



MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 55
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: LIFTING THE TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC PIGS AND THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING PORK MEAT AND SEMEN ORIGINATING FROM *Belgium*

WHEREAS, based on the submitted self-declaration of the recovery of freedom from African swine fever (ASF) in domestic and captive wild pigs by Dr Jean-François Heymans, Director of Veterinary Services, OIE Delegate for Belgium, Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), that there are no documented outbreaks of ASF in domestic and captive wild pigs (previous banning order: DA Memorandum Order 31 series of 2018);

WHEREAS, the ASF outbreaks in Belgium have only affected wild boars with the last documented case in March 2020 as reflected in the OIE;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Article 15.1.4 point 3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019), Belgium is now free of ASF;

WHEREAS, based on the documents submitted by the veterinary services of Belgium and after thorough evaluation of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), the risk of contamination from importing domestic pigs and their products from Belgium is negligible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby lift the temporary ban on the importation of domestic pigs and their products including pork meat and semen originating from Belgium, provided the following conditions are compiled:

Additional attestations on the Veterinary Health Certificate on all exports of pork from Belgium in accordance to Article 15.1.14 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019):

- a) the meat comes from animals which were kept in a zone free from ASF since birth or for at least three months;
- b) have been slaughtered in an approved slaughterhouse/abattoir, where they have been subjected with favourable results to ante- and post-mortem inspections in accordance with Chapter 6.3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019)

All import transactions of the above commodities shall be in accordance with existing rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry and National Meat Inspection Service.

All orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this order, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately.

Done this 26th day of October 2020.

WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary



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