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Taiwan bans export of digital thermometers until end of March

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Taipei, March 4 (CNA) The export of all types of digital thermometers from Taiwan is now prohibited, as the government is trying to ensure a steady domestic supply amid the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, the country's Customs Administration said Wednesday.

The ban, which is effective from March 4-31, restricts the export of infrared forehead thermometers, ear thermometers, infrared thermal imaging cameras and all types of digital thermometers without the specific authorization of the national Bureau of Foreign Trade.

Furthermore, individuals are not permitted to mail digital thermometers abroad, but overseas travelers will be allowed to take two on each trip, the Customs Administration said.

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The prohibitions do not apply to mercury thermometers, it said.

The penalty for violation of the ban is confiscation of the thermometers, or a fine of up to three times their value, depending on the number of items, according to the Customs Administration.

The government's decision to ban the export of digital thermometers comes amid rising demand due to the COVID-19 epidemic and follows a similar move in January with regard to surgical face masks.

On Jan. 24, the government placed a one-month prohibition on the export of face masks, and it later extended the ban to the end of April.

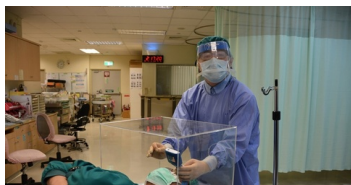
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