



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

Guam's First Line of Defense | Protecting Our Island, Our People, and Our Resources

Director's Office

*Director of Customs – Ike. Q. Peredo
Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Dec. 5, 2025

Fresh Evergreens Fumigated, Free of Injurious Pests this Holiday Season

BARRIGADA, Guam – The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) is pleased to announce that the fresh evergreens adorning homes and establishments this holiday season are free of injurious pests after officers with our Biosecurity Task Force (BSTF) conducted oversight of their required fumigation.

The first shipping container of evergreen products was treated on Nov. 12. Since then, a total of five shipping containers, holding a combined total of over 3,033 fresh trees, wreaths, and garlands, have been fumigated.

In 2016, the Guam Invasive Species Council supported a mandate requiring all imported Christmas trees, to include like evergreen products, to be fumigated upon arrival to Guam for the prevention of injurious pests, diseases, and other detriments to Guam's flora, fauna, natural resources, and agriculture.

Fumigation Process

BSTF officers screen each container to ensure the contents meet entry requirements and that the container is suitable for treatment. Caution tape is then placed around a designated safety buffer zone before a calculated measure of colorless, odorless methyl bromide gas is applied within the container.

Once the methyl bromide gas has sat within the container for the prescribed period of time, officers conduct a final inspection of the container's contents to determine the success of the treatment.

The containers are released to consignees only after the successful completion of treatment and inspection protocols.

Potentially Invasive, Injurious Pests Prevented

While this year's shipments carried no species of concern, fumigations of years past prevented the introduction of various species of insects, spiders, rodents, a garden snake, and skunk.

When such organisms are found, they are turned over to the appropriate local or federal agricultural authorities.

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About CQA

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

For more information, contact CQA Public Information Officer Alana Chargualaf-Afaisen at alana.c.afaisen@cqa.guam.gov, or call (671) 475-6202.

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