

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution  
2025

**Date:** December 03,

**Report Number:** CH2025-0221

**Report Name:** National Legumes Seed Standard Notified

**Country:** China - People's Republic of

**Post:** Beijing

**Report Category:** WTO Notifications, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Planting Seeds,  
FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

On November 11, 2025, China notified the National Standard for Seed of Food Crops - Part 2: Legumes to the WTO as G/TBT/N/CHN/2135. This standard specifies inspection rules, testing methods, and quality requirements for soybean, fava bean, adzuki bean, and mung bean seeds. The standard applies to the specified legume seeds for production and sale. This report provides an unofficial translation of the notified draft standard. Comments may be submitted to the China's TBT National Notification and Enquiry Center at [tbt@customs.gov.cn](mailto:tbt@customs.gov.cn) until January 10, 2026.

FAS China provides this reporting and analysis as a service to U.S. farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and agribusinesses in support of a worldwide agricultural information system and a level playing field for U.S. agriculture.

## **Report Summary:**

On November 11, 2025, the People's Republic of China notified the National Standard for Seed of Food Crops – Part 2: Legumes to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as [G/TBT/N/CHN/2135](#). The standard specifies inspection rules, testing methods, and quality requirements for soybean seeds (HS code:071331), fava bean seeds (HS code: 071332), adzuki bean seeds (HS code: 071350), and mung bean seeds (HS code: 120110). The International Classification for Standards (ICS) code for the standard is 65.020.20.

Once finalized, the standard will replace the regulations of GB 4404.2-2010, which have been implemented since January 2012. At the time of this report, the implementation date of the revised regulation has not been announced.

This report provides an unofficial translation of the notified standard. Comments may be submitted to China's TBT National Notification and Enquiry Center at [tbt@customs.gov.cn](mailto:tbt@customs.gov.cn) until January 10, 2026. Stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulations to assess any market or regulatory effect on their business.

## **BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

### **Foreword**

This document was drafted in accordance with the provisions of GB/T 1.1 2020 “Standardization Work Guidelines Part 1: Structure and Drafting Rules of Standardization Documents.”

This document is Part 1<sup>1</sup> of GB 4404 “Seeds of Food Crops.” GB 4404 has been published in the following parts:

- Part 1: Cereals;
- Part 2: Legumes;

This document replaces GB 4404.2 2010 “Seeds of Food Crops – Part 2: Legumes.” Compared with GB 4404.2 2010, the main changes in this standard are as follows:

- Added definitions for authenticity and purity of genetically modified varieties;
- Revised germination rate indicators for soybean seeds (see 4.1.1 of this document, or 4.2.1 in 2021 edition);

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<sup>1</sup> This likely a typo in the original Chinese document.

- Added quality indicators for authenticity and purity of genetically modified soybean seeds (see 4.1.2 of this document);
- Revised inspection methods.

Please note that some content in this document may involve patents. The issuing organization of this document assumes no responsibility for identifying patents. This document was proposed and is under the jurisdiction of China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).

The previous versions of this document and the documents it replaces are as follows:

- First released in 1984 as GB 4404;
- First revised in 1996 for soybean and fava bean seeds as GB 4404.2;
- The sections on red bean (adzuki bean) and mung bean seeds were first revised to GB 4404.3 in 1999;
- The second revision of this document was made to GB 4404.2 in 2010;
- This is the third revision of the document.

## **Introduction**

The Seed Law of the People's Republic of China stipulates that seeds whose quality is "lower than the national standards" or "lower than the indicators indicated on the label" are inferior seeds. Clearly defining the minimum quality requirements for important crop seeds is not only a requirement of national law, but also necessary to ensure seed quality, maintain seed market order, and protect the vital interests of seed users (farmers). Conventionally, crop seeds can be divided into food crop seeds, oil crop seeds, industry (economic) crop seeds, and seeds for vegetable and melon crops. Among them, food crop seeds are an important component of crop seeds. GB4404 divides food crop seeds into the following two parts:

—Part 1: Cereals.

—Part 2: Legumes.

The seed quality requirements specified in this document represent the minimum quality commitments that seed producers and distributors must fulfill, and they serve as an important basis for imposing penalties on inferior seeds in accordance with the law and for handling seed quality disputes.

## National Standard Seeds of Food Crops – Part 2: Legumes

### 1. Scope

This document specifies quality requirements, inspection methods, and inspection rules for the seeds of soybeans [*Glycinemax (L) Merr*], fava beans [*ViciafabaL.*], adzuki beans [*Vigna angularis (Willd) Ohwi & Ohashi*], and mung beans [*Vigna radiata (L.) Wilczek*].

This document applies to the production and sale of the aforementioned legume seeds.

### 2. Normative References

The contents of the following documents constitute essential provisions of this document through normative references herein. For dated references, only the version corresponding to that date applies; for undated references, the latest version (including any amendments) applies.

GB/T 3543.2 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 2: Sampling;

GB/T 3543.3 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 3: Sowing Quality and Cleanliness Analysis;

GB/T 3543.4 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 4: Sowing Quality and Germination Test;

GB/T 3543.5 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 5: Variety Quality and Purity Identification;

GB/T 3543.6 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 6: Sowing Quality and Moisture Determination;

GB/T 3543.12 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 12: Variety Quality and Genetically Modified Seeds Determination;

GB 20464 General Rules for Crop Seed Labels.

### 3. Terms and Definitions

Below terms and definitions apply to this regulation.

#### 3.1 Basic seed

Seeds of the first to third generation, bred from breeder's seeds, that have been confirmed to meet the specified quality requirements.

#### 3.2 Qualified seed

Seeds that are first to third generation propagated from the original seeds or hybrid seeds, verified to meet the specified quality requirements.

### 3.3 Genuineness of genetically modified variety

Authenticity status of the transformation event, the seed contains and only contains the declared transformation event(s).

### 3.4 Purity of genetically modified variety

Percentage of samples that contain and only contain the declared target trait(s) of the transformation event.

Note: Transformation events with different traits shall be indicated separately.

## 4. Quality Standards

### 4.1 Soybeans

4.1.1 Quality of soybeans seeds should meet with the requirements in Table 1.

**Table 1: Quality Requirements for Soybeans Seeds**

Crop Type	Seed Category	Variety Purity not less than	Cleanliness (Net Seeds) % not less than	Germination Rate/% not less than	Moisture/% not more than
Soybeans	Basic Seeds	99.9	99.0	87	12.0
	Qualified Seeds	98.0			

Note: Soybean seeds from north of the Great Wall and in high-altitude cold regions may have a moisture content higher than 12.0%, but not higher than 13.5%. Soybean seeds from south of the Great Wall (exclude high-altitude cold regions) must not have a moisture content higher than 12.0%.

4.1.2 Quality of genetically modified soybeans seeds should also meet with the requirements in Table 2.

**Table 2: Quality Requirements for Genetically Modified Soybeans Seeds**

Crop Type	Authenticity of Genetically Modified Varieties	Purity of Genetically Modified Variety/%	
		Herbicide Tolerance Purity not less than	Insect Resistance Purity not less than
Soybeans	Contains and only contains declared transformant.	98.0	95.0

## 4.2 Fava beans

Quality of fava beans seeds should meet the minimum requirements specified in Table 2<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 3: Quality Requirements for Fava Beans Seeds**

Crop Type	Seed Category	Variety Purity not less than	Cleanliness (Net Seeds) % not less than	Germination Rate/% not less than	Moisture/% not more than
Fava beans	Basic Seeds	99.9	99.0	90	12.0
	Qualified Seeds	97.0			

## 4.3 Adzuki Beans

Quality of adzuki beans seeds should meet the minimum requirements specified in Table 3<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 4: Quality Requirements for Adzuki Beans Seeds**

Crop Type	Seed Category	Variety Purity not less than	Cleanliness (Net Seeds) % not less than	Germination Rate/% not less than	Moisture/% not more than
Adzuki beans	Basic Seeds	99.0	99.0	85	13.0
	Qualified Seeds	96.0			

## 4.4 Mung Beans

Quality of mung beans seeds should meet the minimum requirements in Table 4<sup>4</sup>.

**Table 5: Quality Requirements for Mung Beans Seeds**

Crop Type	Seed Category	Variety Purity not less than	Cleanliness (Net Seeds) % not less than	Germination Rate/% not less than	Moisture/% not more than
Mung beans	Basic Seeds	99.0	99.0	85	13.0
	Qualified Seeds	96.0			

<sup>2</sup> This is likely a typo in the original Chinese text; fava bean seeds are in table 3.

<sup>3</sup> This is likely a typo in the original Chinese text; adzuki bean seeds are in table 4.

<sup>4</sup> This is likely a typo in the original Chinese text; mung bean seeds are in Table 5.

## **5. Testing Methods**

### **5.1 Variety Purity**

The method for testing variety purity shall be in accordance with GB/T 3543.5.

### **5.2 Cleanliness**

The method for testing cleanliness of the seeds shall be in accordance with GB/T 3543.3.

### **5.3 Germination Rate**

The method for testing germination rate shall be in accordance with GB/T 3543.4.

### **5.4 Moisture Content**

The method for testing moisture content shall be in accordance with GB/T 3543.6.

### **5.5 Authenticity of Genetically Modified Varieties**

The method for testing the authenticity of genetically modified varieties shall be in accordance with GB/T 3543.12.

### **5.6 Purity of Genetically Modified Varieties**

The method for testing the purity of genetically modified varieties shall be in accordance with GB/T 3543.12.

## **6. Inspection Rules**

### **6.1 Sampling**

The sampling method and seed batch determination shall be carried out in accordance with GB/T 3543.2.

### **6.2 Determination Rules**

The quality determination rules shall be carried out in accordance with GB 20464.

**END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.