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Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

8th June 2020

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*MINISTRY OF COMMERCE INDUSTRY & LABOUR
APIA, SAMOA*



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Talofa

RE: Public Notice on Suspension of the Importation of Pork products

With reference to the Notice of Suspension on the importation of pork products from African Swine Fever (ASF) affected countries issued on 26th March 2020, and our meeting on the same on 4th June 2020, this letter serves to formally advise you on the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' decision going forward.

Following intensive discussions with the testing laboratories in Australia and New Zealand on risk mitigation measures, as well as the Ministry's inability to send canned pork product samples overseas for testing due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown of borders, the Ministry would like to advise you as follows:

1. The Ministry requests for your company to submit the following documentations for the Ministry's assessment and determination on their authenticity prior to approval of sales of your canned pork products:

- (1) Veterinary certificate (health certificate);
- (2) Animal disease inspection certificate;
- (3) Production flow chart with complete details; and,
- (4) Food safety and HACCP certificate of the factory.

The Ministry will use the above-listed documentations as another dependable means to assess the risks associated with canned pork products already in country, to determine whether the health status of the pork meat is clean from the ASF virus and the canning processes meet all processing standards. Although it has been established that the risk of ASF virus in retorted (canned) pork products is minimal, it is still a risk!

Please submit these documentations to the Acting ACEO of the Samoa Quarantine Services (Ms. Talei Fidow-Moors) by **close of business on Friday 12th June 2020**. The Ministry will advise your company post assessment, whether to approve or decline the sales of your canned pork products already in country, by close of business on Friday 19th June 2020.

".....enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries....."

2. Future importation of canned pork products from countries listed as having the presence of ASF will require the prior approval of the Ministry, until the Ministry completes Import Risk Assessments on the same, which may take three (3) to six (6) months.
3. Any non-compliance will result in 100% seizure of regulated articles by the Ministry, and any breach of the conditions of importation will be in contravention of the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005, and the Ministry may exercise its legal rights to enforce compliance.
4. The Ministry's biosecurity objective is to prevent or control the introduction or establishment of pests and diseases that could cause significant damage to human beings, animals, plants and other aspects of the environment or economic activities. In this particular case, the Ministry requests for your continued support and cooperation for the protection of Samoa against the threat of ASF, which can potentially wipe out Samoa's limited piggery resource and local pork industry, if it ever enters our borders.
5. The Ministry will continue with its public awareness programmes and surveillance of live pigs in the country to monitor the likely presence of ASF in Samoa.
6. Please contact the Ministry's Samoa Quarantine Services should you wish to clarify countries for which approval has been granted for the importation of pork and pork products.
7. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the Acting ACEO of Samoa Quarantine Services on email talei.fidow@maf.gov.ws, phone 20924 or 22171, or contact my Office directly.

The Ministry appreciates your cooperation, patience and understanding in our collective efforts to protect our limited and fragile piggery resource and pork industry from the ASF virus and other biosecurity risks.

Yours sincerely



Tilafono David Hunter
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- cc. Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
CEO, Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet
CEO, Ministry of Customs and Revenue
CEO, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour
CEO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Commissioner, Ministry of Police and Prisons
Acting ACEO Samoa Quarantine Services, MAF
ACEO Animal Production and Health, MAF
ACEO Legal, MAF