



16 October 2012

All Licensed Importers of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Dear Sir/Madam,

CHANGE OF INSPECTION PROGRAMME FOR VEGETABLES FROM MALAYSIA AND THAILAND; AND ENHANCEMENT TO THE INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR VEGETABLES INSPECTED UNDER EEP

A review was conducted on fresh vegetables inspected under the Enforcement Surveillance Programme (ESP) and the incentive scheme for vegetables inspected under the Enhanced Enforcement Programme (EEP).

The following changes will take effect from 15 November 2012:

1. Matrimony vine, spinach, kale and leek from Malaysia, and coriander from Thailand

From our review of the vegetable inspection results, it was found that the performance of the five types of vegetables inspected under the Enforcement Surveillance Programme (ESP) were unsatisfactory. In this regard, AVA will elevate the inspection programme of these vegetables for inspection under the Enhanced Enforcement Programme (EEP). 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

2. Enhancement to the incentive scheme for vegetables inspected under EEP

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 type of EEP 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.

It is noted that some importers have been consistently maintaining good track records when the vegetables are inspected under the ESP. As such,

we have enhanced the scheme to include the accumulated inspection results under ESP.

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