

## **The Agriculture Department avoids entry of pests into the country by rejecting 1,500 commercial-risk shipments in 2019**

Senasica's measures help to protect the national agro-alimentary heritage. It prevented the entry of 40 pests of quarantine importance for vegetables and animals.



Between January and November 2019, the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) rejected the entry of 1,541 commercial shipments into national territory, which prevented the entry of 40 pests of quarantine importance that represent a risk for food production in Mexico.

To carry out these actions, the officers of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development inspected 13,713 ships, 199,657 airplanes and 186,893 railway containers with agricultural goods, of which more of 600 tons of products were destroyed or returned to the country of origin.

These measures are part of the work in all ports, airports and borders, carried out by the Agriculture Department, through Senasica, in order to reduce the risk of entry of pests and exotic diseases, that is, they do not exist in national territory.

Among the rejected vegetable products are: potato, tomato seed, rice, hibiscus flower, coffee, apple and moss.

Among those of animal origin poultry, pork and equine meat, animal feed and powdered milk stand out.

The officers of Senasica inspected 10,064 commercial ships, 2,511 cruise ships and 13 thousand yachts, in which 494,534 kilograms of products were impounded and subsequently destroyed.

Of the total number of vessels, 405 were bulk ships, which are characterized by transporting dried vegetables such as corn, wheat, soybeans, canola seeds and rice in special holds.

170,485 commercial airplanes and 29,172 private airplanes were also inspected and, with the help of the Senasica Canine Unit, 202,912 luggage were checked, resulting in the seizure of 111,496 kilograms of merchandise.

In the tourist field, the amount of merchandise destroyed from January to November 2019 was 1,560,576 kilograms, including sausages, fresh pork, poultry and beef, pet food, dairy, fruits, grains, vegetables and Santeria items.

To carry out the destruction of retained goods, Senasica has 40 incinerators located in 16 airports, seven ports, nine border points and eight Federal Verification and Inspection Points (PVIF), located on the main roads of the country.

Senasica technical personnel sent 138,075 food samples to official and approved laboratories, in which the presence of 40 pests of quarantine importance were verified. Therefore, such products were destroyed, conditioned or returned to the country of origin, in order to preserve the phytosanitary status of Mexico, for the benefit of the country's primary sector.

Among the quarantine pests with more detections the following stand out: Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV); weeds such as *Polygonum convolvulus*, *Pennisetum pedicellatum* and *Galium spurium*; insects such as fruit flies (*Anastrepha obliqua*, and *Anastrepha* sp.); Khapra weevil (*Trogoderma granarium*), and nematodes such as *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* and *Oesophagostomum* sp.

These actions help protect the national agro-alimentary heritage, for the benefit of farmers and ranchers who have the possibility of being more productive and competitive to offer Mexican consumers greater guarantees that healthy and safe food arrives at their table, and allows them to export their products to more than 150 countries around the world.