CTPAT Alert – Air Carrier Responsibilities in the Handling and Disposal of Bushmeat

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This guide outlines the instructions for air carriers when bushmeat is found in travelers' carry-on or checked luggage or cargo entering the United States.

The term "bushmeat" refers to raw or minimally processed meat that comes from wild animals including bats, nonhuman primates (monkeys), and cane rats (grasscutters). Bushmeat could be infected with germs that can cause sickness in people, including the Ebola Virus disease. It is illegal to bring bushmeat into the United States under Title 42 § C.F.R 71.32(b), 71.53, 71.54, 71.56, and 71.63. Bushmeat from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-regulated animals found at U.S. ports of entry will be denied entry by CDC.

Air carriers are responsible for following CDC Port Health Station (PHS) instructions for safe handling and return to country of origin or disposal of bushmeat. For more information, air carriers should email or call your CDC PHS using contact information on the following website www.cdc.gov/port-health/stations/port-health-station-contact-list.html.

Cargo Screening:
Certain African countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Gabon, Central African Republic, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Liberia, ~~and~~, Sierra Leone pose a higher risk for small shipments of illegal bushmeat that would be mislabeled and misclassified. These smaller packages are often destined for Chicago, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Dallas, Boston, Minneapolis, or New York City, and might list a broker as the consignee. CTPAT air carriers should consider additional screening measures for air cargo from these countries aimed at finding smuggled bushmeat and preventing it from being shipped to the United States.

CTPAT Program

CBP.GOV/CTPAT
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20229

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