

# Strengthening Phytosanitary Measures for International Mail Articles and E- Commerce

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## Introduction

- According to the “Regulations Governing Customs Clearance Procedures for Importing and Exporting Postal Parcels” , “postal articles” are defined as **imported and exported postal mails and parcels delivered by the postal authority.**
- Postal Authority: the competent authority for the Postal Act is the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC). In order to provide postal services, the MOTC has established the state-run **Chunghwa Post Co., Ltd.**

## Decisions made and communications

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- In order to **reduce the import quarantine risk** of postal parcels and to prevent the quarantine articles that people want to import do not meet the quarantine regulations and fail to pass customs, and after referring to the practices of the United States, Japan, and other countries, **the Plant Protection and Quarantine Act was amended in 2018**.
- Internal discussion** meetings on the **draft of the Regulations, practical procedures** for this change, programe designing for **on-line application system** for import permit were held.
- Recipient briefings and stakeholder communications** were implemented by local branches.

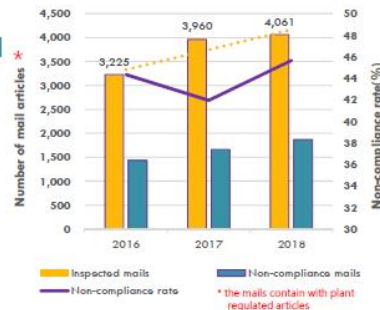


<https://smartpq.baphiq.gov.tw>

## Risk increasing

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- In most cases, there are no real duty-payers, and the recipients have no obligation to declare the correct goods in the parcel. Therefore, many recipients have a fluke mentality and want to encapsulate the imported quarantine items by parcel delivery.
- e-Commerce or delivery by international mails or parcels have become an important new trading pathway, especially during the pandemic.
- The growing e-commerce market means that an unprecedented number of parcels and small packages are being exchanged across borders. This shift in trade patterns, along with the challenge of screening and preventing the entry of unauthorized goods, increases the risk of introduction and spreading of pests into new territories.



## Strengthening measures

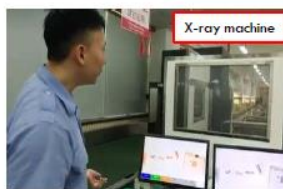
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- The Regulations for Quarantine of Plant Regulated Articles Export and Import by Mail was published on May 30, 2019 and entered into force on **June 20, 2019**.
- ✓ **Plant regulated articles shall not be sent by mail; otherwise, the articles will be reshipped or destroyed. However, recipients who applied to the plant quarantine authority for approval of entry in advance are exempted.**
- ✓ The regulated articles that are imported by mail shall be packaged with a **legible label** indicating the content. Also, the postal authority shall cooperate with the plant quarantine authority to inform the recipient to apply for quarantine from the authority.
- ✓ The recipients who **receive mails without quarantine checking** shall **notify** to the plant quarantine authority immediately upon receiving them. Otherwise, a fine ranging from NT\$30,000 (US\$1,075) to NT\$150,000 (US\$5,080) shall be imposed.



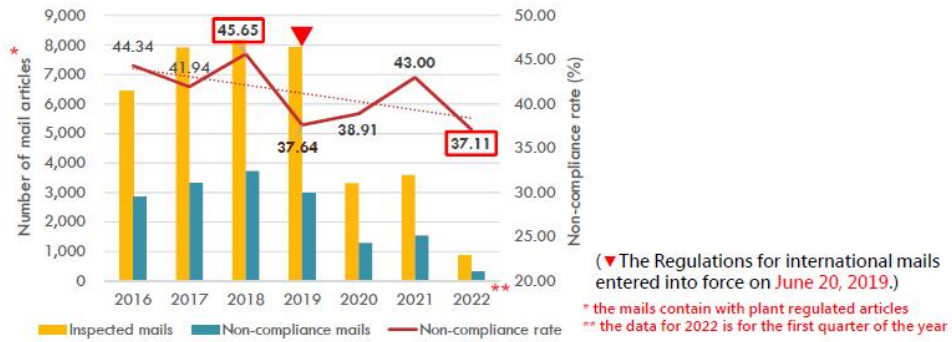
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- Flyers for the Regulations are made in 8 different languages.
- Strengthening the **spot examination by Customs officials**
- Review and adjust measures based on implementation status



## Results

- Non-compliance rate decreased from 2019 to 2022



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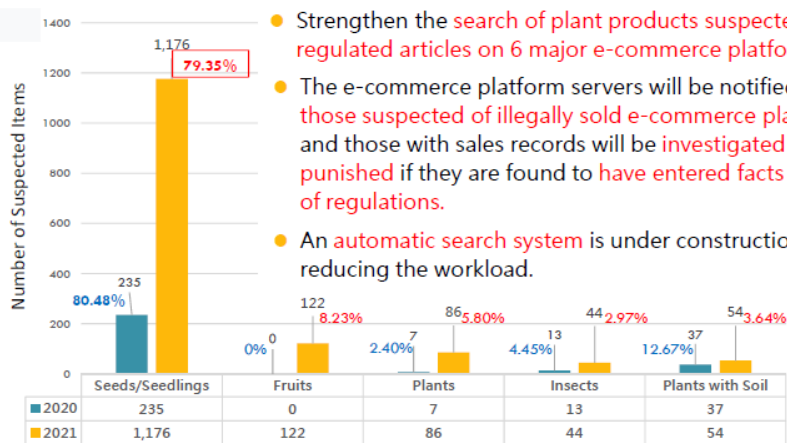
	Jan. – Jun., 2019	Jul. – Dec., 2019	Jan. – Jun., 2020	Jul. – Dec., 2020	Jan. – Jun., 2021	Jul. – Dec., 2021	Jan. – Mar., 2022
Inspected mails in total	1,586	2,383	1,490	1,823	1,759	1,834	873
Non-compliance mails in total	709	785	520	769	747	797	324
Without permit / Total non-compliance (%)	--	33.6	46.7	51.6	55.0	62.2	57.4
Prohibited plants/ Total non-compliance (%)	25.4	40.3	33.7	31.3	28.1	18.1	25.3

\* There are still some recipients do not apply for the permit. Most of them are foreign workers or immigrants from Thailand, Indonesia and China. Some recipients even try to conceal other non-approval plants.

Other non-compliance (%)	Jan. – Jun., 2019	Jul. – Dec., 2019	Jan. – Jun., 2020	Jul. – Dec., 2020	Jan. – Jun., 2021	Jul. – Dec., 2021	Jan. – Mar., 2022	Increase or decrease
Without PC or incorrect AD	63.9	13.6	9.8	9.1	9.2	11.7	8.3	↓
Plant with soil	6.2	3.3	3.3	4.2	3.3	3.1	2.5	↓

- The recipients can realize the import requirements **more while applying for the permit**.
- Therefore, they can inform the senders to prepare the mails to avoid violation of the requirements.

## Phytosanitary measures on e-commerce products



- Strengthen the **search of plant products suspected to be plant regulated articles on 6 major e-commerce platforms**
- The e-commerce platform servers will be notified to **remove those suspected of illegally sold e-commerce plant products**, and those with sales records will be **investigated and will be punished** if they are found to **have entered facts in violation of regulations**.
- An **automatic search system** is under construction for reducing the workload.

## Conclusion

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- The number of international mails is increasing annually. This permit system can **reduce the biosecurity risk of unpredicted parcels and harmful pests being introduced** through unapproved items.
- The online application permit system was established with Chinese and English interfaces for recipients to submit applications and for quarantine officials to review. **The electronic operation is easy, convenient and efficient.**
- Online search and removal of suspected illegal products from e-commerce platforms can help **reduce the import violation.**

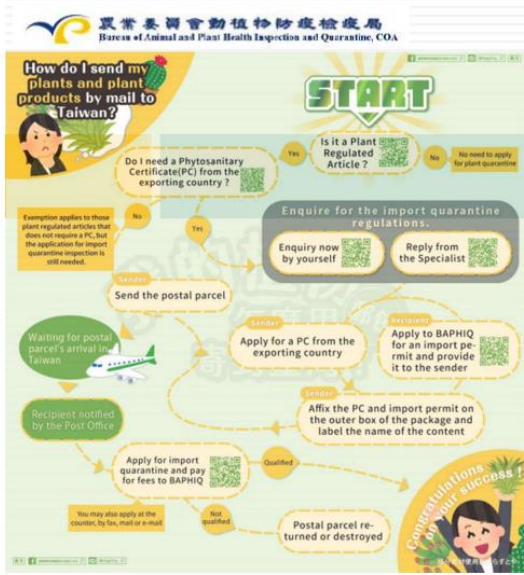
## Conclusion

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- **More public awareness is needed :**
  - There are still some recipients do not apply for the permit, or do not notify the senders to prepare the mails in accordance with the requirements stated on the permit, and even try to conceal other plants that are not approved.
  - There are still some illegal express parcels ordered through e-commerce platform and were intercepted at the border.
- Continuing to cooperate with the Immigration Department and the Ministry of Labor to strengthen publicity so that **foreign workers and brides** could meet the requirements.
- Strengthening cross-organization cooperation with **Customs, Customs brokers, express parcel delivery enterprise, e-commerce platform servers** and **Post offices**, dispatching **quarantine detector dogs** to assist in detection, and continuing to strengthen inspections.







**Thank you for your attention !**



Procedures for the importation of plants and plant products by postal mail (English version)  
<https://www.baphiq.gov.tw/ws.php?id=18871>

