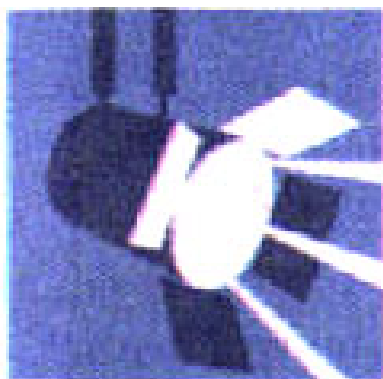


Harsher penalties for food establishments



THE National Environment Agency (NEA) stepped up penalties yesterday at all food establishments for hygiene offences. The minimum fine for such offences has been increased from \$100 to between \$200 and \$400

depending on the severity of the offence.

A total of 12 fines were issued as of 4pm yesterday when 65 NEA officers conducted spot checks islandwide. Major offences included using bare hands to handle cooked food, and failing to keep the premises clean. The new rules apply to all operators in hawker centres, coffee shops, restaurants, and canteens. It also applies to cake shops, drink and snack kiosks, trade fairs and caterers.