



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2017/SCSC/FSCF/EM/016

Day 2 Session 1

Singapore's Perspective: Current Status and Future Perspectives in Food Safety Modernization or Enhancement

Submitted by: Singapore



**First Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation Through
an APEC Framework on Food Safety
Modernisation**

Ha Noi, Viet Nam

15-17 November 2017

Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety
Modernisation - 1st Expert Meeting (Hanoi, Viet Nam), 15 to 17 November 2017

Singapore's perspective:
**Current Status and Future Perspectives in Food
Safety Modernisation or Enhancement**

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Outline

1. AVA's role in food import control & export facilitation
2. Challenges and approaches
3. Moving Forward

AVA's Role

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore is the national food safety authority for primary and processed food.

Our responsibility for food safety covers:

- Locally produced & manufactured food
- Imported & exported food

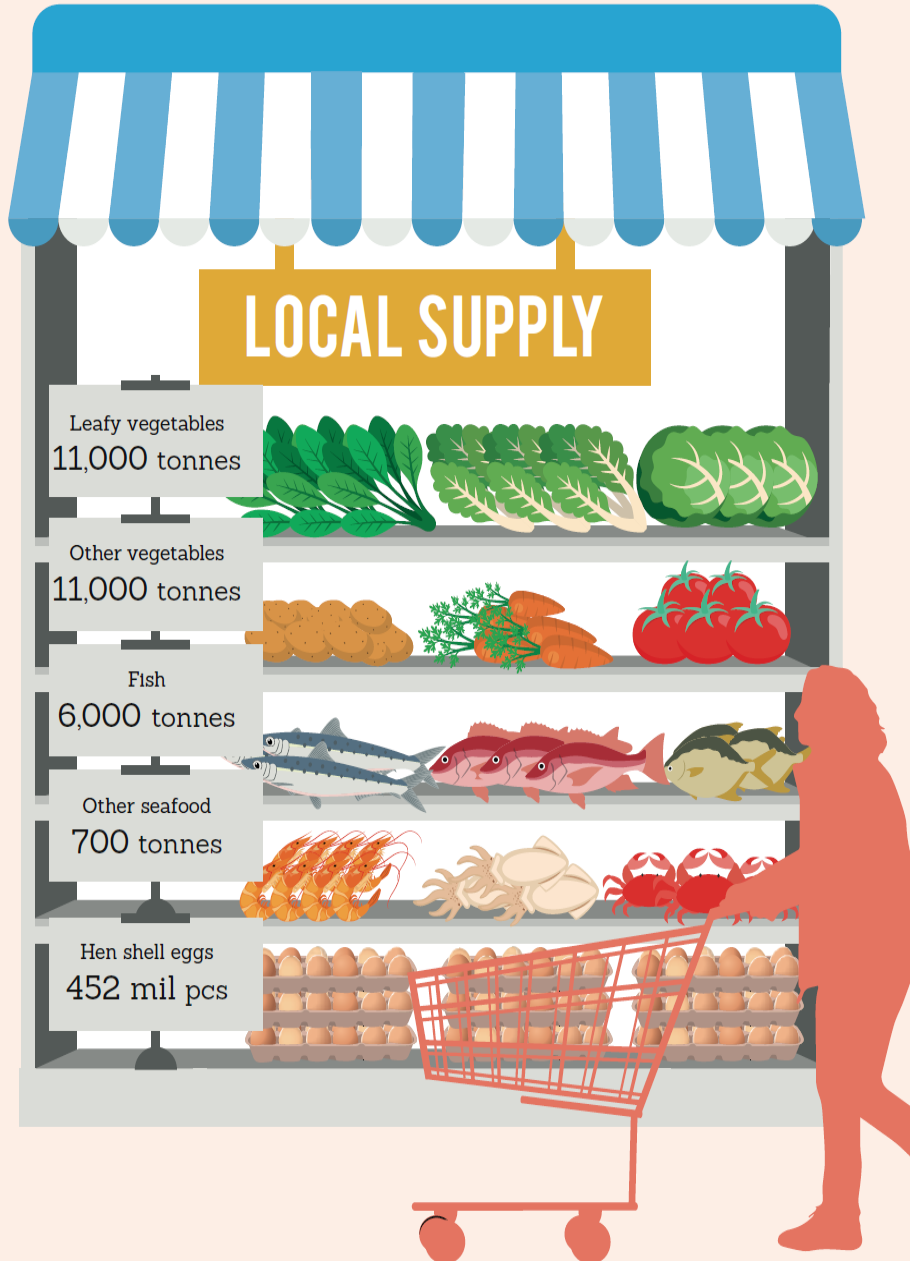
- AVA's food safety programme based on science & risk analysis approach
- Rationale for control
 - To prevent occurrence of foodborne diseases;
 - To protect consumers from foodborne hazards





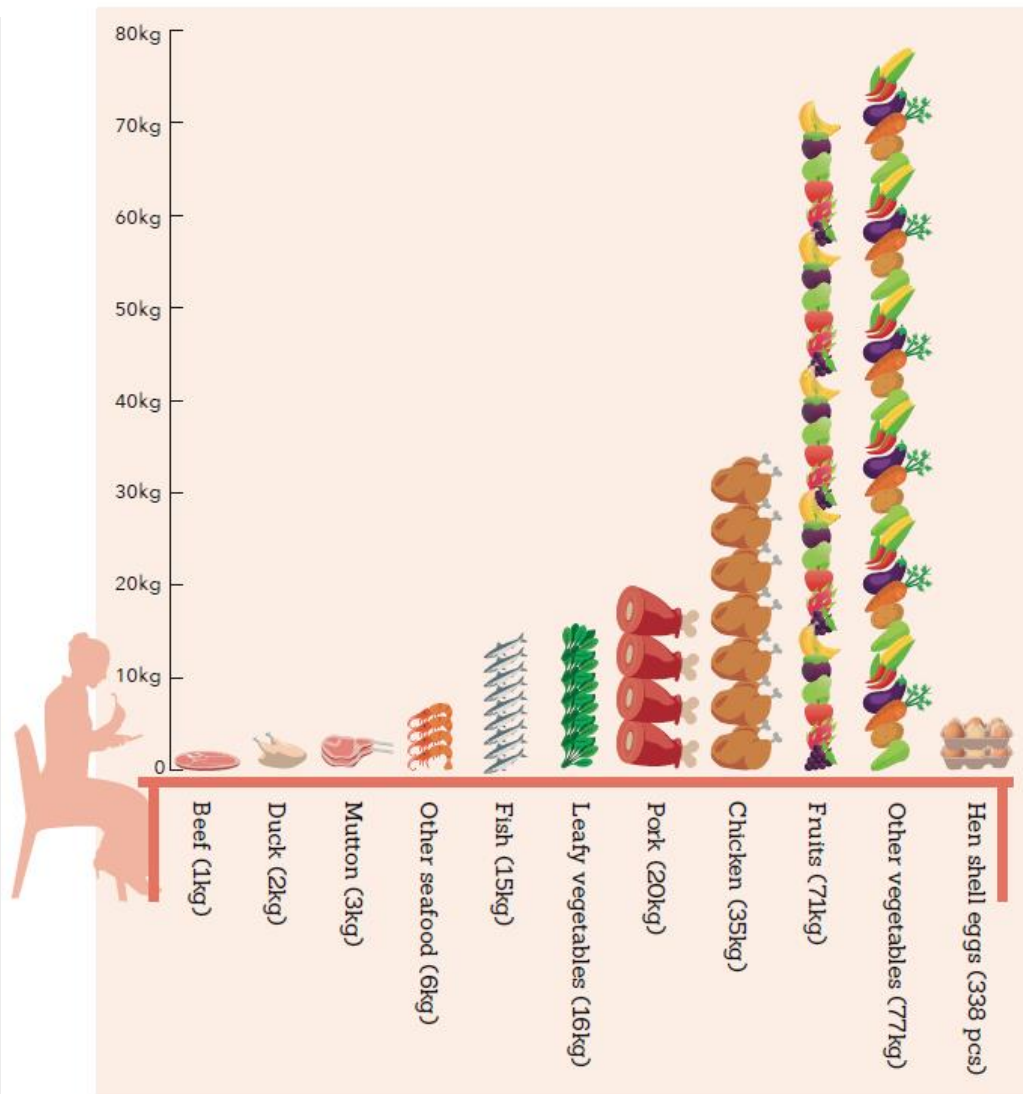
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority

Imported Food into Singapore



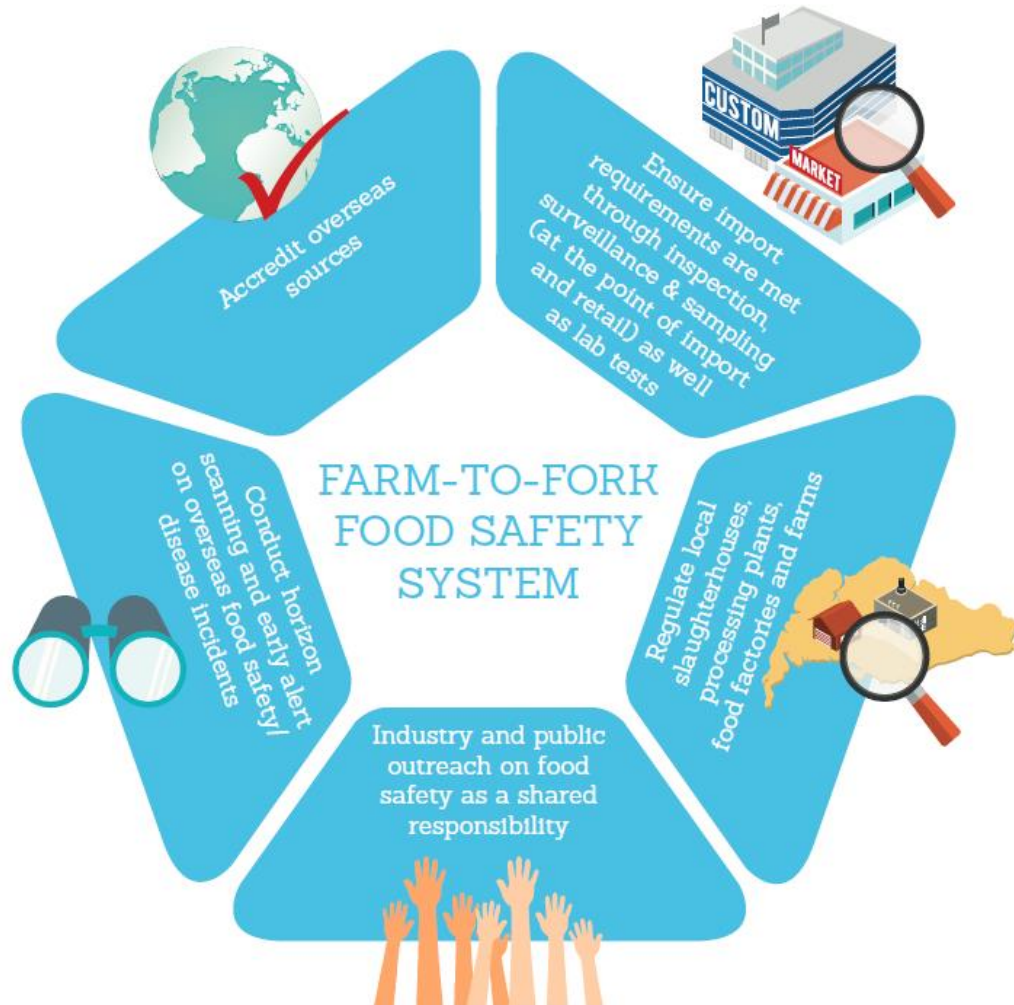
Locally Produced in Singapore

► PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION (FY 2016)



Source: AVA Annual Report 2016/17

AVA Integrated Food Safety Programme



- Licensing / Registration of food businesses
- Adhere to food safety requirements and standards
- Inspection and Sampling
- Laboratory analysis

Food Safety Legislation

Singapore laws on food safety:

- AVA Act
- Sale of Food Act
- Animal and Birds Act
- Control of Plants Act
- Wholesome Meat and Fish Act

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) Measures - Submission of SPS Certificate

1. All meat and meat products
2. All egg and egg products
3. High-risk fish and seafood products
(e.g. molluscan shellfish & cooked shellfish)
4. Fresh fruits and vegetables from South American
Tropics countries
5. High-risk processed food
(e.g. infant formula, drinking water)

Singapore International Engagement

- Participates actively at Codex meetings. AVA as Singapore's National Codex Contact Point to safeguard Singapore's interest
 - Codex standards are the first point of reference when formulating / reviewing national standards (e.g. Food Regulations), considerations given to local dietary exposure assessment
- Participates as member country in OIE (World Organization for Animal Health); AVA is OIE Collaborating Centre for Food Safety
- Participates as member country in FAO (Food & Agricultural Organization)
- AVA works with international partners in capacity building in areas of food safety, including risk assessment, and standard setting and harmonisation
 - ❖ World Health Organisation-International Food Safety Authorities Network (WHO-INFOSAN)
 - ❖ World Bank Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP)
 - ❖ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Challenges To Import/Export Trade (re: Food Safety Control Measures)

Challenges

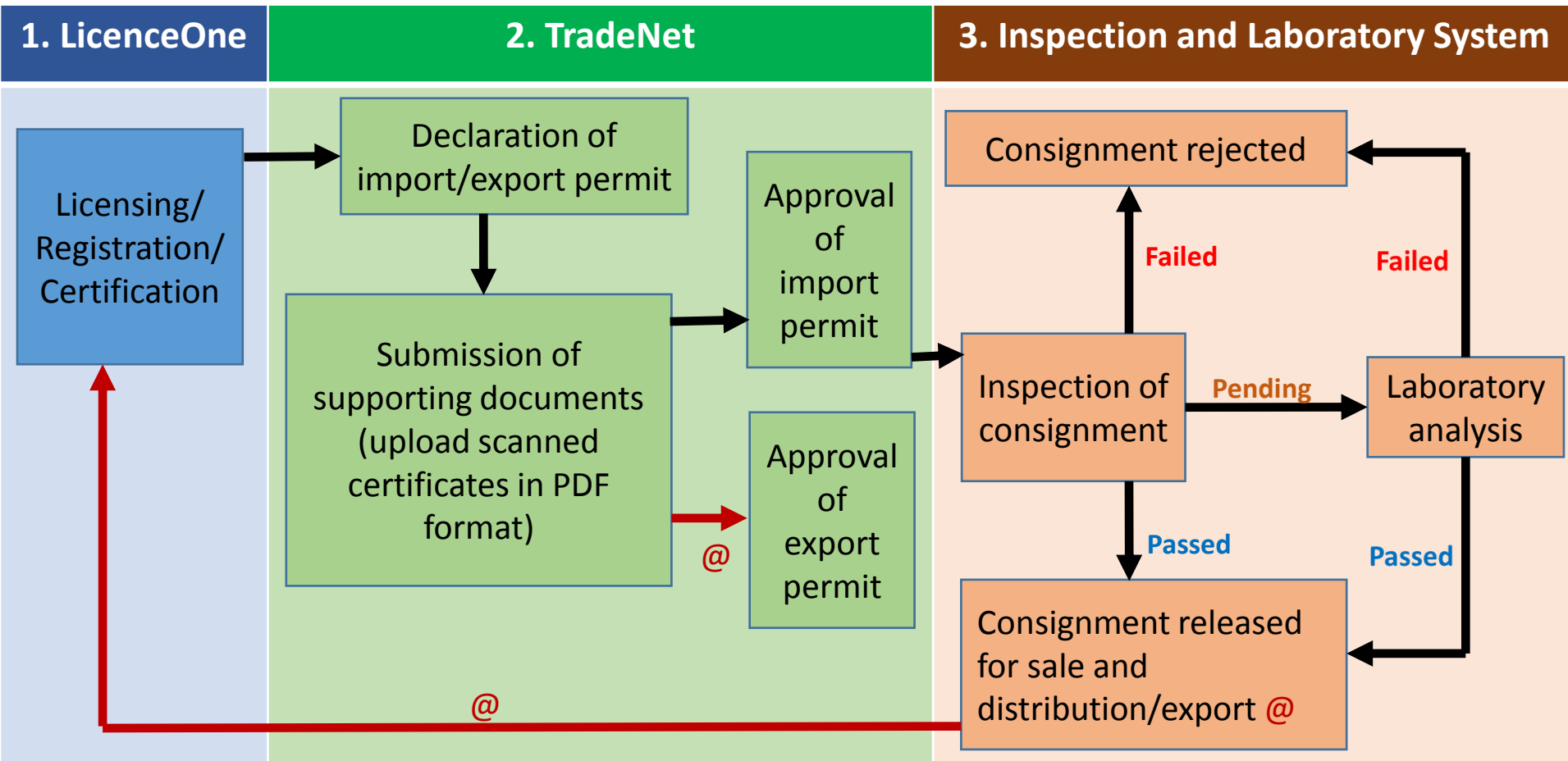
- National interest (e.g. country A versus country B)
- Insufficient scientific evidence to substantiate reason for trade restriction
- No transparency and impose additional request (e.g. ad-hoc, no lead time to notice)
- Non-responsiveness from Country B to enquiry made by Country A creating impediment to trade

Approaches To Facilitate Import/Export Trade (re: Food Safety Control Measures)

Approaches

- Reciprocal exchange mechanism (bilateral or plurilateral) with partner country for agri-food trading – e.g. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Regional consensus and charter
- Reference to international standards and guidelines
- Rigorous review of Singapore's food legislation
- Research & development - use of rapid laboratory testing kit and method, technology
- Receptivity for innovative food

Overview of food import & export in Singapore – leveraging on electronic systems



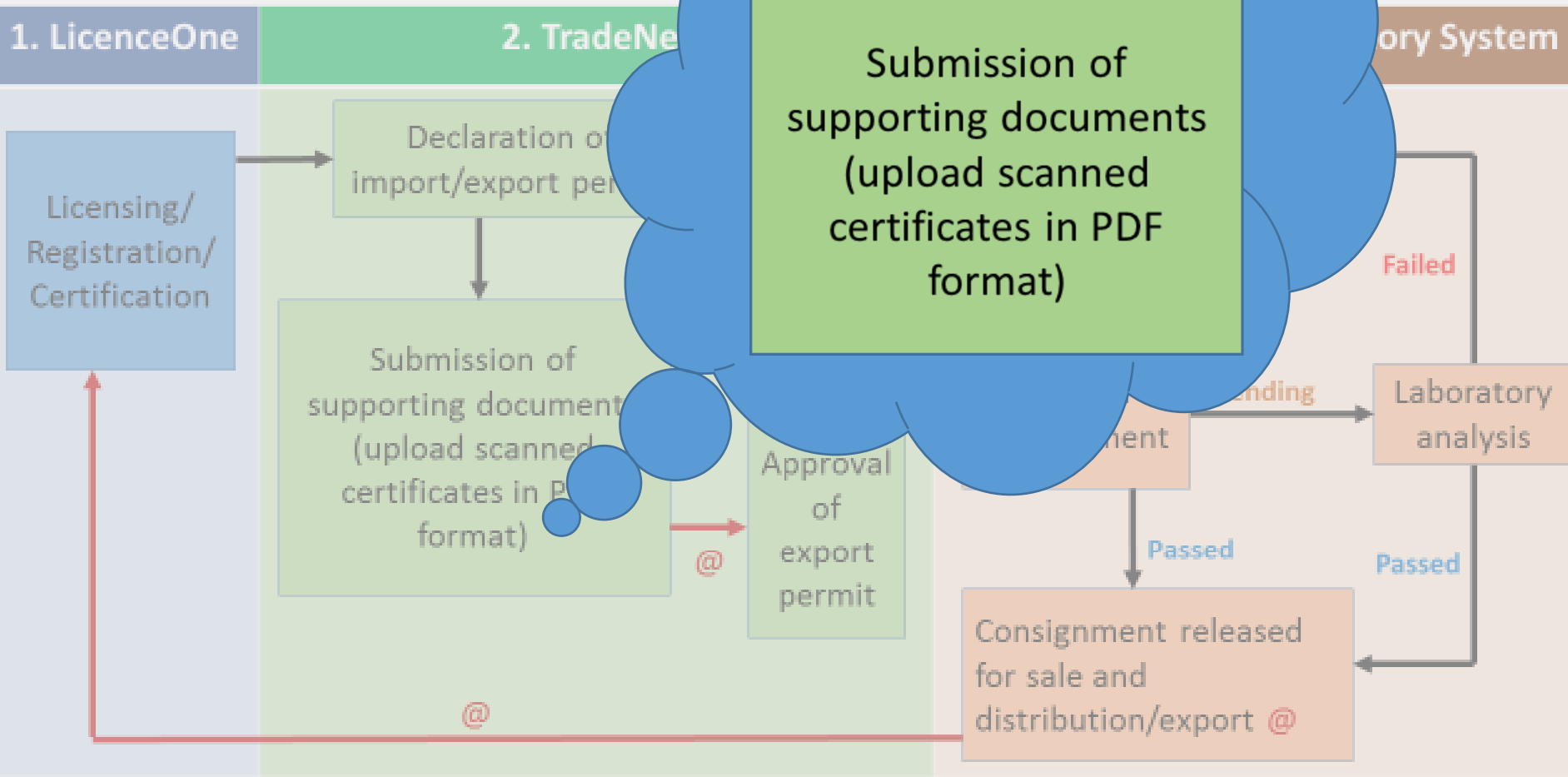
@ - Workflow for export

Current Situation in Singapore

- Submission of supporting documents via scanned paper certificates in PDF format
- In discussion to develop electronic exchanges with other countries
- Participates in EWG on Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates under Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CCFICS)

Overview of food import & export

e-certificate exchange



Moving Forward

- Reviewing strategies to be future-ready for both threats and opportunities with regards to food safety
- Harness and develop scientific and digital technology
- Co-creation of solutions with food industry
- Explore bold and new ideas to facilitate innovation while ensuring food safety

Thank you