



Philippine College of Swine Practitioners

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7 October 2019

TO: **ATTY. BEATA HUMILDA OBSIOMA**
OIC Director, National Meat Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture

FROM: **Philippine College of Swine Practitioners (PCSP)**
Affiliate of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association, PVMA

SUBJECT: Position Paper on African Swine Fever Border Control Through Mandatory Audits for Meat Establishments

The current situation with African Swine Fever (ASF) affecting several municipalities in North Luzon require stricter regulatory measures to prevent the spread, including quarantine and surveillance. Blood and organ sampling are essential to detect the presence of PCR positive cases of ASF to allow for pre-emptive culling and control the disease spread.

In addition, the swine stakeholders have reported possible slaughter of ASF infected pigs and likewise look at possible incursions of illegal imported pork. We know that this is under the jurisdiction of the NMIS – and a separate position paper have been sent to the BAI as we also recognize the diagnostic capacity for the ASF PCR test on meat samples. The PCSP would like to submit our position on this issue:

That **Mandatory Audits of Slaughterhouses and Meat Processing Plants** made part of the strategic program for border control. The PCSP proposes the following:

- Coordination between the DA (as the authority over BAI and NMIS) and the swine industry stakeholders (PCSP for the private veterinarians, swine farmers, owners of abattoirs, importers and other concerned groups) to set the audit protocol, collection & handling of meat samples and agree on sanctions for violators.
- Assignment of laboratories to handle the bulk of testing and the manner of reporting the results through the mandate of the Veterinary Laboratory Division – Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (VLD-ADDL) of the BAI, the RADDLs and private diagnostic laboratories equipped to do such ASF PCR work.

Signed this 7th day of October 2019 by:


DR. ZOILO LAPUS
President


DR. TOMAS ACORDA
Chairman, Specialty Board

ODED

By: Julie
Date: 10/8/19 8:06