

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Trade Alert - Meat and Poultry Product Expiration and Shelf-Life Requirements

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

**Post:** Beijing

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**

On March 31, 2025, China's International Trade Single Window published a notification that included an update stating that imported meat and poultry products would require a "Product Expiration Date" as a data field for customs import declarations. Industry sources have shared with FAS China that this import clearance requirement could be enforced effective April 7, 2025, for meat and poultry products. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) does not have regulations that require such dates as the matter relates to product quality and not food safety. U.S. exporters should consider providing the requested information and documentation to their importers who can directly or through their brokers enter the required information when presenting documents and materials for customs clearance in China.

## **Background:**

FAS China provides this analysis and reporting as a service to the United States agricultural community, and to our farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and agribusiness operations in support of a worldwide agricultural information system and a level playing field for U.S. agriculture.

## **Regulatory Basis for Product Expiration and Shelf-Life Requirements**

According to Article 13 of the June 2023 State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) announcement Order Number 81 for the *Regulations on Supervision and Administration of Quality and Safety of Edible Agricultural Products Market Sales*, “imported fresh and frozen meat products shall indicate in Chinese the specifications, origin, destination, production date, shelf life, storage conditions, and other contents.” In addition, “Imported edible agricultural products that are repackaged for sale shall retain all the information of the original imported edible agricultural products as well as the repackaging enterprise, repackaging time, location, shelf life and other information on the packaging.” See attached original and machine translation or view an electronic copy of the [SAMR Regulations online](#) (*link in Chinese*) that was scheduled for implementation effective December 1, 2023.

This requirement has been interpreted to mean that when declaring imported meat and poultry products for import inspection with Chinese officials who work for the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) at the time of product entry, the shelf-life information of the product must be clearly marked. The March 31, 2025, [notification on the China International Trade Single Window](#) (*link in Chinese*), indicates that GACC authorities have included an additional mandatory data field for customs import declarations that includes required entry of a “Product Expiration Date” under the “Inspection and Quarantine Goods Specifications” column for meat and poultry products. The Single Window notification further indicates that if a meat or poultry product consignment has multiple expiration dates, the earliest expiration date should be completed in the required data field.

## **Single Window Update from March 31, 2025**

China International Trade Single Window March 31 Notification (original text):

根据海关总署业务部门要求，对货物申报系统进行更新，具体内容如下：

1、进口报关单增加对肉类产品“检验检疫货物规格”栏目下的“产品有效期”的必填提醒，如肉类产品存在多个有效期，应填写最早到期的日期。

China International Trade Single Window March 31 Notification (translated text)

According to the business department requirements of the General Administration of Customs of China, the cargo declaration system is updated to include the specific contents as follows:

1. The import declaration form adds a mandatory reminder for the "product validity period" under the "inspection and quarantine goods specifications" column for meat products. If there are multiple validity periods for meat products, the earliest expiration date should be filled in.

### **FAS China Guidance**

With the enforcement of this additional requirement for customs clearance, U.S. exporters are encouraged to discuss the matter with their customers, importers, brokers, etc. Chinese entities submitting the data and documentation may need to request information of the inner or outer packaging production and shelf life or product expiration dates. Some importers may also benefit from pictures of labels, etc. as documentation proof of the products being imported.

FAS China understands this requirement is not unique to meat and poultry products imported from the United States, but a requirement for customs declaration for imported products from all origins. As the material does not get transmitted on documents related to food safety from the United States, it is an additional commercial requirement.

### **FSIS Export Library for China**

Please note that for bulk packaging, the production date and expiration date/storage period/shelf life are already an existing exterior label requirement in Chinese and English for exporting U.S. products to China. Additionally, labels in Chinese and English for Pre-packaged food delivered directly to the consumer also requires a production date along with information on the expiration date/storage period or shelf life. For eligible beef and beef products, the interior package of eligible beef product can be labeled with both chilled and frozen shelf-life dates on the same package. However, the exterior package must be designated as chilled or frozen, so China knows which date applies. U.S. exporters of meat and poultry and related products to China can find additional information on regulatory requirements for trade on the [FSIS Export Library for China](#).

### **Attachments:**

[230630 SAMR 2023 No 81 - Regulations on Supervision and Administration of Quality and Safety of Edible Agricultural Products Market Sales eng.pdf](#)

[230630 SAMR 2023 No 81 - Regulations on Supervision and Administration of Quality and Safety of Edible Agricultural Products Market Sales cn.pdf](#)