

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: COVID Testing and Disinfection on Imported Food and Ag Products Scheduled to End

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Beijing

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, FAIRS Subject Report, WTO Notifications, Pest/Disease Occurrences

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Report Highlights:

On December 28, the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) published Announcement No. 131 of 2022, indicating a change in classification of COVID-19 controls and management was forthcoming. The Announcement states that PRC-required testing and disinfection measures for the coronavirus applied to imported cold-chain foods and non-cold chain goods will end on January 8, 2023. Local industry contacts welcomed the removal of these additional processes that should result in cost reductions and improved clearance times. The PRC had issued earlier requirements for testing and disinfection through GACC Announcement No. 58 of 2022 and emergency measures in GACC Announcement No. 103 of 2020.

Background:

This report includes unofficial translations of GACC Announcement No. 131 of 2022 along with information from the PRC State Council related to the treatment of personnel and goods entering China. In addition, this report includes highlights from a related State Council press conference with questions that indicated that with the “downgrade” classification of the novel coronavirus, PRC authorities will no longer be required to carry out COVID-related sampling and disinfection of imported products.

For additional context and understanding of the PRC’s earlier requirements for the [Control Measures for Imported Cold Chain Foods and Non-Cold Chain Goods](#), please review the linked FAS published GAIN report to GACC Announcement No. 58 of 2022. Note: The PRC had notified earlier, emergency measures, to the WTO as [SPS/CHN/1173](#) (or, [GACC Announcement No. 103 of 2020](#)).

Chinese industry members shared with FAS China staff that the announcement should facilitate trade. Industry members reported that the change in process should result in lower costs and faster customs clearance times.

U.S. exporters are encouraged to engage with their importers on how the dynamic nature of the PRC’s changing requirements may affect trade in food and agricultural products that are in route or will soon be shipped to China.

Unofficial Translation:

General Administration of Customs Announcement No. 131 of 2022 (Announcement on Relevant Matters After the Change on Class B Control and Management of Novel Coronavirus under Class B Category)

According to the relevant management of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council and the "Frontier Health and Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China" and other laws and regulations, after the novel coronavirus infection is changed to "Class B and B Control" and is no longer included in the quarantine management of infectious diseases, the relevant matters are announced as follows:

1. Starting from January 8, 2023, the nucleic acid test for all entry personnel will be cancelled, and all entry personnel must declare to the customs the novel coronavirus nucleic acid test results within 48 hours before entry. Customs will release the entry personnel with ordinary health declarations and no abnormalities in the routine screening at the ports to enter the community; for the entry personnel with abnormal health declarations or symptoms such as fever, they will be managed by different categories according to the screening status.
2. Relevant provinces (autonomous regions) promote the orderly and steady resumption of cargos and passenger transports at border ports according to procedures and classifications.

3. Starting from January 8, 2023, all measures such as nucleic acid monitoring and testing for novel coronaviruses at ports for imported cold chain foods and non-cold chain goods will be cancelled.

The link to the original announcement in Chinese:

<http://www.customs.gov.cn/customs/302249/2480148/4761081/index.html>

End Unofficial Translation

Other relevant documents and announcements:

On December 26, 2022, the China Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council published a notification on the Overall Plan for Implementation of Class B Management and Control of Novel Coronavirus (hereinafter referred to as the “Plan”) (Joint Prevention and Control [2022] No.144 announcement) on National Health Commission’s website.

Under Section Three, Part two of the “Plan,” it mentions that according to the “Frontier Health and Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China,” the PRC will not require infectious disease testing and quarantine measures for entry personnel and imported goods starting from January 8, 2023.

The full text of the Announcement and the Plan in Chinese is accessible via:

<http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/zhengcwj/202212/e97e4c449d7a475794624b8ea12123c6.shtml>

On December 27, 2022, The Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council held a press conference to further explain the new measures that will be instituted from January 8, 2023. In brief, the PRC will “downgrade” the classification of the novel coronavirus.

Accordingly, the PRC will cancel the novel coronavirus Class A control and prevention measures in accordance with the “Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases,” and the novel coronavirus will no longer be managed according to the “Frontier Health and Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China”.

During the Question-and-Answer session, a reporter asked about the prevention and control measures for novel coronavirus. The PRC official from the National Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention responded that if there are no abnormal results during the routine screening at ports, individuals can enter the country directly without quarantine. And, GACC will not take any preventive disinfection measures on imported goods and PRC authorities will not conduct sample testing for the novel coronavirus on imported cold chain foods.

The full text of the press conference records in Chinese can be found via:

<http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/s3574/202212/6bbb3d534e3c49f992f9eaa5a45fc7a2.shtml>

Attachments:

No Attachments.