

# The Secretariat of Agriculture Inspects Cargo Aircraft at AIFA to Prevent Entry of Pests that Could Adversely Affect Agro-alimentary Production

The Agricultural Health Inspection Office (OISA) of the National Service for Agro-alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) has highly specialized areas such as: quarantine of live animals, refrigeration for biologicals and embryos, quarantine treatments, trophies, hunting skins and trophies, among others.



The Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development inspects agro-alimentary stuffs arriving at the cargo terminal of the Felipe Angeles International Airport (AIFA) - which commenced operating on September 1, with a view to minimizing the risk of introducing pests or diseases that could adversely affect the production and supply of foodstuffs in Mexico.

The federal agency announced personnel from the National Service for Agro-alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) operate the Agricultural Health Inspection Office (OISA) in the AIFA cargo area, with the purpose of strengthening the National Airport Inspection System.

The head of OISA, Maricel Andrade Montiel, pointed out that the personnel of the Secretariat of Agriculture has the technical and technological capabilities to operate optimally, since in the first stage they work in 12 supervised warehouses authorized by Customs, which are equipped with preservation and freezing chambers to guarantee the integrity of the products during the inspection process.

Gradually, noted Mr. Andrade, the operation of the technicians takes place in OISA's facilities, which have highly specialized spaces for quarantining live animals, storing retained goods, refrigerating biologicals and embryos, applying quarantine treatments, trophies, skins and hunting trophies, and areas for dried vegetables and seeds, among others.

In addition, the Office houses, in its 1,791 square meters, 12 overnight kennels for the k-9 units used for the inspection process, a veterinary clinic, a diagnostic laboratory, and a Documentation and Assessment Center.

The cargo OISA was designed to complement the one located at AIFA's international passenger terminal, where baggage inspections of passengers arriving in Mexico from abroad are carried out.

In each of these facilities, official personnel work 24/7 throughout the year in search of products regulated by the Secretariat of Agriculture, such as flowers, plants, in vitro seedlings, vegetables, grains, fruit, meat products and fresh cheeses, animal carcasses, balanced feed for edible species, and live, raw, and dried crustaceans, among others.

Andrade Montiel explained that the team in charge of carrying out inspections of imported agricultural, aquaculture, and fishery products is composed of highly specialized personnel, mainly zootechnical veterinarians, agronomists, and biologists.

AIFA's 340,000-square-meter cargo terminal has a platform for 10 aircraft of all categories.

Senasica's National Inspection System coordinates 86 Agricultural Health Inspection Offices at ports, airports, and borders, and 19 Federal Verification and Inspection Points (PVIF) located at strategic locations throughout the country.