



# BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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AOCG Memo No. 232-2020

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO :** ALL DISTRICT COLLECTORS  
ALL PORT COLLECTORS  
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

**FROM :** ATTY. EDWARD JAMES A. DY BUCO  
Deputy Commissioner  
Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group

**SUBJECT :** Restrictions on Porcine Products in Japanese Ports of Entry

**DATE :** 05 November 2020

This has reference to the attached letter from the Department of Foreign Affairs with the enclosed copy of letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan. According to MAFF, a live African Swine Fever (ASF) virus was isolated from porcine products illegally brought by a Filipino passenger to Japan on 31 August 2020. The virus isolation was carried out at the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO).

MAFF further reiterates that its Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) has strengthened import inspection of animal products to prevent the incursion of such disease through international passengers and parcels. Thus, they request that intensified information distribution be ensured among travelers, making them fully aware of the following:

- Animal products, including ham, bacon, jerky, sausage, processed meat, among others, are prohibited to be brought into Japan, regardless of the volume, in accordance with the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control; and
- The fines for violation against the provisions of import quarantine, such as bringing illegal animal products in Japan, have been raised. For individual Cases: from ¥1,000,000 up to ¥3,000,000. For corporate cases: from ¥1,000,000 up to ¥50,000,000.

For strict compliance and widest dissemination.

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

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OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

03 November 2020

Dear Director Domingo,

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) wishes to furnish your good office with the enclosed copy of a letter No. 2/shouan/3235 addressed to the DA-BAI Director dated 23 October 2020 received by Philippine Embassy (PE) in Tokyo from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan.

According to the MAFF, a live African Swine Fever (ASF) virus was isolated from porcine products illegally brought by a Filipino passenger to Japan on 31 August 2020. The virus isolation was carried out at the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) of the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO).

ASF has become a global threat and there is a need for concerted efforts internationally to prevent the spread of the disease. MAFF reiterates that its Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) has strengthened import inspection of animal products to prevent the incursion of such diseases through international passengers and parcels. MAFF, therefore, requests that intensified information distribution be ensured among travelers to Japan, making them fully aware that:

Animal products, including ham, bacon, jerky, sausage, processed meat, among others, are prohibited to be brought into Japan, regardless of the volume, in accordance with the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control; and

The fines for violation against the provisions of import quarantine, such as bringing illegal animal products in Japan, have been raised. For individual cases: from ¥1,000,000 up to ¥3,000,000. For corporate cases: from ¥1,000,000 up to ¥50,000,000.

The DFA kindly requests the assistance of your office in disseminating this information to relevant stakeholders and advising the public to refrain from bringing porcine products in their luggage as they may be liable for fines and confiscation of such products upon arrival in Japanese ports of entry.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

J. Susana Paetz  
J. SUSANA V. PAEZ  
Acting Assistant Secretary

RECEIVED BY: Seanery Kyle P. Pacupac  
TIME: 7:25  
DATE: NOV 04 2020

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TIME: 1:10  
DATE: 11-4-20

[Please see distribution list]

Cc: Tokyo PE, Osaka PCG, Nagoya PCG, DFA-ASPAC