

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: June 21, 2024

Report Number: CH2024-0072

Report Name: Phytosanitary Requirements for Imported Organic Growing Media Notified to WTO

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Beijing

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On May 14, 2024, China notified the Phytosanitary Requirements for Imported Organic Growing Media to the World Trade Organization (WTO) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1300. China's SPS Enquiry Point at sps@customs.gov.cn will accept comments until July 13, 2024. This report provides an unofficial translation of the draft regulation. Stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulation.

Report Summary:

On May 14, 2024, China notified Phytosanitary Requirements for Imported Organic Growing Media to the World Trade Organization (WTO) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1300](#). China's SPS Enquiry Point at sps@customs.gov.cn will accept comments until July 13, 2024. This draft regulation is proposed to be finalized on August 1, 2024 and is expected to enter into force on December 1, 2024.

The draft regulation stipulates the following new requirements regarding the export of organic growing media to China:

- lists of organic growing media allowable to be exported to China, which include untreated or single organic growing media, and organic growing media processed through steam, heat, chemical treatment, or various treatment combinations. Mixed media containing or consisting of two or more mentioned growing media are also allowed (English translation of the media is available in the original Chinese regulation).
- procedures and required documents for registration with General Administration of Customs of PRC (GACC) for the producers of imported organic growing media and the validity period of registration.
- specific products requirements including status and condition of the products, biosecurity risks related to the products, and purposes of usage.
- requirements for packaging, storage, and transportation of organic growing media exported to China.
- quarantine requirements and treatment indicators required on the phytosanitary certificates.
- verification procedures by China customs on certificates and products, and disposal and suspension conditions when the organic growing media exported to China are not in compliance with requirements.

This report provides an unofficial translation of the draft notified regulation. Stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulation.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Plant Quarantine Requirements for Imported Organic Growing Media

1. Quarantine Basis

- (1) “*Biosecurity Law of the People's Republic of China*”;
- (2) “*Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine*” and its implementation regulations.

2. Permitted Types of Imported Media

- (1) Organic growing media:
 - a. Tissue culture medium, coir, coco peat, sawdust, wood shavings, wood chips, cork, peat, moss (sphagnum), peat moss.
 - b. Organic growing media treated by steam, heat, chemical, or various combinations: rice hulls/chaff, grain hulls, coffee hulls, peanut hulls, cotton hulls, bagasse, grape marc, cocoa pods, oil palm shell charcoal, barks, and other organic growing media, excluding soil.
- (2) Mixed media containing two or more of the above-mentioned growing media.

3. Applicable Countries or Regions

All countries and regions.

4. Registration Requirements for Producers

Growing media should be produced and stored under conditions that prevent contamination or infestation. Producers of growing media must be registered with the plant quarantine authority of the country or region where they are located and be recommended to the General Administration of Customs (GACC). The recommendation materials should include the name of the producer, address of production facility, product types, foreign registration number, layout of each functional areas of the facility, production process and key production parameters, product component test reports, quarantine management measures, etc. (in both Chinese and English). GACC will conduct the review and register the producer, and announce the registration on the GACC’s official website, the registration is valid for 5 years.

5. Product Requirements

- (1) Free from plant quarantine pests of China and other harmful organisms and foreign species that have serious harms to agricultural and forestry production and ecological environment, including but not limited to: *Atropellis pinicola*, *Atropellis piniphila*, *Botryosphaeria stevensii*, *Cephalosporium sacchari*, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, *Fusarium circinatum*, *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. elaeidis*, *Microcyclus ulei*, *Ophiostoma ulmi*,

Phellinus noxius, *Phytophthora ramorum*, *Verticillium dahliae*, *Ditylenchus destructor*, *Meloidogyne spp.*, *Pratylenchus spp.*

- (2) Free from substances other than growing media components, such as plant seeds, soil, animal carcasses, animal feces, poultry feathers, plant residues, and other substances with biosecurity risk.
- (3) Not previously used for cultivation or any other agricultural purposes.
- (4) All materials in the growing media should be dry and non-reproductive.

6. Product Packaging, Storage, and Transportation Requirements¹

- (1) Growing media should be sealed and packaged.
- (2) Packaging materials should be first-time use and clean.
- (3) Each package shall be labeled in Chinese and English to indicate name of the growing media, place of production, name of the producer, or its registration number, etc.
- (4) The storage place before export of the growing media should be relatively independent, clean, hygienic, and effective measures should be taken to prevent infestation by harmful organisms.
- (5) Transport vehicles should be clean and hygienic, free from harmful organisms and other foreign objects. Packaging shall not be opened or replaced during transportation.

7. Prior-Export Quarantine Requirements

The plant quarantine authority of the exporting country or region shall conduct inspection to the growing media before it is exported to China. For growing media that in compliance with this Requirements, a plant quarantine certificate shall be issued in accordance with the *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 12*. For growing media subject to quarantine treatments, the treatment indicators including temperature, humidity, chemicals, concentration, etc., shall be specified in the phytosanitary certificates.

8. Entry Inspection and Quarantine and Handling of Non-compliance

- (1) Certificate verification

Check whether the phytosanitary certificate is valid and matches the declared information.

- (2) Cargo inspection

¹ In the original draft regulation, it is listed as Article 5, which might be an error.

Inspection and verification of growing media, its packaging, and transport vehicles. When necessary, take samples for laboratory inspection. Those qualified to the inspection and quarantine will be allowed entry.

(3) Handling of non-compliance

- a. Shipment will be returned or destroyed if no valid phytosanitary certificates are presented.
- b. Shipment will be returned or destroyed if it comes from unregistered enterprises.
- c. Shipment will be returned or destroyed if it contains prohibited items as stipulated in the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine Law such as soil, animal carcasses, etc.
- d. Quarantine treatment shall be carried out if the shipment is found with live quarantine pests or other harmful organisms that have serious harms on agricultural and forestry production and ecological environment. The shipment will be returned or destroyed if there is no effective quarantine treatment method.
- e. Shipment shall be handled in accordance with requirements of relevant Chinese laws and regulations for other incompliant situations.

Depending on the relevant incompliant situation, GACC will notify the authority of the exporting country and take measures such as suspending the importation of relevant producers or relevant types of growing medias according to various situations.

GACC will conduct further risk assessment on imported growing media based on interception of harmful organisms, and dynamically adjust the lists of permitted types of imported growing media and the countries or regions of origin.

END OF UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Attachments:

No Attachments.