

Strengthen Border Control to Block the African Swine Fever (ASF) Disease

Introduction

Since the first reports of African Swine Fever (ASF) in China on August 3, 2018, ASF disease continues to rage in Asia. The ASF virus is extremely resistant, can survive for up to 1,000 days when frozen, and may exist in pork products. There is high volume of passenger and freight transportation between Taiwan, China and other affected countries, which means Taiwan is under severe threat of ASF invasion. In order to protect Taiwan's hog farming industry, it is important for Taiwan Customs to strengthen border inspection, and to ban the import of all kinds of pork products from ASF infected areas.

Executive Strategy

1. Check Luggage from ASF High-Risk Areas

In order to prevent the risk of passengers carrying illegal animal products into Taiwan, since January 16, 2019, all checked and carry-on luggage of passengers from high-risk areas of African swine fever are inspected comprehensively in all airports and ports.

CIQS members, which include those from Customs, Immigration, Quarantine and Security, have set up three lines of defense. The first line of defense is located on jet bridges, where the carry-on luggage of passengers from ASF high-risk areas are comprehensively checked. The second line of defense is located in front at the immigration inspection counter. Passengers from ASF high-risk areas are reminded that meat products should be disposed of immediately. The last line of defense is located in the Customs 's red and green line clearance passage, where the carry-on and checked luggage are checked by the Customs X-ray machines and detection dogs.

Besides, there is a large-scale awareness campaign. Large warning signs have been set up at immigration counters to remind passengers not to carry meat products. Passengers from affected areas will also receive a special flyer reminding them to apply for a quarantine permit for any meat products or to discard such items. The Customs anti-ASF website (<https://web.customs.gov.tw/cp.aspx?n=C3408937A95869B2>) also provides related information.

2. Increase Interception Rate on Air/Sea Cargo and Parcel from ASF Affected Countries

All express cargoes and parcel is 100% examined by customs X-ray machines to avoid the concealment of meat products. As for air and sea imported cargoes, Customs continues to use risk management and intelligence analysis mechanisms to screen high-risk import goods from ASF affected countries, and if necessary, cargo inspection machines and small X-ray machines are used.

Expected Outcome

1. Increase Efficiency of Inspection

Due to proper planning of the three lines of defense, high-risk carry-on and checked luggage are 100% examined, and does not affect passenger waiting time.

2. Avoid the Invasion of ASF

From Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2019, Customs had seized 17,036.98 kilograms of pork products, and the seizure decreased continuously because of comprehensive inspection of luggage and imported goods from ASF high risk areas and increase of fines for bringing in pork products from ASF affected countries. The cooperation of CIQS had successfully avoid the invasion of ASF.