

## **The Department of Agriculture inspects more than 921,000 items of luggage during the 2019 winter holiday operation**

More than 800 SENASICA's officers and 101 canine units safeguard the national agro-alimentary heritage.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development informed that during the 2019 winter holiday operation, the officers of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) reviewed 921,414 items of luggage, which contained merchandise that posed a risk for the agro-alimentary heritage of Mexico.

The operation, which began on December 17, 2019 and ended on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, was applied across ports, airports and borders, with the participation of more than 800 health inspection officers and 101 canine units of the Agriculture Department.

The largest number of checks were carried out on ships, with 438,717 items of luggage inspected; 272,796 on international flights; 142,054 on domestic flights; 67,847 inspections were performed on people crossing the border on foot; and 59,263 inspections were performed on vehicles crossing the border.

The period in which the greatest flow of passengers was observed was from December 23 to 29, with a total of 367,160 inspected items of luggage, most of them (53 %) from ships and cruise ships.

In each holiday period, the Agriculture Department joins the work of various agencies of the Government of Mexico for national and foreign vacationers to have security, protection, guidance and smoothness so that their entry into national territory is agile.

The work of inspection officers reduces the risk of entry of goods that could be carriers of pests or diseases that do not exist in the country, which would cause an impact on food production in Mexico.

In advance of the holiday period, SENASICA invites Mexican citizens and foreign tourists to get informed and declare, in Mexican ports, airports and

borders, the agro-alimentary products that they are bringing, with prior knowledge of which are allowed and which are prohibited to enter in our country due to the risk they pose for food production. For the abovementioned, SENASICA makes available the <https://www.gob.mx/senasica/acciones-y-programas/informacion-para-viajeros-193524> webpage.