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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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**ANIMAL HEALTH MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VIRUS  
THAT CAUSES AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, dated 24 August 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

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1. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Government of Mexico hereby reports that on 15 August 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (the Ministry), through the National Agriculture and Food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA), published the Decision establishing animal health measures to prevent the introduction of the virus that causes African Swine Fever (ASF) into the territory of the United Mexican States.

2. The Decision is mandatory throughout the territory of the United Mexican States for owners, sole administrators, administrative managers or holders, authorized responsible veterinarians and official veterinarians from the establishments referred to in Article 105 of the Federal Law on Animal Health; importers of live pigs, dogs and cats, susceptible species, pig semen and embryos, swine products and by-products, and goods for use or consumption by such animals; vehicles, equipment, materials and containers pertaining to the aforementioned goods, which enter the country; verification units, certification bodies, testing laboratories, authorized third-party specialists, auxiliary animal health bodies, persons entering the country with dogs and/or cats, and natural or legal persons seeking entry into the territory for live pigs, susceptible species, pig semen and embryos, swine products and by-products, and goods for use or consumption by such animals; vehicles, equipment, materials and containers pertaining to such goods coming from or having transited through countries or regions with outbreaks or positive cases of ASF that have been reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

3. The importation into the territory of the United Mexican States of the following goods is prohibited: live pigs, susceptible species, pig semen and embryos, vehicles or containers in which machinery or equipment used for such animals is transported, as well as swine products and by-products coming from or having transited through countries or regions with outbreaks or positive cases of ASF that have been reported to the OIE.

4. If the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development determines the existence of a risk to imports of regulated goods, it shall immediately update the animal health requirements or cancel or suspend the animal health requirements sheet in accordance with the Federal Law on Animal Health and the Regulations thereto, and other applicable legal provisions.

5. All previously issued animal health import certificates that were valid at the time of the prohibition concerning the goods referred to in Articles 2 and 4 of this Decision, which originate in and/or come from countries or regions with outbreaks or positive cases of ASF that have been reported to the OIE, will be revoked.

6. Any natural or legal persons seeking entry into the country with dogs and/or cats from any territory in which ASF is present must comply with the requirements set out in the animal health requirements sheet.

7. The Ministry, through SENASICA, shall implement, at the points of entry into Mexico, the following health measures, based on the risks associated with the origin or provenance of countries in which ASF is present:

- disinfection of the footwear of crew members and passengers arriving on international flights or vessels, whether commercial or private, from countries in which the disease is present or which are considered a risk by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, through the use of sanitary floor coverings or disinfectant spray according to the manufacturer's specifications, for the inactivation of the ASF virus;
- inspection of the luggage of crew members and passengers arriving at points of entry into Mexico, using the following methods: x-rays, canine units, direct observation, user statements, or any other methods established by the Ministry in legal provisions previously published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Official Journal). Any goods identified as posing a risk shall be retained for sanitary disposal;
- prohibition of the unloading of organic waste that may pose a health risk from flights originating in or coming from countries in which ASF is present or which are considered a risk by the Ministry, with the exception of organic waste the unloading of which is authorized by the Ministry, under its supervision, for sanitary disposal by incineration;
- prohibition of the unloading of organic waste that may pose a health risk, and application of stamps, at maritime ports, on food containers from vessels originating in or coming from countries in which ASF is present, or considered a risk by the Ministry, with the exception of organic waste the unloading of which is authorized by the Ministry, under its supervision, for sanitary disposal by incineration;

8. Epidemiological surveillance shall be carried out in accordance with the Mexican Official Standards, decisions and other relevant legal provisions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

9. Any reported suspicions shall be investigated in accordance with the Mexican Official Standards, decisions and other relevant legal provisions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

10. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, through SENASICA, may inspect and verify compliance with this Decision at any time or place.

11. This Decision shall enter into force the day following its publication in the Official Journal.

12. On 19 July 2018, the Ministry, through SENASICA and the Directorate-General of Animal Health, submitted to the OIE a self-declaration as a country historically free from ASF, as no presence of the ASF agent had been detected within the territory of the United Mexican States.

13. ASF is included on the list of diseases contained in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, and therefore is an OIE notifiable disease, as set out in the Chapter entitled "Infection with African swine fever virus" of the aforementioned Code.

14. ASF is also included in the Decision listing the exotic and endemic terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases and pests notifiable in the United Mexican States, as part of Group 1 which comprises exotic diseases and pests.

15. This communication is being submitted for purposes of transparency and in order to provide Members with further information on the current regulatory process in Mexico.