



AFRICAN SWINE FEVER INFORMATION FOR LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTERS

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease affecting pigs and wild boar causing high mortality rates and resulting in severe trade restrictions for the affected country or region.

It was first introduced into Eastern Europe in 2007 and continues to spread westwards. It has affected several EU countries such as Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Belgium and the Baltic countries of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.



The virus which causes African swine fever is easily spread through the movements of live pigs and wild boar, contaminated vehicles, equipment and clothes, feed and also through infected meat. ASF virus has been shown to persist for a very long time in pork and pork products. It can survive for several years in frozen pork for example. Although ASF does not affect humans the feeding of food waste contaminated with pork or pork products to pigs, which is illegal, is known to have caused outbreaks of the disease in domestic pigs. In 2017, an outbreak in Czech Republic in wild boar was suspected to have been caused by discarded food waste as it occurred near a major highway approximately 400Km from the nearest point of infection. More recently, the outbreak of the disease in Hungary is also believed to have been caused by the illegal importation of pig meat from affected countries. The importation of pork or pork products from affected areas of Europe represents the most significant risk for the introduction of African swine fever into Ireland.

Biosecurity measures to be taken by livestock transporters travelling to or through ASF affected regions of Europe

- Avoid contact with pigs or wild boar in ASF affected countries where possible
- If you have been in contact with pigs or wild boar in countries affected by ASF then avoid direct contact with pigs for 72 hours upon your return to Ireland
- **Never** bring meat or meat products containing pork or wild boar meat into Ireland from regions of Europe which are affected with African swine fever
- Comply with border disinfection protocols if in place for your vehicle in addition to your own routine cleaning and disinfection procedures.