlife covered by the import controls in the Wildlife Act 1965.

A new section 9A is introduced by clause 404, prohibiting the Director-General, Wildlife Management from granting, during the freeze period, under section 9 of the Wildlife Act 1965 any written approval that is for the import of any living wildlife if the written approval authorises an import that would be inconsistent with the Agency's directive under clause 70. The new section 9A also empowers the Director-General, Wildlife Management, during that freeze period, to cancel or suspend any written approval granted under section 9 of the Wildlife Act 1965 for the import during the freeze period of any living wildlife inconsistent with the directive.

Before cancelling or suspending any written approval granted, the Director-General, Wildlife Management must give notice to the holder of the written approval concerned of the intention to cancel or suspend the written approval and give the affected holder an opportunity to make representations. The Director-General, Wildlife Management may reject the representations or may suspend the written approval instead of cancelling it.

There is no right of appeal against the decision of the Director-General, Wildlife Management.

Clause 405 and the Second Schedule set out saving and transitional provisions necessary to ensure the migration of existing licences and permits to the new regimes under the Bill, and to provide time for existing businesses to adapt to the new requirements in the Bill.

Clause 405 also empowers the Minister charged with the responsibility for the Bill to amend the Second Schedule by prescribing additional provisions of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of any provision in the Bill.

The Minister has power to make such regulations only within 2 years after the operative date of the provision concerned.

## EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

This Bill will involve the Government in extra financial expenditure, the exact amount of which cannot at present be ascertained.

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