The Secretariat of Agriculture inspects 600 airplanes and 300 ships to prevent the introduction of African swine fever

During the past six months, the Senasica placed sanitary mats for the arrival of passengers from airplanes and ships, and checked 198,927 pieces of luggage belonging to 168,558 passengers.

Following the strategy implemented since August 2019 by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, over 1,600 airplanes and 2,300 ships have been inspected to prevent the introduction of African swine fever (ASF) to Mexico.

From August 27, 2019 to February 2, 2020, officers from the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) placed 1,590 sanitary mats in the same number of airplanes inbound from the affected countries. The mats disinfect footwear and the luggage's wheels during disembark of the passengers.

Through non-invasive methods, such as X-rays and canine units, 198,927 pieces of luggage belonging to 168,558 passengers were inspected, and from which over 5 tons of hazardous livestock products were confiscated for their destruction.

Food was placed in leak-proof bags and special bio-containers for their later incineration.

Officers disinfected the kitchen areas of airplanes and supervised the disposal and destruction of 38,260 kg of leftover food and garbage.

For port inspections 2,307 sanitary mats were placed in commercial ships in Ensenada, Baja California; Acapulco, Guerrero; Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche; Tuxpan, Veracruz; Mazatlán, Sinaloa; Altamira and Tampico, Tamaulipas; Guaymas, Sonora and Manzanillo, Colima.

The personnel of the Agriculture and Livestock Health Inspection Offices (OISAs) sealed 1,320 food warehouses of ships that originated from or reached the port of any of the countries affected by ASF.

Officers carried out routine inspections on cruise ships and yachts, as ships from affected countries are not admitted. Sanitary measures include the

disinfection of inorganic garbage and the supervision that no food or waste is unloaded.