

## **Outline of the Proposed Amendments to the Animal Disease and Infection Control Law**

Based on the recent experience of Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in Japan, the Government of Japan proposes amendments to the Animal Disease and Infection Control Law (“the Law”) in order to strengthen animal disease control as shown in the following points:

### **A. Authorised cleaning and disinfection of passengers’ and crew members’ luggage, its contents, and other personal effects at airports or sea ports**

Any passengers and crew members of any nationalities arriving in Japan from overseas at airports or sea ports are subject to inspection by animal quarantine officers:

1. Under the authority granted by the Law, an animal quarantine officer may interview any passengers and crew members arriving in Japan to obtain information on whether luggage, its contents and other personal effects may include any items to be cleaned and disinfected.
2. As a result of the above-mentioned interview, if the animal quarantine officer finds that the luggage, its contents and personal effects may pose animal health risk to domestic livestock, the animal health officer has the authority by the Law to inspect them where necessary and appropriate in accordance with the purpose of the Law.
3. As a result of the above-mentioned inspection, if the animal quarantine officer finds any luggage, its contents and personal effects to be cleaned and disinfected, the animal health officer has the authority by the Law to clean and disinfect them where necessary and appropriate in accordance with the purpose of the Law.

**Note:** This amendment to the Law does not affect the current measures and procedures for commercial cargo.

### **B. Establishment of the provisions for pre-emptive culling of livestock (measures targeting domestic animals in Japan)**

In order to prevent rapid and wide spreading of epidemics, the Government of Japan is authorised by the Law to implement pre-emptive culling of livestock at and around the centre of outbreak and provide financial compensation for the damage to the owners of these animals.

### **C. Establishment of a notification system for early detection of animals infected with listed-diseases in the Law (a program targeting domestic animals in Japan)**

Veterinarians, managers of livestock farming, or caretakers of livestock shall notify the prefectural governor immediately and without delay of animals suspected held any clinical findings or signs matching the descriptions found in the list of animal diseases stipulated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.