



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

*Director of Customs – Ike. Q. Peredo
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Guam Customs Officers Intercept Shipping Container Harboring Potentially Destructive Longhorn Beetle

BARRIGADA, Guam – Customs officers, assigned to the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's (CQA) maritime and biosecurity units, intercepted a 40-foot shipping container harboring a beetle species with high potential of being invasive to Guam on June 18 during a satellite inspection in Yigo.

Within the container, which originated from China, officers observed various tightly-packed building materials, including wood-packing materials and pallets not bearing the required International Plant Protection Convention markings.

Officers then observed velvet longhorn beetles, or *Trichoferus campestris*, crawling among cardboard boxes within the container. Additionally, a number of wood pallets contained tree bark, bore-holes, and frass, a fine powder of perforated wood or waste produced by boring insects.

Not native to Guam, the velvet longhorn beetle is a wood-boring pest that can harm and potentially kill fruit trees, and both softwood and hardwood trees.

Officers collected samples of the beetles for further identification by specialists at the Guam Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture, who are key collaborators in our efforts to make the proper determinations and dispositions for the biosecurity threats reaching the island's borders and ports of entry.

Samples were also sent to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

The container has been resealed and placed in quarantine. It has been refused entry into the U.S. and is being prepared for re-exportation.

Furthermore, a federal Emergency Action Notification has been issued and signed by the importer.

CQA officers screen passengers, cargo, and conveyances at Guam's borders and ports of entry to interdict drugs, contraband, criminals, communicable diseases, and biosecurity threats in their legitimate facilitation of trade, commerce, and travel.

Members of the community are highly encouraged to report smuggling to CQA at (671) 642-8071/2.

For more information, contact CQA Public Information Officer Alana Chargualaf-Afaisen at alana.c.afaisen@cqa.guam.gov or 671-971-1408.

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