

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: A Caution on Shipments Transiting Through Third-Party Destinations

Country: Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Report Category: Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

It has come to Post's attention that a shipment of U.S. bovine genetics faced clearance problems in mainland China after Hong Kong Customs opened and inspected the shipment during transit. To minimize customs clearance issues in the future, U.S. exporters should be mindful that for any shipment transiting through a third-party, such as Hong Kong, shippers/forwarders should ensure that seals are handled properly in the case of inspection. Hence, U.S. exporters are encouraged to remind forwarders to request Hong Kong authorities provide an official seal in the event shipments are inspected by Hong Kong customs during transit to China or other final destinations.

A recent shipment of U.S. bovine genetics was reportedly unable to clear Chinese Customs on the grounds that the original seal was opened but resealed by the airline during transit via Hong Kong. According to the airline, Hong Kong Customs requested the opening of the shipment for inspection. The shipment was then resealed by the airline, who unfortunately does not hold regulatory authority.

Although the importer in China was able to obtain written confirmation from Hong Kong that the shipment was opened at their request, and despite follow up by Post and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection (APHIS), the importer in China was unable to clear the shipment.

In this regard, Post learned that Hong Kong Customs does not necessarily resealed a shipment with their official seal following the opening and inspection of a shipment. However, Hong Kong Customs authorities can do so upon request. This report serves as a reminder to U.S. exporters to work with their forwarders to ask for an official seal from the Hong Kong Customs when shipments are open and inspected during transit in Hong Kong to China or other destinations.

Note: This report was written in collaboration with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Attachments:

No Attachments.