

Taiwan resumes fresh pork exports to Singapore after 15 years

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After a 15-year absence, Taiwan's fresh pork has re-entered the Singapore market due to advancements in swine disease control, according to Taiwan's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA).

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) announced it had lifted restrictions on frozen pork and pork products from Taiwan and approved the export of chilled varieties. Cha I Shan Foods Co. became the first Taiwanese company authorised to export fresh pork to Singapore, having obtained Taiwan's slaughterhouse-related Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certification, which ensures food safety by managing biological, chemical, and physical hazards during production.

Taiwan's pork exports had faced a global ban for over a decade due to swine disease issues. This changed in 2020 when Taiwan achieved foot-and-mouth disease-free status without vaccination, certified by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The country has also successfully kept African swine fever under control, the MOA reported.

Since this breakthrough, Taiwan has actively negotiated with other nations to export frozen and chilled pork. Singapore is now the second country, after the Philippines, to reach a bilateral agreement allowing the import of Taiwanese fresh pork.

This development is expected to boost Taiwan's pork exports. As of November 2024, 429 metric tonnes of frozen pork had been exported to the Philippines since it lifted its ban on Taiwanese pork in early 2023.