



31 May 2012

All Licensed Importers of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Dear Sir/Madam,

CHANGE OF INSPECTION PROGRAMME FOR ROMAINE LETTUCE FROM MALAYSIA

From our review of the vegetable inspection results, it was found that the performance of romaine lettuce from Malaysia inspected under the Enforcement Surveillance Programme (ESP) were unsatisfactory.

In this regard, AVA will elevate romaine lettuce from Malaysia for inspection under the Enhanced Enforcement Programme (EEP) with effect from 1 July 2012. Under this programme, consignments will be detained after inspection pending the laboratory results. Consignments that fail the pesticide residue tests will be destroyed and composition fine will be imposed on the importers concerned.

To encourage importers to continually source from good and reliable farms, AVA has an incentive scheme for vegetables inspected under EEP. Importers with satisfactory inspection results for at least ten consecutive consignments for a specific vegetable will qualify for the scheme, whereby, the subsequent consignments would be inspected without detention. However, if any subsequent consignment fails to meet the pesticide residue requirements, the consignments will be detained after inspection pending the laboratory results.

For further enquiries, please contact:

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Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Ms How Siew Tang
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for Director-General
Agri-Food & Veterinary Services