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**Report Highlights:**

This report presents regulations and standards applicable to food and agricultural imports into China, including recent and pending changes to national food safety laws, standards, and import oversight measures. This report reviews key developments over the last year, including but not limited to, changes in facility registrations, as well as labeling and packaging requirements, including new standards and transition timelines that exporters should track. U.S. exporters should verify current import requirements with China based representatives or customers prior to shipment, as implementation can vary and requirements may change during the year.

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## Abbreviations

AQSIQ <sup>1</sup>	General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
CFDA <sup>2</sup>	China Food and Drug Administration
CFSA	China National Food Safety Risk Assessment Center
CNCA	National Certification and Accreditation Administration
GACC	General Administration of Customs
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
MOA <sup>3</sup>	Ministry of Agriculture
MOFCOM	Ministry of Commerce
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
NHC	National Health Commission
NPC	National People's Congress
SAMR	State Administration for Market Regulation

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<sup>1</sup> The official titles of some of the regulations in this report reference the former competent authorities (e.g., AQSIQ or CFDA), even though these agencies names and functions changed following the China's 2018 government reorganization. AQSIQ has been disbanded after China's government re-organization in 2018 with the responsibility of AQSIQ shifted to SAMR, GACC, and the National Intellectual Property Administration.

<sup>2</sup> CFDA was disbanded during the China's government re-organization in 2018, currently, the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) oversees medicines, medical products, and cosmetics supervision in China. NMPA is integrated to SAMR under organizational structure, but it still maintains a certain degree of independence from SAMR. SAMR is focusing on foods and other commodities.

<sup>3</sup> MOA was reorganized in 2018. The responsibility for grassland resources investigation and registration was transferred to the Natural Resources Department, responsibility of agricultural pollution treatment was transferred to the Biological and Environment Department, inspection of fishing boats was transferred to the Transportation Department, responsibility of grassland fire prevention was transferred to the Emergency Response and Management Department, responsibility of supervision of grasslands, natural reserves, places of interests, natural heritages, and natural parks were transferred to the Natural Resources Department.

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.

## **Executive Summary**

China's food and agricultural import regulatory system continues to evolve and can present significant compliance challenges for U.S. exporters, particularly where national measures are implemented differently across authorities and ports. This year's report highlights notable registration-related developments, including new and expanding requirements affecting overseas facility registration and related compliance steps that exporters should confirm before shipment. This year's report reflects new registration requirements for liquid formula products for infants and young children, which are being brought into the same registration management framework and controls as other infant formula products, and it also captures updates to record filing processes for exporters, agents, and consignees using designated online systems. The report also summarizes recent updates to labeling and nutrition labeling standards, packaging measures including sustainability related rules, and the broader set of national food safety standards and import procedures that apply to both domestic and imported products.

## **Report Format**

This report includes major, but not all, regulations and standards in China pertaining to food and agricultural imports, some of which have been translated by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and published as individual GAIN reports. Such reports can be accessed by clicking the hyperlinked text in this report or searching the GAIN website database at <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/>.

Unless otherwise noted, translations are UNOFFICIAL and should be used only as guidelines. Exporters are advised to thoroughly discuss all regulatory and implementation details with their customers in China. Many regulations are short on specifics, and interpretation can differ from port to port and from regulatory agency to regulatory agency.

For answers to specific questions, U.S. exporters can contact any FAS office in China, or FAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. Contact information can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THE HYPERLINKS IN THIS REPORT ONLY FUNCTION WITH CERTAIN WEB BROWSERS AND/OR WHEN COPIED AND PASTED INTO CERTAIN WEB BROWSERS.**

## **DISCLAIMER**

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Beijing, China, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT

APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

# Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

## Annual Report for China

### I. Food Laws

#### 1. General Food Laws

The legal framework for food safety in China is primarily composed of the Food Safety Law, the Law on Agricultural Product Quality and Safety, the Consumer Rights Protection Law, and the Law on the Inspection of Import and Export Commodities.

#### [The Food Safety Law](#)

In 2015, the National People's Congress (NPC)<sup>4</sup> issued a revised food safety law, which was implemented on October 1, 2015. The 2015 Food Safety Law contains 154 articles in ten chapters. The Food Safety Law is the fundamental law governing food safety in China, including overall safety issues in the cycle of food production, circulation, consumption, and import and export. The Law stipulates:

- Primary responsibility falls on food producers and operators, requiring them to comply with food safety standards and regulations, use appropriate food materials and labeling, and implement control systems to prevent risks;
- Food safety supervision is managed through multi-agency collaboration, primarily involving SAMR, NHC, MARA, and GACC, at all levels who perform different roles at different stages during food production and circulation;
- Imported foods must comply with mandatory Chinese food safety standards, customs inspection and quarantine measures, and specific testing protocols;
- Violations will result in severe penalties to strengthen accountability in food safety management.

The Law reflects “four strictest measures” as the core requirements for food safety in China, the four elements are: the strictest standards, the strictest supervision, the severest penalties, and most serious accountability. All other food regulations and measures are formulated based on this Law.

#### **Revisions of the Food Safety Law**

NPC made the first revision of the 2015 [Food Safety Law](#) (link in Chinese) on December 29, 2018, and the second revision on April 29, 2021. These two revisions are not significant revisions to the key contents of the law. The modifications included, for example, that only food

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<sup>4</sup> The NPC is the highest organ of State power in China; it is the law maker in China.

producers and operators who are engaged in food production, sales, and catering services should obtain licenses from food safety supervision departments at county level or above, and businesses that only sell edible agricultural products and pre-packaged foods do not require a license, but they shall file records with local food safety supervision departments.

In 2025, NPC published its [Decision for the Revisions of the Food Safety Law](#) (link in Chinese) after soliciting public comments. The 2025 revisions focus on the below two issues:

- Improving oversight of bulk road transport of key liquid foods;
- Bringing infant formula liquid milk under the same registration and production controls as regular infant formula products.

Please see FAS GAIN Reports [CH2024-0014](#) and [CH2025-0032](#) for the more detailed information about the announcements of the two proposals.

In addition to the revision of the Food Safety Law this year, NPC also released a [public report](#) (link in Chinese) on October 27, 2025, to inform the implementation status of the China's Food Safety Law under the current circumstances. The report highlighted significant progress in enforcing the law while acknowledging ongoing challenges and called for overall revisions to the current law.

The key challenges include:

- Strengthening supervision responsibilities across food safety supply chains, along with further development of food safety standards;
- Addressing emerging online and digital food business models that have outpaced existing regulatory tools;
- Resolving unclear requirements for imported food testing and Cross-Border E-Commerce (CBEC) oversight, which have created regulatory uncertainty and potential safety risks.

The report offered recommendations for improvement in eight key areas in food safety:

- a. Improve inter-departmental responsibilities and collaboration to achieve seamless oversight from farm to table, supported by digital and intelligent traceability systems;
- b. Accelerate development of standards and regulations for new materials and technologies, and expand training to enhance the implementation of food safety standards and systems;
- c. Enhance monitoring capacity for food safety issues, making efforts to upgrade monitoring institutions, equipment, and professional staffing in underdeveloped regions;
- d. Strengthen communications for authorities and the society, and intensify inspections of campus food suppliers and vendors to improve food safety management in and around schools;

- e. Reinforce regulations for internet-based food sales and emerging food business models such as online sales and livestream e-commerce;
- f. Clarify customs authority on application of risk-based assessment for sampling and inspection and promote customs' technical specifications for testing, and improve supervisions on cross-border e-commerce imports through negative list<sup>5</sup>, recall mechanism, and targeted risk management, to improve legal framework regarding imported foods;
- g. Expand public education and advocacy to improve social supervision networks and mechanisms to consolidate multi-stakeholder governance of food safety;
- h. Initiate overall revisions to the current Food Safety Law by incorporating best practices over the years and addressing new challenges.

These recommendations provided valuable insights into the development and revision of China's food safety laws and regulations for the coming years.

### [The Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Law](#)

The Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Law governs the quality and safety management of primary edible products derived from agriculture (“edible agricultural products”<sup>6</sup>), as well as agricultural inputs (i.e., pesticides and fertilizers). Once these products enter the China market, they are subject to the Food Safety Law. The law was originally published in 2006, [the most recent updates](#) were made in 2022, and it entered into force on January 1, 2023. Although domestically focused, some articles of the law hold the potential to impact trade, including sections on cold chain logistics and traceability. It also underlined Beijing's strategy on strengthening quality and safety control of agricultural products, including implementation of source and risk evaluation, and whole supply chain and process management, and directions of international collaboration and government-industry cooperation.

The [revised Measures for Supervision and Administration of Quality and Safety of Edible Agricultural Products in Markets](#), which SAMR released on July 22, 2023, and entered into force on December 1, 2023, aimed to further regulate the agricultural market and ensure the quality and safety of edible agricultural products. The measures reportedly strengthened training requirements for food safety management personnel, supported products with quality certifications, established requirements for lighting/visual display of marketed products, and included additional requirements to prevent cross contamination for ready-to-eat products.

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<sup>5</sup> The negative list includes foods from epidemic-affected areas that are explicitly prohibited from import, or foods for which emergency measures have been initiated due to significant quality and safety risks. NPC stated that the list will be adjusted depending on certain changes in the status quo.

<sup>6</sup> Edible agricultural products are primary products, such as vegetables, melons, fruits, unprocessed meats, etc., while “foods” refer to finished products or materials for human consumption, or products that are traditionally treated as both food and medicine in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

On December 19, 2025, MARA published the [Measures for Administration of Agricultural Products Quality and Safety Commitment of Compliance Certificates](#) (link in Chinese), which entered into force on February 1, 2026. The Measures were formulated based on the [Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Law](#) and is an important supporting system for the Law. On January 22, 2026, MARA released [an announcement](#) (link in Chinese) for the samples of the certificates and explanation of the content required, which will enter into force on February 1, 2026.

The Compliance Commitment Certificate is issued by agricultural product producers, farmers' professional unions, individual farmers, and entities or individuals engaged in agricultural product procurement. Based on quality and safety controls and testing results, the certificate attests that the agricultural products being sold are free from prohibited pesticides, veterinary drugs, or other banned compounds, and that residues from approved pesticides and veterinary drugs do not exceed permitted limits. The certificate applies primarily to vegetables (including cultivated edible fungi), fruits, fresh tea leaves, live poultry and livestock, poultry eggs, and aquaculture products.

The certificate must include the following: commitments made, the basis for those commitments, product name, quantity, origin, issuance date, the issuing entity, and contact information. MARA will announce the specific format at a later date. MARA and SAMR will establish a collaborative oversight and information-sharing mechanism, and violations will be incorporated into the relevant management system.

### **The Consumer Rights Protection Law**

In 2013, China passed an amendment to the [Consumer Rights Protection Law](#) (link in Chinese), which entered into force on March 15, 2014. The amendment adds language on online shopping, product recalls, and compensation to consumers related to purchases of noncompliant food products. The State Council announced the [Implementation Regulation of the Consumer Rights Protection Law](#) (link in Chinese) in 2024, and it entered into force on July 1, 2024. The regulation refines and expands business operator's obligation, including product safety, truthful advertising, transparent pricing, protection of personal information, and enhanced safeguards for elderly and minor consumers.

### **The Law on the Inspection of Import and Export Commodities and its Implementing Regulations**

[This Law](#) (link in Chinese) applies to all import and export commodities, including food products, which are listed in the Catalog of Import and Export Commodities that are subject to inspection.<sup>7</sup> It provides customs clearance guidelines by product and a checklist of required documents. Since it was first issued in 1989, the law has been amended several times, most recently in 2021. GACC released a revised [Implementing Regulation](#) (link in Chinese) of the Law on Inspection of Import and Export Commodities in March 2022. Building on this Law, GACC formulated the following laws the Law on Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and the Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety.

## The Law on Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine

[The Law on Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine](#) (link in Chinese) was released on October 30, 1991, and entered into force on April 1, 1992. NPC revised the law on August 27, 2009, and the State Council released [its implementing regulations](#) (link in Chinese) on December 2, 1996, under Order No. 206. The law and its implementing regulations regulate the quarantine and inspection of:

- Animals, plants, and related products that enter, exit, or transit through China.
- Containers, packaging materials, and bedding materials that contain or carry animals, plants, and related products.
- Means of transport from animal/plant epidemic or infected areas.

On August 20, 2025, China notified the WTO of several revised import and export measures for animal and plants products including:

- Administrative Measures for Inspection, Quarantine, and Supervision on Import and Export of Feed and Feed Additives (Revision) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/109/Add.2](#).
- Administrative Rules of Inspection, Quarantine, and Supervision on Entry of Fresh Fruit (Revision) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/80/Add.2](#).
- Control Measures on Inspection and Quarantine of Import and Export GMO Products (Revision) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/15/Add.2](#).
- Inspection and Quarantine Administration on Import and Export of Animal Origin Products other than for Human and Animal Consumption (Revision) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/21/Add.1](#).
- Measures for Administrative of Imported Wood Packaging Material (Revision) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/42/Add.5](#).
- Measures for Inspection and Quarantine for the Entry and Exit Grain (Revision) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/882/Add.1](#).

Please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0157](#) for more detailed information and translation of the notified regulations. At the time of the report, the regulations have not been finalized.

GACC also published an [announcement](#) (link in Chinese) to solicit domestic comments for two import and export quarantine and sanitation regulations on December 26, 2025:

- Regulations on the Supervision and Management of Quarantine and Pest Control Treatments for Imported and Exported Animals and Plants.
- Regulations on Supervision and Management of Sanitary Treatment Procedures for Entry and Exit of Goods and Persons.

The two draft regulations are formulated based on the [Regulation on Management of Quarantine and Treatment Procedures for Imported and Exported Animals and Plants](#) (link in Chinese). GACC now separated the regulation into two specified Measures, both drafts were open for domestic comments until January 8, 2026. By the time of the report, GACC has not notified the drafts to the WTO.

### **Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety ([GACC Decree 249](#))**

GACC announced the Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety (i.e., Decree 249) in April 2021, and it entered into force in January of 2022. It is applicable to all foods for human consumption except for food additives and food related products. As the overarching regulation applicable to food exports to China,

Decree 249 covers a broad range of requirements including the evaluation and review of foreign food safety management systems; overseas facilities registration; record filing by importers, exporters, and commercial agents; quarantine and inspection; product labeling; and food safety risk alerts, among others.

### **The Law on Anti-Food Waste**

To prevent food waste, safeguard national food security, protect the environment, and promote social and economic sustainability development, the NPC approved and released [the Law on Anti-Food Waste](#) (link in Chinese) on April 29, 2021 (see FAS China GAIN Report [CH2021-0053](#) for a general summary). It entered into force on the date of its publication. The law includes provisions that guide producers, retailers, restaurants, and consumers to establish measurable indicators for utilization and re-utilization of resources, innovative methods, and education to prevent food waste.

In November 2024, China released its Action Plan on Food Conservation and Anti-Food Waste to reduce food loss and waste in grain production, storage, transportation, and processing. The goal is to establish long-term mechanism for grain and food waste reduction. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0003](#) for more detailed information of the Plan.

On May 18, 2025, China released a revised policy to strict economy and opposing waste by party and government organizations. The updated policy bans drinking alcohol at public receptions and events and discourages other forms of consumption that could be seen as extravagant. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0161](#) for more detailed information and its potential impact.

## **2. Additional Food Safety Regulations, Rules, and Standards**

### **Opinions of State Council to Reinforce Safety, Supervision, and Management of Foods**

The State Council issued the [Opinions on Deepening Reforms and Strengthening Food Safety](#) (link in Chinese) on May 9, 2019. The Opinions stated the overall food safety tasks in China and

set the goal that by 2035, China will have essentially modernized national governance system and governance capacity, and the food safety situation will be fundamentally improved:

- Food safety standards will be among the world's leading levels;
- Environmental pollution in production areas will be effectively controlled;
- Sense of responsibility, integrity, and food safety and quality management of producers and operators will be significantly improved;
- Food safety risk control capacities will reach internationally advanced levels;
- Entire process supervision system from farm to table will operate effectively.

On March 13, 2025, the State Council issued the updated [Opinions on Further Strengthening Food Safety Whole Chain Management](#) (link in Chinese), which set out series of measures to clarify regulatory responsibilities, strengthen inter-agency coordination, and reinforce food safety supervision to safeguard public health. The measures include to:

- Improve joint supervision for edible agricultural products by clarifying products quality and safety supervision responsibilities, application of commitment of compliance certificates, strengthening meat products inspection and quarantine certification system, and establishing safety traceability mechanisms for edible agricultural products;
- Strengthen systems for food production permits by regulating production and operation market permits, registration for special foods, and improving competency of food safety inspectors;
- Establish food storage and transportation supervision mechanisms and clarify the responsibilities for storage and transportation entities;
- Enhance the supervision and management of new businesses models for online food sales and strengthen the multi-agency cooperation such as market regulating authority, agriculture and rural affairs, industry and information technology, and cyberspace administration.

For imported foods, the Opinions stated GACC, MARA, SAMR, and NHC should work together for sharing information on food safety issues and take preventive measures to control safety risk. Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) should work with GACC and SAMR to establish a negative list for CBEC retailed foods.

GACC and local customs should provide relevant information on CBEC enterprises, platforms, and domestic service providers to market regulating departments as needed and conduct exchanges of food safety risk information. SAMR, MOFCOM, and other departments shall further clarify the responsibilities of CBEC retailed foods. Market regulating departments should

strengthen recall supervision and urge relevant responsible parties to recall products in a timely manner.

## **Traceability**

China's establishment of traceability systems began in 2015 with the State Council's announcement on "[Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Accelerating the Construction of Important Product Traceability System](#)" (link in Chinese). It urged the establishment of traceability systems for key products, including agricultural products and food products. The Food Safety Law requires the establishment of a comprehensive traceability system for food safety. Food producers and operators are requested to establish food safety traceability systems to record information such as incoming inspection, pre-delivery inspection, and food sales.

China implemented a national traceability system for imported cold-chain foods during the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing the National Traceability Platform of Imported Cold-Chain Foods, which is composed of national, provincial and facility platforms that enable tracing of imported cold-chain products including livestock, poultry, and seafood. Food blockchain technology has been used to capture data and records during supply, production, and distribution processes. Consumers can scan the QR codes or visit the producer's or distributor's website to review transparent data to ensure the safety of their food.

In March 2025, the NHC and SAMR jointly released the [National Food Safety Standards General Principles for Labeling of Prepackaged Foods](#) (GB 7718-2025), which is the first time for China to put digital labeling as a recommended method for sharing production and distribution information on the packaging of foods products to consumers.

SAMR also published series of news on its website to showcase local farmers' markets in Beijing and other cities that realized whole chain traceability for edible agricultural products. Consumers can view production, testing results, and quality information for the products they purchase in the markets.

While a number of developed cities and provinces have established traceability platforms for foods and agricultural products, implementing a unified national system capable of tracking products across different geographic regions remains a significant challenge for the central government.

## **Food Recall Regulation**

Food recalls are categorized into three grades depending on the seriousness and degree of severity of the food safety risks. SAMR currently oversees food recalls in China, and GACC is responsible for recalls of food for import and export. China's Food Safety Law mandates food producers and operators to implement recall procedures if the foods they produce or sell are not in compliance with relevant food safety standards or proved to be harmful to health.

The Administrative Measures for Food Recalls stipulate overall guidelines on recall requirements, procedures, and disposal of unsafe foods. The measures went through a few revisions, and in October 2020, [SAMR released the revised Administrative Measures for Food Recalls](#) (link in Chinese). The updated measures reinforced food safety responsibilities for producers and operators, outlined classified recall mechanisms, and shifted the approach from post-incident handling to risk evaluation and prevention for food and agricultural products.

On September 9, 2025, SAMR and MOFCOM jointly published an announcement to further strengthen the supervision of recalls on CBEC imported retail foods soliciting public comments. The Announcement aims to address challenges in supervising the recall of unsafe imported foods sold through cross-border e-commerce, especially when companies are registered overseas and difficult to regulate. It seeks to strengthen food safety management by clarifying recall responsibilities and improving regulatory measures, to ensure that unsafe products are promptly recalled and handled to protect consumers. Please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0187](#) for more detailed information about the regulation. On January 7, 2026, SAMR and MOFCOM published the finalized Announcement and it entered into force on its publication date.

## **E-Commerce**

Some products may enter China through CBEC. CBEC is a special government program that waives import tariffs and streamlines the customs clearance process for certain consumer-oriented products. It offers a unique opportunity for U.S. companies looking to export new-to-market products to China and is especially friendly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to explore market opportunities with limited business experience and resources in the Chinese market. On August 31, 2018, China passed the [E-commerce Law](#), which entered into force on January 1, 2019.

CBEC allows imports of certain products directly from foreign suppliers through an internet platform registered by GACC but only through certain CBEC pilot ports of entry. With import duties waived and value-added and consumption taxes discounted by 30 percent, CBEC goods are often significantly cheaper than those imported through traditional trade. Compliance inspections in CBEC pilot zones resemble passenger baggage checks, typically being shorter and less restrictive, with lower customs sampling rates. As a favored government policy, CBEC allows individual pilot zones flexibility in product inspections, tax collection, and adherence to national registration policies for imports.

Since 2016, China has maintained a “positive list” of the products that are permitted in CBEC, rather than a “negative list” of the products that are NOT permitted in CBEC. On February 21, 2022, the Ministry of Finance released the notice on [Adjustment of the Positive Products List of Cross-Border E-commerce Retail Imports](#) (link in Chinese), which went into effect on March 1, 2022. Importers of goods on the positive list are exempt from submitting an import license to GACC. Chinese language labels also do not need to be affixed physically onto the products, and exporters can keep the original foreign packaging and labeling. However, products subject to specific SAMR rules (such as special foods) require product registration prior to importation. Items not on the positive list will not be allowed entry through CBEC.

Individuals can spend per CBEC order up to 5,000 RMB (about \$790), and there is limit of 26,000 RMB (about \$4,088) per calendar year. Retail goods imported via cross-border e-commerce platforms are regulated as imported items for personal use and typically not subject to the requirements for licensing, registration, or record filing related to goods imported for the first time.

CBEC continues to expand in 2024, with a trade value that reached \$365 billion, making an increase of 10.8 percent year-over-year, and the total foreign trade accounts for 6 percent of total trade volume. For the first time, China's leading e-commerce platforms, JD.com and Tmall, successfully imported fresh fruits via the CBEC channel. This was partly a result of increased cold-chain availability. For more information about the opportunities and challenges for CBEC imports of U.S. agricultural products, please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0146](#).

In 2025, China released several regulations to strengthen its monitoring and supervising on e-commerce platforms and operators, especially for livestreaming retail sales:

On December 18, 2025, SAMR and Cyberspace Administration released the [Measures for the Supervision and Management of Live Streaming E-commerce](#) (link in Chinese). The Measures aim to strengthen regulation of live streaming e-commerce, protect the rights of consumers and businesses, and promote healthy industry development. They clarify the responsibilities and obligations of platform operators, live streaming room operators, marketers, and service agencies, emphasizing compliance and prohibiting false advertising and illegal practices. The Measures also enhance enforcement and information sharing between regulatory bodies to improve oversight of the sector. The Measures entered into force on February 1, 2026.

On December 18, 2025, SAMR and Cyberspace Administration released the [Measures for the Supervision and Management of Online Trading Platforms](#) (link in Chinese). The Measures regulate how online trading platforms create and implement rules to maintain order and protect the rights of businesses and consumers. They clarify platform responsibilities for transparency, dispute resolution, information security, and prohibit actions that harm businesses or consumers. The Measures also strengthen collaboration between regulatory bodies and encourage platforms to conduct self-inspections or third-party compliance assessments. The Measures entered into force on February 1, 2026.

On December 28, 2025, SAMR released the [Regulation on Supervision of Food Safety Responsibilities for Live-streaming E-commerce Operators](#) (link in Chinese). The new regulation aims to strengthen supervision of food safety responsibilities for live-streaming e-commerce operators, platform managers, and sales personnel involved with food products. It requires verification of operators' qualifications, regular food safety training, and the establishment of risk-based safety mechanisms. SAMR will also provide oversight and conduct sampling and testing of food products sold through live-streaming platforms. The regulation will take effect on March 20, 2026.

Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0229](#) for more information regarding Livestreaming E-commerce in China.

## New Food Materials

On May 31, 2013, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC, now NHC) released [Measures for Administration of Safety Review of New Food Ingredients](#) (link in Chinese). The Measures were revised on December 26, 2017. New food ingredients refer to edible items that are not traditionally consumed in China such as those recently developed for human consumption, which include:

- 1) Animals, plants, and microorganisms;
- 2) Components isolated from animals, plants, and microorganisms;
- 3) Food ingredients whose original structure has changed; and
- 4) Other newly developed food ingredients.

The Measures provide specific guidance on how to apply for approval for new food ingredients in the China market. NHC also released [implementing protocols and review guidance](#) (link in Chinese) for new food ingredients, new food additives varieties, and new food related products (hereinafter referred to as “Three New Foods”).

NHC maintains a catalog that includes Three New Foods, and the [most recent catalog](#) was published on May 10, 2023. In 2025, NHC published four announcements: [2025 Announcement No. 1](#), [2025 Announcement No. 3](#), [2025 Announcement No. 4](#), and [2025 Announcement No. 7](#) (links in Chinese) covering 65 new foods.

## The National Food Safety Standards

The National Food Safety Standards (GB) are mandatory standards that apply to both domestic and imported products. NHC, together with SAMR, are the national authorities for food safety standards development and implementation (while MARA develops national food safety standards for maximum residue limits of pesticides and veterinary drugs in foods).

Appendix 3 of this report provides the Framework of China’s National Food Safety Standards. On January 8, 2026, China published [a national food safety standards catalog](#) (link in Chinese), which contains 1,725 national food safety standards: 15 general standards, 72 products standards, 11 standards for special dietary foods, 645 food additives and related standards, 85 standards for nutritional fortification substances, 19 food related products standards, 42 production protocols, 270 physical and chemical testing methods, 6 standards for parasite testing, 46 microbiological testing methods, 30 toxicological testing methods, 120 standards for pesticide residue detection methods, 125 standards for veterinary drug residue determinations, and 239 standards that have been superseded (or are planned to be superseded) and/or repealed (or are pending repeal).

China also notified the WTO about 40 new or revised draft national food safety standards in 2025, covering dairy products, paddy rice, meat products, production hygiene practice, food additives and nutritional fortification substances, maximum levels for mycotoxin, contaminants, and pesticides in foods. Please refer to [FAS GAIN System](#) for more detailed information on translations and analyses of those reports.

Originally announced by the former Ministry of Health (now NHC) in 2010 and updated by NHC in 2023, the [Administrative Measures for the Management of Food Safety Standards](#) provides an overview of information on procedures and principles for the planning, developing, and revising of food safety standards. The updated measures entered into force on December 1, 2023.

### **Imported Foods without Corresponding Chinese National Food Safety Standards**

Article 92 of the Food Safety Law states that imported foods, food additives, and food-related products must comply with China's national food safety standards (i.e., *Guo Jia Biao Zhun* or 'GB' standards). Article 93 of the Food Safety Law and Article 47 of the Implementing Regulations of the Food Safety Law provide guidance for imported foods without corresponding national food safety standards in China. When there is no national food safety standard available for an imported food product, the product's producer, exporter, or importer may submit to NHC the regional, national, or international standards applicable to the product. NHC will review the submitted standards, determine if they meet China's food safety requirements, and decide whether to temporarily apply the standards. If NHC approves the temporary use of a foreign/international standard, it will then develop a corresponding national food safety standard.

Pursuant to the [Notice for Regulating the Standard Review of Imported Foods without National Food Safety Standard](#) issued by the former NHFPC (now NHC) in April 2017 and the [Notice on Technical Review of Relevant Standards for Imported Foods without Applicable National Food Safety Standards](#) issued by NHC-affiliated CFSA in June of 2017, CFSA is responsible for conducting technical reviews of imported foods without existing domestic national food safety standards. The notices stated that the foreign producer or exporter, or an entrusted importer, can submit applications (including the applicable foreign/international standard) to CFSA for technical review. The notices also provided detailed requirements outlining the application review and authorization procedures. As of March 31, 2026, only three products have been approved for import through this process (tequila in 2013 and deproteinized dairy mineral lactose powder and dairy permeate powder in 2020).

## II. Labeling Requirements

### 1. General Requirements

Labeling of food products is mainly regulated by the [Food Safety Law](#), the [Measures on Supervision and Management of Food Labeling](#), [National Food Safety Standard for the General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods](#), and the [General Rules for Nutrition Labeling of Prepackaged Foods](#). Import inspection authorities identify labeling as one of the major reasons for noncompliance and has been the focus of a significant volume of consumer complaints.

Pursuant to the Food Safety Law, pre-packaged food must be labeled with the following information in China:

- Name, specification, net content, and date of production
- Table of ingredients or formulation
- Producer name, address, and contact information<sup>8</sup>
- Shelf life<sup>9</sup>
- Code of product standard(s)<sup>10</sup>
- Storage conditions
- Generic name of the food additives as used in the national standard
- Production License Number<sup>11</sup>
- and other information as required, for example nutrition facts<sup>12</sup> and allergen information, requirements for specific products, such as infant formula and products derived from agricultural biotechnology (see Section VII on product-specific regulations and standards).

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR jointly released the [General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods](#) (GB 7718-2025) and the [General Rules for Nutrition Labeling of Prepackaged Foods](#) (GB 28050-2025). These standards set mandatory labeling requirements for all categories of domestic and imported prepackaged foods while also providing nutrition labeling rules for prepackaged foods offered directly to consumers.

Prepackaged foods that are not directly offered to consumers, shall declare the name, net content and configuration, date of manufacture, shelf-life expiration date, and storage conditions of the foods.

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<sup>8</sup> For imported foods, it is the contact information for importers.

<sup>9</sup> In the revised General Principles for Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (GB 7718-2025), it has changed to shelf-life expiration date.

<sup>10</sup> Imported foods need not declare the code of product standards.

<sup>11</sup> Imported foods need not declare the production license number.

<sup>12</sup> Please refer to the General Rules for [Nutrition Labeling of Prepackaged Foods](#) (GB 28050-2025) for more detailed information on nutrition labeling requirements.

Provided the production date is indicated, the following pre-packaged foods are exempt from indicating the shelf life and expiration date: wine and alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content greater than or equal to 10% vol, vinegar, edible salt, solid sugars, and monosodium glutamate. Provided the batch number is indicated, wine and alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content greater than or equal to 10% are exempt from indicating the production date.

SAMR also released the [Food Labeling and Marking Supervision and Management Measures](#) on March 14, 2025. These Measures stipulate requirements for layout and design for labeling and marking of prepackaged foods and bulk foods in China.

China has announced two years transition period for the enforcement of the above-mentioned three newly updated standards for labels, which will enter into force on March 16, 2027.

## **2. Labeling Requirements for Imported Food Products**

All visible declared content in the label of imported foods shall conform with the provisions of Chinese laws, regulations, and national food safety standards. The imported prepackaged foods shall be accompanied with a printed or a pasted label in Chinese.

In addition to the general labeling requirements listed above, imported products must be labeled with GACC's registration number (please see detailed registration information under Section VI of this report) or its registration number issued by the authorities of the foreign countries of production, along with the country of origin.

Example of an imported prepacked food product:

**产品名称: 脆脆香薯片 (Product Name)**

**净含量: 50g (Net Weight)**

**配料: 马铃薯、植物油、花椒粉、大葱、食用盐、白砂糖、食品添加剂 (XXX) (Ingredients)**

**原产国: 美国 (Country of Origin)**

**保质期: 12个月 (Shelf life)<sup>13</sup>**

**保质期到期日: (Year/Month/Date) (Expiration Date)**

**贮存条件: 请存放于通风干燥处, 避免阳光直射。 (Storage Conditions)**

**过敏原信息: 此生产线也加工坚果和芝麻及其制品的产品。 (Allergen Information)**

**生产企业注册编号: USA123456789 (GACC's Facility Registration Number)**

**经销商: XX (Agent)**

**地址: 上海市XX区XX街XX号 (Agent Address)**

**电话: XXXXXXXXXXXX (Phone Number)**

**营养成分表 (Nutrition Facts)**

**每份食用量: 1袋 (100克) Per Bag (100g)**

项目	每100克(g)	营养素参考值%
能量	2214千焦 (JKJ)	15%
蛋白质	9.8克(g)	6%
脂肪	30克(g)	19%
-饱和脂肪	6克 (g)	11%
碳水化合物	63克 (g)	9%
-糖	7.1克 (g)	
钠	900 克 (g)	13%

儿童青少年应避免过量摄入盐油糖。 Children and adolescents should avoid excessive intake of salt, oil, and sugar.

Imported foods should also follow the below requirements outlined in [China's Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety \(Decree 249\)](#):

<sup>13</sup> The new regulation states that for products with a shelf life of six months or longer, it is sufficient to indicate only the shelf life and the expiration date.

- For fresh and frozen meat imports, the inner and outer packaging shall have labels in Chinese and English or in Chinese and the language of the exporting country (region) that are securely fixed, clear, and easy to recognize. The labels shall include the following content: country (region) of origin, product name, registration number of the production facility, and batch number. The outer packaging shall include a label in Chinese with the product specification, place of production (specific state/province/city), destination, date of production, shelf life, storage temperature, etc. The destination must be marked as the People’s Republic of China, with the official inspection and quarantine labels of the exporting country (region) affixed.
- For aquatic product imports, the inner and outer packaging shall have labels in Chinese and English or Chinese and the language of the exporting country (region) that are precise, clear, and easy to recognize. The label shall include the following content: commodity name and scientific name, product specifications, date of production, batch number, shelf life and storage conditions, production methods (ocean catch, freshwater catch, or aquaculture), production area (marine fishing area, freshwater fishing country or region, country or region where the aquaculture products come from), the name/registration number/address (specific city/province/state ) of all involved production and processing facilities (including fishing vessels, processing vessels, transport vessels, and independent cold storage). The destination must be marked as the People’s Republic of China.
- The Chinese labels of imported health food and foods for special dietary purposes must be printed on the minimum sales packages; (Chinese labels) must not be affixed. If special marks/logos are required on the inner and outer packaging of food imports, such requirements shall be followed.

### 3. National Food Safety Standards

National food safety standards are applicable to both domestic and imported food products. Table 1 lists major current national food safety standards for labeling requirements in China.

**Table 1. China: Current National Food Safety Standards for Labeling**

<b>Standard Number</b>	<b>Standard in English</b>
GB7718-2025	<a href="#">General Principles for the Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods</a>
GB28050-2025	<a href="#">Standard for Nutrition Labeling of Prepackaged Foods</a>
GB13432-2013	<a href="#">Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses</a>

### III. Packaging and Container Requirements

The Food Safety Law defines food packaging materials and containers as “products made of paper, bamboo, wood, metal, porcelain, plastic, rubber, natural fiber, chemical fiber, or glass and used to contain food or additives, or coating in direct contact with food or additives.” The law also requires that food for direct consumption must be contained in small packages using non-toxic and clean packaging material and containers. The containers for storing, transporting, and

loading/unloading food must be safe, maintain the food in clean condition, and prevent food from contamination.

The National Food Safety Standard of [General Safety Requirements for Food Contact Materials and Articles](#) (GB 4806.1) covers overarching safety requirements and definitions for all food contacting packaging and materials. The general safety standard requires:

- the level of substance migrated from food contact materials and articles into foods should not impose harm to human health;
- when food contact materials and articles are in contact with foods, they should not result in changes of food composition, structure, or properties such as color, smell, or taste;
- the quantity of the substances used in food contact materials and articles should be minimized on the premise that the desired results can be achieved; and
- for substances that do not come into contact with food and have an effective resistant or proofing layer between the substance and the food, or substances not listed in the appropriate national food safety standards, producers of the food contact materials and articles should carry out safety assessments and control measures to ensure migrating quantity of the substances do not exceed 0.01mg/kg.

Exporters should follow safety requirements for the packaging of agricultural products and food as outlined in the standard. In addition to the general requirements, Table 2 below lists the current national food safety standards stipulating specific conditions, migration limits, and maximum residue amounts for certain substances used in food packaging.

**Table 2. China: Major Safety Standards related to Food Packing and Containers**

<b>Standard Number</b>	<b>Standard Name</b>
GB4806.1-2016	<a href="#">General Safety Requirements of Food Contact Materials and Articles</a>
GB9685-2016	Standards for Uses of Additives in Food Containers and Packaging Materials
GB4806.3-2016	Enamel Products
GB4806.4-2016	Ceramic Products
GB4806.5-2016	Glass Products
GB4806.7-2023	Food Contact Plastic Materials and Articles
GB4806.8-2022	<a href="#">Food Contact Paper and Paper Board Materials and Articles</a>
GB4806.9-2023	<a href="#">Food Contact Metal Materials and Articles</a>
GB4806.10-2025	<a href="#">Food-contact Coating and Coating Layers</a>
GB4806.11-2023	<a href="#">Food Contact Rubber Materials and Articles</a>
GB 4806.12-2022	Bamboo and Wood Materials and Articles in Contact with Foods
GB 4806.13-2023	Food Contacting Compound Materials and Products
GB 4806.14-2023	Ink Used for Food Contacting Materials and Products
GB 4806.15-2024	Adhesives for Food Contact Materials and Products
GB 4806.16-2025	<a href="#">Silicone Rubber Materials and Products for Use in Contact with Foods</a>

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR released five standards of food contact materials and migration limits for certain substances, please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0062](#) for the list of the published standards.

On August 29, 2025, China notified a National Food Safety Standard for General Safety Requirements of Food Contact Materials and Articles to the WTO under G/SPS/N/CHN/1293/Add.1. The standard includes definitions, migration amount, maximum residues, and raw materials requirements. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0182](#) for more information about the notification. At the time of the report, this draft standard has not been finalized.

On September 25, 2025, NHC and SAMR released two food contact materials food safety standards, including Coating and Coating Layers for Food Contact Materials and Articles and Silicone Rubber Materials and Products for Use in Contact with Foods. Both standards will enter into force on September 2, 2026. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0216](#) for more detailed information and requirements.

Some packing materials, such as wood, will require inspection and quarantine requirements from China customs.<sup>14</sup> Special quarantine and customs declaration procedures should be followed.

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<sup>14</sup> China notified the Administrative Measures for the Imported Wood Packaging Material under G/SPS/N/CHN/42/Add.1 on August 20, 2025. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0157](#) for more detailed information about the notification. At the time of the report, the draft Measures have not been finalized.

Exporters are highly encouraged to check with their importers for specific requirements before shipment.

### **Packaging Sustainability Measures**

In August 2021, SAMR released the revised mandatory national standard [Requirements of Restricting Excessive Package for Foods and Cosmetics](#) (GB 23350-2021) (link in Chinese), which specifies the terms and definitions, requirements, and judgment rules for restricting excessive packaging of food and cosmetics.

On August 15, 2022, China implemented the revised mandatory national standard [Requirements of Restricting Excessive Package for Foods and Cosmetics](#) (GB 23350-2021). The revised standard specifies definitions and requirements for restricting excessive packaging for food and cosmetics and provided algorithms on how to calculate packaging layers and space to be in compliance with the law.

Following the mandatory standards for foods and cosmetics, on September 22, 2023, SAMR released the [National Standard for Requirements of Restricting Excessive Packaging for Fresh Edible Agricultural Products](#) (GB43284-2023). The standard entered into force on April 1, 2024. It is the first mandatory national standard that focuses on technical requirements and testing determination of excessive packaging for edible agricultural products.

Currently there's no existing regulation for the approval of recycled materials for food contact use in China.

### **IV. Food Additive Regulations**

Food additives are defined in China as an artificially chemosynthetic or natural substance to be added to foods to improve food quality, aroma, and taste for the purpose of preservation and processing. China regulates that flavoring substances, gum-based substances in gum-based candies, processing aids in food industry, and nutritional fortification substances are food additives.

The [National Food Safety Standard for Usage of Food Additives](#) (GB2760) is the major guiding regulation in China for additives use in foods. The standard includes terms and principles for the use of food additives, as well as lists of food additives, flavorings, food processing aids, enzyme preparation for foods, and their scope of use, maximum usage, and residue limits.

China is a member of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and uses CODEX-approved food additives, while also develops its own national food safety standard for the use of food additive to include a broader range of additives for food production after risk evaluation. The current standard, GB 2760-2024, which entered into force on February 8, 2025, includes over 2,000 food additives varieties for different food categories used in China. Food additives listed in the Chinese standard have corresponding INS numbers that are aligned with Codex General Standard for Food Additives.

## 1. Approval of New Food Additives

To approve a new additive or expand the approved uses of a listed additive, an application must be submitted to the NHC for review and approval. The NHC requires all new food additives to undergo necessary risk assessments and safety evaluations and to meet the following requirements if they are to be added to foods:

- addition of food additives should not be intended to conceal food spoilage, or quality defects in the food itself and in the processing processes;
- do not use food additives for the purpose of adulteration or counterfeiting;
- the nutritional value of the food itself should not be reduced;
- reduce the amount used in food as much as possible while achieving the desired effect; and
- processing aids used in the food industry should be removed in the finished product, except where the allowable residual amount is stipulated.

The detailed lists of materials to be submitted to NHC for applying for new food additives production and sales in China can be found on [NHC's website](#) (link in Chinese). Given the complexity of the application process, applicants should consider contracting with a private sector specialist to register new food additives. Many steps require materials and documents to be delivered in Chinese and in person. The NHC does not consider foreign governments to be valid entities to apply for new additives; therefore, embassies are not able to assist with these steps on a company's behalf.

In 2025, China published four announcements for approval of a total of 65 new food additives, materials, and products. The lists of new foods and relevant quality requirements can be found on [NHC's website](#).

## 2. Imported Food Additives Products

The Food Safety Law requires that all imported food additive products comply with Chinese standards. Table 3 lists key national food safety standards for food additives and related products.

### 3. Major Food Additive Standards

The [Standard for the Use of Food Additives](#) specifies the permitted food additives varieties to be used in foods and their maximum levels for use and residues limits. The [Standard for the Use of Nutritional Fortification Substances in Foods](#) regulates the quality requirements of the nutritional fortification substances and their usage amount in foods.

In addition, China also developed specific product standards to specify sensory, physical, and chemical requirements, and related testing methods for commonly used food additives and nutritional fortification substances. At the time of the report, China has developed over 730 food additives specific standards (including 85 standards for nutritional fortification substances). Please refer to [FAS GAIN System](#) for more detailed information for the publication of those specific standards.

The [General Standard for Labeling of Food Additives](#) (GB29924-2013) (link in Chinese) has been implemented since 2013. China notified the WTO of the revised draft under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1329](#) on August 28, 2025. The standard specifies requirements for labels on food additives including food nutritional fortification substances. It is not applicable for labels of packaging for storage and transportation for protection purposes.

**Table 3. China: Key National Food Safety Standards for Food Additives**

Standard Number	Standard in English
GB2760-2024	<a href="#">Standard for the Use of Food Additives</a>
GB29924-2013	General Standard for the Labeling of Food Additives <sup>15</sup>
GB31647-2018	General Hygiene Regulation for Food Additive Production
GB29938-2020	General Standard for Flavoring <sup>16</sup>
GB14880-2012	<a href="#">Standard for Use of Nutritional Fortification Substances in Foods</a> <sup>17</sup>

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR released 50 new or updated national food safety standards, including eight food additives,<sup>18</sup> please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0062](#) for the lists of the standards.

<sup>15</sup> China notified the General Principle for Label of Food Additives to the WTO on August 28, 2025, under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1329](#). At the time of the report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

<sup>16</sup> China notified the National Food Safety Standard for Flavorings to the WTO on October 18, 2024, under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1315](#). Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2024-0155](#) for more detailed information. At the time of the report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

<sup>17</sup> China notified the revised draft to the WTO on September 4, 2025, under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1353](#), please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0186](#) for more detailed information. At the time of the report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

<sup>18</sup> Food additives standards published include sodium ferric ethylenediaminetetraacetate, sodium chloride, L-methionine, (6S)-5-methyltetrahydrofolate (glucosamine salt), Lutein, Polyvinyl alcohol, Vegetable carbon black, Polydextrose, etc.

On August 28, 2025, China notified the following national food safety standards related to food additives and nutritional fortification substances to the WTO; at the time of this report, the draft standards have not been finalized:

- Vanillin under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1336](#);
- Sanxan Gum under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1338](#);
- Lauric Acid under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1328](#);
- L-sodium Malate under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1337](#);
- Selenoprotein under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1334](#);
- Vitamin K<sub>2</sub> (Fermentation) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1333](#);
- Galactooligosaccharide (source of whey filtrate) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1332](#).

On September 4, 2025, China notified the following national food safety standards related to food additives to the WTO; at the time of this report, the draft standards have not been finalized:

- Lactic Acid under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1345](#);
- Lycopene (synthetic) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1340](#);
- Gelatin under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1344](#);
- Copper sulfate under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1339](#);
- L-Arginine under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1341](#);
- Pectins under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1348](#);
- Microcrystalline cellulose under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1346](#);
- Glycine under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1342](#);
- L-alanine under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1349](#);
- Ascorbyl Palmitate under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1343](#);
- Tomato Red under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1347](#).

On September 4, 2025, China also notified the National Food Safety Standard and Hygiene Standard for Production of Compound Seasonings to the WTO under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1351](#). The

new draft standard applies to production of compound seasonings and aquatic seasonings, including requirements for the use of ingredients and food safety control systems. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0188](#) for more detailed information.

On September 25, 2025, NHC and SAMR jointly published an [announcement](#) (link in Chinese) to release 32 national food safety standards including six nutritional fortification substances such as heme iron, ferrous citrate, copper citrate, L-lysine L-aspartate, yeast  $\beta$ -glucan, vitamin K<sub>2</sub> (synthetic method), and five food additives standards including L-malic acid, xanthan gum, ammonium carbonate, acorn shell brown, and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). The final standards will enter into force on March 2, 2026. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0203](#) for more detailed information of the released food additives standards.

## V. Pesticides and Contaminants

### 1. Pesticides

The Food Safety Law imposes stringent regulations for the use of pesticides. The law also urges the elimination of extremely toxic pesticides with high residues, facilitates research on and application of substitute products, and encourages the use of highly efficient and low-toxic pesticides with low residues.

State Council released the current [Regulations on Management of Pesticides in China](#) (link in Chinese) on March 29, 2022. These regulations pertain to the registration, production, distribution, and use of pesticides in China.

The Regulations on the Management of Pesticides is supported by several MARA administrative measures, including the [Administrative Measures for Pesticide Registration](#) (link in Chinese), the [Administrative Measures for Production and Licensing of Pesticides](#) (link in Chinese), and the [Administrative Measures for Business Licensing of Pesticides](#) (link in Chinese). These measures stipulate specific requirements for registration, production, and sales for pesticides in China.

The Department of Crop Production (Department of Agrochemical Management) at MARA oversees pesticide production, operation, and quality supervision, as well as providing guidance for scientific and reasonable use of pesticides; the MARA-affiliated [Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals](#) (ICAMA) specializes in nationwide pesticide registration, quality control, bioassay, and residue monitoring of pesticides.

#### **Pesticide MRLs in Foods**

In March 2021, MARA, NHC and SAMR jointly issued the [National Food Safety Standard Maximum Residue Limits of Pesticides in Food](#) (GB2763-2021), establishing over 10,000 maximum residue limits (MRLs) for over 500 pesticides in more than 300 categories of foods. In November 2022, MARA, NHC, and SAMR jointly issued the [National Food Safety Standard Maximum Residue Limits for 112 Pesticides in Foods](#) (GB2763.1-2022), which is an addendum to GB2763-2021, that entered into force on May 11, 2023. Those standards regulate the purpose of use, acceptable daily intake, and maximum residues allowed for various food categories, and their testing methods. The requirements are mandatory for both domestic and imported products.

On December 9 and December 19 of 2025, China notified series of draft standards for MRLs for pesticides, under G/SPS/N/CHN/1355 and G/SPS/N/CHN/1356. The draft standards covered more than 800 maximum residue limits of over 200 pesticides in foods. At the time of the report, the proposed implementation dates have not been settled. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0253](#) and [CH2026-0004](#) for detailed information of the notifications.

For more information on pesticide MRLs in China, please see the [Regulatory Limits Pesticide MRL Database](#), which is partially funded USDA FAS. From 2025-2029, USDA FAS is funding free access to this database for all U.S.-based entities.

## **Guide for Establishment of Pesticide MRLs in Foods**

In October 2015, MARA issued Public Notice 2308 [Guide for Establishment of Pesticide MRLs in Foods](#) (link in Chinese), which outlines the common procedures for setting MRLs, conditions to review existing MRLs, frequency of MRL reviews (15 years for regular MRLs and 5 years for temporary MRLs and Codex extraneous MRLs (EMRLs)), special circumstances for temporary MRL/EMRL exemptions, and other issues.

### **2. Veterinary Drugs**

The State Council's [Rules for Administration of Veterinary Drugs](#) (link in Chinese) Drugs regulate the research, production, distribution, import, export, and use of veterinary drugs. The Bureau of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in MARA is the authority of veterinary drug supervision; the MARA-affiliated China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control ([Center for Veterinary Drug Evaluation](#)) (link in Chinese) is responsible for evaluation, supervision and inspection for veterinary drugs and their applications, monitoring veterinary drug residues, and developing national standards of veterinary drugs.

#### **Updated Catalog of Imported Veterinary Drugs**

MARA and GACC jointly publish imported veterinary drugs catalogs on [MARA's website](#) (link in Chinese) periodically. On February 8, 2022, MARA and GACC issued [Public Notice 507](#) (link in Chinese) updating the Catalog of Imported Veterinary Drugs. The updated catalog contains 88 vet drugs and their HS commodity codes. Importers of vet drugs listed in the catalog should submit a "Customs Clearance Form for Imported Vet Drugs" to MARA or provincial livestock and vet drug authorities, then use the Form to proceed for import procedures with GACC.

#### **Maximum Residue Limits for Vet Drugs in Foods**

On October 12, 2019, MARA, NHC, and SAMR jointly issued the [National Food Safety Standards Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods](#) (GB13650-2019), which entered into force on April 1, 2020. The veterinary drug MRL standard sets 2,191 MRLs and provides for use requirements for 267 veterinary drugs in livestock and poultry products, aquatic products, and bee products.

On September 2022, MARA, NHC and SAMR jointly published Announcement No. 594 containing the finalized [National Food Safety Standard of MRLs for 41 Veterinary Drugs in Foods](#) (GB 31650.1-2022) and 21 standards of methods for determination of veterinary drug residues, those standards entered into force on February 1, 2023. These published MRLs are supplementary and should be used jointly with GB13650-2019.

### **3. Mycotoxins**

On March 17, 2017, China NHC and SAMR released the [National Food Safety Standard for Maximum Levels of Mycotoxins in Foods](#) (GB2761-2017), which entered into force on

September 17, 2017. This standard sets residue limits for Aflatoxin B1, Aflatoxin M1, Deoxynivalenol, Patulin, Ochratoxin A, and Zearalenone in foods.

On February 22, 2021, NHC and SAMR released the [National Food Safety Standard Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Food](#) (GB31653-2021)(link in Chinese), which was implemented on February 22, 2022. The code provides basic requirements and management rules for controlling aflatoxin during harvesting, processing, storage, and transportation. This standard applies to peanuts, corn, cottonseed, tree nuts, and feed for dairy cows.

#### **4. Contaminants in Food**

On June 30, 2022, NHC and SAMR released the [National Food Safety Standard for Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods](#) (GB2762-2022), which entered into force on June 30, 2023. The updated standard regulates the limits requirements for lead, cadmium, arsenic, mercury, benzo [a] pyrene, polychlorinated biphenyl in foods and applied to contaminants other than pesticides, veterinary drugs, biotoxins, and radioactive substances.

On September 25, 2025, NHC and SAMR jointly released the revised National Food Safety Standard on Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods (GB2762-2025). The updated standard applies to the limits of contaminants in categories of foods generated during farming, production, packaging, storage, transportation, distribution, and consumption, or from environmental pollution. The final standard will enter into force on September 2, 2026. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0202](#) for more detailed information.

#### **5. Pathogen Limits for Food**

NHC and SAMR released the [National Food Safety Standard Pathogenic Microorganism Limits in Prepackaged Food](#) (GB29921-2021) (link in Chinese) in 2021; the standard went into effect on March 7, 2022. The standard provides an index of pathogens in foods, pathogen limits, and testing methods, which apply to pre-packaged foods.

NHC and SAMR released the [National Food Safety Standard Limit of Pathogenic Bacteria in Bulk Ready-to-eat Foods](#) (GB31607-2021) (link in Chinese) in 2021; the standard went into effect on March 7, 2022. The standard regulates pathogenic bacteria and limits in bulk ready-to-eat foods.

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR released below National Food Safety Standards for Food Microbiological Examinations in Foods, the standards entered into force on September 16, 2025.

- [Escherichia coli](#) (GB 4789.38-2025)
- [Listeria monocytogenes](#) (GB 4789.30-2025)
- [Coliforms count](#) (GB 4789.3-2025)

In addition, China published separate standards to regulate limits of microorganisms for different foods, please see section VII of this report and [FAS GAIN System](#) for product specific regulations.

## **VI. Other Requirements, Regulations and Registration Measures**

### **1. Facility and Product Registration Requirements**

GACC requires companies exporting certain food and feed products to register their production or storage facilities with the Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety (BIEFS) or with the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine (DAPQ), two of GACC's subagencies. (**Note:** U.S. exporters of meat, poultry, dairy, infant formula, and seafood products should continue following procedures for exporting to China as outlined by relevant U.S. food safety regulators: [FSIS](#) and [FDA](#). Please see the sections of this report specific to those products.)

#### *Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety*

On January 1, 2022, GACC began enforcing the [Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food \(Decree 248\)](#). The decree requires the registration of overseas food production and cold storage facilities that export most food, and a small number of other agricultural products, to China. GACC revises the list of products subject to the decree regularly and does not provide official notification to trading partners. Exporters can search the list of commodities that fall under Decree 248 using the [China Import Food Enterprises Registration \(CIFER\) system](#). The decree excludes food additives and related products based on GACC's definition of these products. The regulation sets out two registration pathways for facilities that produce products within its scope: self-registration or registration through a competent in the exporting country (Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2024-0070](#)). The method of registration required depends upon the product being exported.

On October 14, 2025, GACC issued Decree 280, the *Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food*, which is set to supersede Decree 248 on June 1, 2026. While the new regulation maintains a similar product scope, it introduces several significant shifts, including a revised catalog for foods requiring official recommendation, updated registration processes for those facilities, a new list-based registration mechanism, and provisions for automatic renewals. For more on Decree 280, please see FAS GAIN report [CH2025-0204](#). On March 18, GACC issued Announcement No. 27 (2026), providing supplemental guidance for the June 1 transition to Decree 280. The announcement designates the "official recommendation" requirement for 17 food categories. It also excludes meat and bird's nest products from automatic registration renewal and mandates registration for overseas cold storage facilities handling terrestrial animal and aquatic products. For more information, please see FAS GAIN report [CH2026-0034](#).

Exporters are encouraged to review current information on Decree 248 and the facility registration process in the [FAS GAIN system](#). Several GAIN reports provide comprehensive details on the decree, including lists categorized by HS code that specify product coverage and required registration types. FAS China continues to provide updates as new information becomes

available, especially regarding Decree 280. The current lists of registered facilities under Decree 248 are accessible on [CIFER system](#).

### *Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine*

On November 7, 2025, GACC published an Announcement on the Requirements for Declaration Management of Overseas Enterprises for Imported Agricultural Products. This announcement officially published the first [Catalog of Imported Agricultural Products Requiring Overseas Official Recommendation for Registration](#) (in Chinese) and mandates that importers ensure all imported products listed in the catalog originate from foreign facilities that are officially registered with DAPQ. For more information, please refer to FAS GAIN report [CH2025-0219](#).

Announcement 219 follows DAPQ's two-year process of amending and expanding its facility registration process. In 2024, DAPQ started to implement an online registration system called "[Quarantine Registration List of Overseas Animals and Plants and Relevant Products](#)." The registration lists that were originally listed in excel files on GACC's website were consolidated in the online portal. DAPQ also slowly expanded the list of commodities that require export facility registration over the two years. For additional guidance on DAPQ's registration process, please refer to FAS GAIN report [CH2025-0252](#).

Exporters should note that the [official GACC CIFER single window portal](#) is the only website to register products that fall under Decree 248 with BIEFS; DAPQ facility registration must be done via a government agency. Please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2024-0066](#) for more information on official registration channels.

For general information regarding Decree 248, please contact: [Decree248Inquiry@usda.gov](mailto:Decree248Inquiry@usda.gov). For general information regarding registration with DAPQ, please contact: [FASChinaDAPQRegistrations@usda.gov](mailto:FASChinaDAPQRegistrations@usda.gov).

## **2. Record Filing for Foreign Exporters/Agents of Food Products and Consignees of Imported Food Products to China**

In September 2024, according to GACC's [Announcement No. 105](#) (link in Chinese), GACC announced to use either [China International Trade Single Window](#) or [GACC's Online Service Portal](#) systems for importers and exporters to filing records with GACC. GACC's [record filing measures](#) (link in Chinese) request exporters and importers file their records on this website to customs release shipments.



On March 28, 2025, GACC published Announcement 277 updating the Regulations on the Declaration Management of Import and Export Goods, which entered into force on May 1, 2025. The updated regulation includes several key changes related to customs clearance declaration procedures and operations, including electronic document submission, timelines for submissions, and amended certificate requirements. GACC claims the purpose of the updates is to improve import and export efficiency. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0069](#) for more detailed analysis.

On January 14, 2026, GACC published the [Regulations on Enterprise Credit Management for Registration and Filing](#) (Decree 282) (link in Chinese), which will enter into force and replace the previous measures of the same name on April 1, 2026. The new measures significantly strengthen the legal and systemic role of credit management by embedding it into the national social credit framework and linking it to joint incentives and penalties. They introduced clearer quantitative thresholds for identifying dishonest behavior, refined procedures for enterprises certification and review, and added dedicated and operable content on credit information disclosure and repair. As a result, the new measures are more transparent, stricter in enforcement, and more predictable for compliance management than the previous version.

### 3. Registration of Special Foods

The Food Safety Law introduced the concept of “special foods,” which covers infant formula, foods for special medical purposes (FSMP), and health foods. The specific registration requirements for infant formula, FSMP, and health foods can be found in the Special Foods under Section VII of the report.

### 4. Good Manufacturing Practices

The hygienic requirements for food production and operation, or good manufacturing practices (GMP), compose one of the four pillars of China’s national food safety standard framework

(with the other three pillars being basic standards, standards for foods/food additives/food-related products, and testing regulations/SOPs).

## **VII. Other Specific Standards: Product-Specific Regulations and Standards**

All agricultural and food products shipped to China must comply with eligible laws, regulations, and standards in China. In addition, there are specific regulations and standards for some products.

### **1. Dairy Products**

[GACC's Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety \(BIEFS\)](#) (link in Chinese) regulates dairy imports.

#### **Regulations**

GACC issued the [Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety \(GACC Decree 249\)](#) in April 2021 and entered into force on January 1, 2022. As the overarching regulation applicable to food exports to China, Decree 249 replaced the [Measure for Dairy Product Import/Export Inspection and Quarantine Management](#) (AQSIQ Decree 152) and is the major regulation in China on dairy product imports.

#### **Regulating Sanitary Certificates for Dairy Imports**

On December 23, 2021, [GACC issued Public Notice \[2021\] No. 114](#) clarifying relevant inspections and quarantine requirements for imported dairy products. According to the public notice:

- A health certificate issued by the exporting country (region) should be attached to the imported dairy product; the health certificate should be stamped and signed and indicate the destination as China.
- Testing reports (or their copies) on items required by China's national food safety standards should be provided when clearing customs for the first and subsequent dairy imports. However, GACC also introduced a notification and commitment mechanism where importers can choose to provide an attestation instead of the testing reports (see GAIN report [CH2021-0090](#) for details).
- GACC consolidated the list of dairy products subject to a quarantine import permit (QIP), which includes raw milk, raw milk products, pasteurized milk, and modified milk processed through pasteurization techniques. Importers are required to obtain a QIP before signing a contract.
- GACC added casein, dairy (milk) minerals, and milk protein concentrate to the list of dairy products subject to inspection and quarantine requirements.

Public Notice 114 also states that dairy product manufacturers must register with GACC as specified in Decree 248.<sup>19</sup>

The USDA issues dairy sanitary certificates for exports to China. For more information about this process, please refer to FAS China’s FAIRS Export Certificate Report or visit the [USDA website](#).

### Registration of Foreign Dairy Facilities that Export to China

Facilities exporting dairy products from the U.S. to China may visit [FDA website](#) for more information on how to request inclusion into the registration list. Successfully registered facility lists with GACC are available on the [its website](#). See Section VI for additional information on registrations.

**Table 4. China: Key Standards for Dairy Products**

Issuance Date	Effective Date	Standard Number	Standard in English
9/6/2023	9/6/2024	GB12693-2023	Good Manufacturing Practice for Dairy Products
3/26/2010	6/1/2010	GB19301-2010	Raw Milk
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB19645-2010	<a href="#">Pasteurized Milk</a> <sup>20</sup>
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB25190-2010	<a href="#">Sterilized Milk</a>
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB25191-2010	<a href="#">Modified Milk</a>
3/27/2025	9/16/2025	GB19302-2025	<a href="#">Fermented Milk</a>
2/8/2024	2/8/2025	GB19644-2024	<a href="#">Milk Powder and Modified Milk Powder</a>
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB11674-2010	<a href="#">Whey Powder and Whey Protein Powder</a>
3/27/2025	3/16/2026	GB19646-2025	<a href="#">Cream, butter, and anhydrous milkfat</a>
6/21/2018	12/21/2018	GB25595-2018	Lactose
6/30/2022	12/31/2022	GB 13102-2022	Condensed Milk Products
6/30/2022	12/31/2022	GB 25192-2022	Processed Cheese and Cheese Products

New updates for the national food safety standards for dairy products in 2025 include:

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR released No.1 Amendment Sheet for the National Food Safety Standard for Raw Milk (GB19301). It revised the acidity indicators for cow milk. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0105](#) for more information. On September 25, 2025, NHC and SAMR released [the second amendment for the standard](#) (link in Chinese), adjusting the acidity of sheep milk and goat milk. Both amendment sheets entered into force on its publication dates.

<sup>19</sup> GACC released [Decree 280](#) in 2025, it will replace Decree 248 and enter into force on June 1, 2026.

<sup>20</sup> On December 11, 2023, NHC solicited public comments to the updated National Food Safety Standard for Pasteurized Milk and the National Food Safety Standard for Sterilized Milk. At the time of this report, the draft standards have not been finalized.

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR also released:

- National Food Safety Standard for Fermented Milk (GB 19302-2025): The revised standard applies to fermented milk or flavored fermented dairy products. The standard entered into force on September 16, 2025. It reduced the acidity indicators of the fermented milk and clarified the product names can include descriptive terms for fat content such as skimmed, partially skimmed, or whole fat milk. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0100](#) for translation and analysis of the final standard.
- National Food Safety Standard for Cream, Butter, and Anhydrous Milk Fat (GB 19646-2025): The standard applies to cream, butter, and anhydrous milk fat products sold in China. The final standard will enter into force on March 16, 2026. The updated standard revised the sensory requirements, physical and chemical indicators, as well as microbial limits of the products. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0089](#) for more information of the final standard.

On August 29, 2025, China notified the National Food Safety Standard for Modified Milk (GB 25191) to the WTO under G/SPS/N/CHN/1287/Add.1. The draft updated standard regulated flavored condensed milk cannot be used as ingredient, removed allowing small amount of fat to float on top or the product under sensory requirements, and adjusted labeling requirements. At the time of the report, the draft standard was not finalized. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0178](#) for more information of the notification.

## 2. Special Foods

Special food products, including infant formula, foods for special medical purposes (FSMP), and health foods, are regulated by SAMR's Department of Special Food Safety Supervision.

### Infant Formula

#### Infant Formula Recipe Registration

SAMR issued [Administrative Measures for the Registration of Recipes for Formula Powder Products for Infants and Young Children](#) on July 10, 2023, which requires that infant formula products to be registered with SAMR, provide guidance on the process for registering infant formula milk powder recipes, and standardize label requirements. Foreign infant formula powder products must be registered before they can be shipped to China. There is not a list of all registered infant formulas available; however, the [SAMR Special Food Information Query Platform](#) (link in Chinese) allows for the searching of individual recipes that have been registered. Several supporting documents are available on the [SAMR webpage for special food registration](#), providing additional details on the infant formula product registration process, including the [Material Requirements for Infant Formula Product Registration](#).

In 2025, there are a few regulatory updates on registration of liquid formula products for infants and young children. From December 1, 2025, all liquid formula products for infants and young children need to register the formula with SAMR.

- On September 12, 2025, NPC released a [Decision for the Revision of Food Safety Law](#) (link in Chinese). One of the revisions is the inclusion of liquid formula products for infants and young children into the registration management system.
- On December 1, 2025, SAMR announced its revised [Measures for Formula Registration of Formula Foods for Infants and Young Children](#) (link in Chinese), to include liquid formula products into the regulation. The Measures outline requirements on registration, labeling, instructions, sampling, and supervision for domestically produced and imported formula products for infants and young children.
- On December 1, 2025, SAMR released [Announcement on Requirements and Materials for Application of Registration for Liquid Formula Products for Infants and Young Children](#) (link in Chinese), which entered into force on its publication. The regulation listed all required materials and procedures for application of formula registration with SAMR, including:
  - Application form for formula registration of formula liquid milk products;
  - Applicant’s legal entity qualification documents;
  - Quality and safety standards for raw and auxiliary materials;
  - Product formula descriptions;
  - Product formula research and development and validation reports;
  - Production process descriptions;
  - Product testing reports;
  - Documents demonstrating research and development, production, and testing capabilities;
  - Other materials demonstrating the scientific validity and safety of the formula.

### **Infant Formula Facility Registration**

Foreign manufacturing facilities that export infant formula to China are required to register with GACC. Please see [FDA’s website](#) for more information for how to be included into infant formula export lists for export of infant formula products from the United States to China. Successfully registered facility lists with GACC are available on the [GACC’s website](#).

### **Packaging, Labeling, and Other Product-Specific Requirements**

Infant formula producers are required to review their labels to ensure conformity with relevant regulations and standards. Imported infant formula must be packaged in the smallest retail package feasible, with the Chinese label printed on the package before import into China. It is forbidden to import infant formula in bulk packaging for the purpose of repackaging in China.

On November 12, 2021, SAMR issued [Public Notice \[2021\] No. 38](#) (link in Chinese) on Further Regulating the Labeling and Marking of Infant and Young Children Formula Milk Powder Products. It provides for content claims and function claims for infant formula for infants zero to six months old, and for formula for older infants and young children over six months old; it clarifies the content to be labeled on the product label, labeling of animal protein sources, and

labeling of compound ingredients in the ingredient list. Liquid formula products shall comply with the same requirements as mentioned above.

On March 26, 2025, SAMR released an [Announcement for the Strengthening Management of Raw and Auxiliary Materials used in Infant Formula Milk Powder](#) (link in Chinese). The Announcement outlined the requirements for quality systems establishment, raw materials compliance with national food safety standards (including microbial indicators), quality control of base powder, and filing of relevant raw materials, production permissions, and labels with local market regulation authorities.

### **Production Outsourcing, Repackaging, and other Prohibited Practices**

SAMR released an announcement in November 2020 on [Banning Entrustment and OEM Production and Repackaging of Infant Formula Milk Powder](#) (link in Chinese) that prohibits infant formula production plants from producing infant formula for third parties (i.e., for other companies, brand owners, or agents). Organizations and individuals are prohibited from purchasing infant formula for repackaging, relabeling, and resale.

**Table 5. China: Standards for Infant Formulas**

<b>Issuance Date</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Standard Number</b>	<b>Standard in English</b>
9/6/2023	9/6/2024	GB23790-2023	Good Manufacturing Practice for Powdered Formula for Infants and Young Children
2/22/2021	2/22/2023	GB10765-2021	<a href="#">Infant Formula</a>
2/22/2021	2/22/2023	GB10766-2021	<a href="#">Follow-up Formula for Older Infants</a>
2/22/2021	2/22/2023	GB10767-2021	<a href="#">Follow-up Formula for Young Children</a>

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR jointly released:

- National Food Safety Standard Canned Complementary Foods for Infants and Young Children (GB10770-2025): The standard applies to canned complementary foods for older infants and young children aged 6 months to 36 months. It will enter into force on March 16, 2026. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0078](#) for more information.
- National Food Safety Standard Cereal-based Complementary Foods for Infants and Young Children (GB10769-2025): The updated standard provides requirements of ingredients, nutritional components, microbial and contaminants limits, labeling, and packaging for cereal-based complementary foods for infants and young children, including ready-to-eat and raw products. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0077](#) for more information.

### **Foods for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP)**

On November 28, 2023, SAMR released the updated [Administrative Measures for the Registration of Formula Foods for Special Medical Purposes \(FSMP\)](#), which entered into force

on January 1, 2024. The measures regulate the registration of FSMPs distributed in China, whether the product is imported or domestically produced. Compared with previous regulations, the updated measures add conditions for when applicants can apply for privileged review to expedite approval processes for urgently needed products, requirements for applicants to have testing capacity in addition to production, and research and development capacity. The measures clarify technical requirements for registration certificates to enhance safety, confirm that electronic certificates hold the same legal status as paper ones, and introduce new on-site verification rules.

There is no official list of all registered FSMPs available; however, the searchable [SAMR Special Food Information Query Platform](#) (link in Chinese) can indicate whether a specific FSMP has been registered. Documents available on the [SAMR website](#) provide additional details on FSMP registration.

On December 28, 2022, MARA published its [No. 42 Notice](#) (link in Chinese) to announce the publication of the guidelines for the markings used for FSMP. The markings refer to the characters, symbols, numbers, patterns, and other descriptions that are printed, pasted, marked, or attached to the packaging of the smallest sales unit for FSMP that are used to identify and explain the basic information, characteristics, or attributes. The markings include labels and instructions.

On September 25, 2023, NHC published [updated National Food Safety Standard Good Manufacturing Practice for Food for Special Medical Purposes](#) (GB 29923-2023) (link in Chinese). The updated standard entered into force on September 6, 2024, and added the requirements for monitoring Cronobacter as one of the environment contamination indicators, added urease inactivation requirements for raw materials containing soy protein, prevention from allergens, and workshop sanitation requirements for liquid and powder products.

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR jointly released the National Food Safety Standard Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (GB 25596-2025). The standard applies to infants aged 0 to 12 months, and it will enter into force on March 16, 2026. The updated standard revised indicators for contaminants, mycotoxins, and microbial limits, and it changed choline from optional ingredients to necessary ingredients. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0080](#) for more detailed information.

On September 2, 2025, NHC and SAMR released the National Food Safety Standard for General Principles for Foods for Special Medical Purposes ([GB 29922-2025](#)) (link in Chinese). The updated standard will replace the implementation regulation of GB 29922-2013, which entered into force in July 2014. The updated standard revised the technical requirements for nutritional and composition of complete and non-complete nutritional formula foods, modified special complete nutritional formula foods catalogs, and added new requirements for complete nutritional formula foods with partial nutrients adjustments for children aged 1 to 10. It will enter into force on September 2, 2027.

## Health Foods<sup>21</sup>

In November 2020, SAMR released the revised [Administrative Measures for the Registration and Record Filing of Health Food](#) (link in Chinese) to regulate the registration and record filing of domestic and imported health foods distributed in China. The filing requirements and procedures of imported health foods is available on the [SAMR website](#) (link in Chinese).

There is no official list of all registered health foods; however, the searchable [SAMR Special Food Information Query Platform](#) (link in Chinese) can indicate whether a specific health food has been registered.

In June 2019, SAMR published the [Guidance for Labeling of Warning Statement for Health Foods](#) (link in Chinese). The guidance provides a warning statement, “Health foods are not medicines and cannot be substituted for medicines to treat diseases,” which must be included on the package labels of health foods.

In August 2019, SAMR released the [Administrative Measures for the Catalog of Raw Materials and the Catalog of Health Functions of Health Foods](#) (SAMR Decree 13) (link in Chinese). The Measures regulate the development, adjustment, and announcement of the two catalogs of health foods. [Catalog of Health Food Raw Materials](#) (link in Chinese) is a list of information on health food ingredients, including the name, dosage, and corresponding effects of the raw materials or ingredients. [Catalog of Permitted Health Functions Claims](#) (link in Chinese) is a list of health function information with clearly defined evaluation methods and criteria. SAMR, NHC, and National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NATCM) are responsible for the development, adjustment, and release of the catalogs.

On December 31, 2023, SAMR, NHC, and NATCM jointly published [updates to the Catalog of Health Foods Ingredients for Three Substances including American Ginseng](#). Previously, American ginseng was regulated only as a traditionally Chinese medicinal product. The scope of application was expanded on November 17, 2023, when SAMR and NHC jointly published a [notice to regulate nine substances including American ginseng as both Chinese medicine and food](#).

On April 30, 2024, SAMR released the [Technical Requirements for Filing of American Ginseng as Food Ingredients](#) (link in Chinese), which included technical requirements such as processing requirements, naming, sources of ingredients, physical and chemical indicators, and the use of auxiliary materials for filing of American ginseng as food ingredients..

On December 3, 2025, China announced a pilot measure to simplify the customs clearance procedures for 30 substances with both food and medicinal use, including American Ginseng, if they are imported as food ingredients. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0245](#) for more

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<sup>21</sup> Defined as foods that claim to have specific health functions or for the purpose of supplementing vitamins and minerals to humans, that are suitable for consumption by specific groups of people, to adjust function of human bodies, and are not for the purpose of treating disease. Health foods must not cause any acute, sub-acute or chronic harms to human bodies. Health foods are defined in the National Food Safety Standard for Health Foods (GB 16740).

detailed information. On January 16, 2026, China has reported the first successful importation of a batch of American Ginseng as food ingredients through a local custom in Henan Province.

On December 31, 2025, SAMR released [the announcement](#) (link in Chinese) for coenzyme Q10 and melatonin to approve supplementary dosage forms and excipients as raw and auxiliary materials for filing, which expanded products types for coenzyme Q10 and melatonin. It will enter into force on March 1, 2026.

On January 15, 2026, SAMR, NHC, and NATCM issued [an announcement](#) (link in Chinese) for the inclusion of “helping maintain bone and joint health” in the list of health functions in Catalog of Health Functions for Health Foods. This is the first new function that has been included in the Catalog since the publication of SAMR Decree 13.

### 3. Meat and Poultry Products

GACC is the competent authority for the inspection and quarantine of imported meat and poultry products.

#### Import Regulations

[GACC Decree 249](#), the Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety, entered into force in January 2022, replaced the previous meat products specific regulations to regulate overall import and export foods.

**Registration of U.S. Facilities:** Exporters of U.S. meat and poultry should refer to the instructions in the [USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service Export Library](#) for export to China. Registration lists are available on the [GACC website](#). See Section VI for additional registration information.

**Quarantine Inspection Permit:** In March of 2023, GACC published an [updated Administrative Measures for Quarantine Approval of Entry Animals and Plants](#) (GACC Decree 262 revision) (link in Chinese) requiring that importers obtain a Quarantine Import Permit (QIP) as part of the customs clearance process for animals and plants entering into China. The measures also provide several amendments to the quarantine review procedure, including extending the validity of QIP’s to twelve months, allowing QIP’s to be annulled or voided in the event of a government-issued warning or ban, and requiring that contracts reflect the quarantine requirements of the corresponding QIP.

**Only Designated Ports Can Receive Meat Imports:** [GACC’s Announcement 212 of 2019](#) (link in Chinese) requires that meat imports must enter China through the port designated on the QIP. [A list of the ports](#) that accept meat imports (in Chinese) is maintained and updated by GACC.

**FSIS Health Certificates:** During the port clearance process, importers must supply appropriate health certificate information to Chinese customs officials. Please see the [USDA Food Safety Inspection Service Export Library](#) and FAIRS Export Certificate Report for specific requirements.

**Table 6. China: National Food Safety Standards for Meat and Meat Products**

Issuance Date	Effective Date	Standard Number	Standard in English
12/23/2016	12/23/2017	GB12694-2016	Code of Hygienic Practice for the Livestock and Poultry Slaughtering Enterprise
12/23/2016	12/23/2017	GB20799-2016	Code of Hygienic Practice for the Storage, Distribution and Sale of Meat and Meat Products
12/23/2016	6/23/2017	GB2707-2016	Fresh and Frozen Livestock and Poultry Products
12/23/2016	6/23/2017	GB2726-2016	Cooked meat products
9/6/2019	4/1/2020	GB31650-2019	<a href="#">Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods</a>
9/20/2022	2/1/2023	GB31650.1-2022	<a href="#">Maximum Residue Limits for 41 Veterinary Drugs in Foods</a>
9/6/2023	9/6/2024	GB19303-2023	Code of Hygienic Practice for Cooked Meat Products

On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR jointly released:

- National Food Safety Standard Code of Hygienic Practice for Livestock and Poultry Edible Offal and By-Products (GB 31616-2025). The new standard applies to the processing of livestock and poultry edible by-products, including livestock and poultry offal, claws, trotters, and blood. The final standard will enter into force on March 16, 2026. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0096](#) for more information.
- National Food Safety Standard Code of Hygienic Practice of Producing Prepared Meat Products (GB 31661-2025). The new standard regulates the production of prepared meat. The final standard will enter into force on March 16, 2026. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0093](#) for more information.

#### 4. Vegetable Oil

##### Import Regulations

Under GACC Decree 248, vegetable oil products are among the categories of products whose overseas producers must register with GACC through the competent authority of their countries/regions.<sup>22</sup> Registration lists are available on the [GACC website](#). See Section VI for additional information on facility registration.

<sup>22</sup> In October 2025, GACC published Decree 280 stating that an updated catalog will be released to identify what categories of foods are included in the list for competent authorities' recommendations. At the time of the report, the catalog was not published. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0204](#) for more information on Decree 280 regarding new requirements for facility registration.

In January 2025, GACC announced [updated measures open for public comments](#), which exclude the vegetable oil products from registration through authorities under Decree 248 (currently oil crops registration are through authorities under [DAPQ](#)).

Edible oil shipments to China must be accompanied by phytosanitary certificates issued by the competent authority of the exporting country. On April 14, 2023, China notified two updated certificates, the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Phytosanitary Certificate and the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Phytosanitary Certificate for Re-Export, to the WTO under G/SPS/N/CHN/1278. On June 2, 2023, China notified the [amended Entry and Exit Inspection and Quarantine Phytosanitary Certificate for Re-Export of China](#) to the WTO under G/SPS/N/CHN/1278/Add.1. The new template included new information such as treatment method, chemical, and concentration information under the disinfection and/or disinfection treatment section. The new certificates templates have been implemented since June 1, 2023.

**Table 7. China: National Food Safety Standards for Vegetable Oils**

Issuance Date	Effective Date	Standard Number	Standard in English
11/13/2015	11/13/2016	GB 19641-2015	<a href="#">Edible Vegetable Oil Seeds</a> <sup>23</sup>
6/21/2018	12/21/2018	GB 2716-2018	<a href="#">Edible Vegetable Oil</a> <sup>24</sup>
5/23/2023	12/1/2023	GB 1352-2023	<a href="#">Soybeans</a> <sup>25</sup>

Vegetable oil produced from crops derived from agricultural biotechnology is subject to GACC Decree 262, [the Administrative Measures for the Inspection and Quarantine of Entry-Exit GM Products](#) (link in Chinese). The Measures entered into force on May 24, 2004, and the latest revision was issued on March 9, 2023. The Measures require importers to present an Agricultural Biotechnology Safety Certificate (import permit) for customs clearance.

On April 18, 2025, SAMR released the Announcement for Deployment of Inspection and Rectification Actions for Edible Vegetable Oils. The regulation applies to domestically produced and imported productions, and products sold through online and offline channels. The announcement outlines how the local and national authorities will work together to enforce regulations across the edible oil value chain, including production, sales, and transportation. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0091](#) for more information.

On July 17, 2025, GACC released Announcement on the Requirements for Storage and Transportation for Imported Bulk Edible Oil (No. 147 Announcement of 2025). The purpose is to improve the supervision of the imported bulk edible oil supply chain, standardize and enhance storage and transportation management, and clarify the responsibilities of food producers. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0168](#) for more detailed information of the requirements.

On September 12, 2025, NPC announced [Decisions on Revisions of the Food Safety Law](#) (link in Chinese). One of the revisions introduced provisions to regulate the transportation of key

<sup>23</sup> The standard applies to oil seeds used in the production of edible vegetable oil.

<sup>24</sup> Crude vegetable oil, edible vegetable oil, edible vegetable blend oil, and various edible vegetable oils used in frying food are subject to the standard. Edible oil products (e.g., edible hydrogenated oil, margarine, shortening, cocoa butter replacer, whipped cream, and powdered oil) are not covered by the standard.

<sup>25</sup> The updated standard contains changes in quality requirements and adds an additional grade for soybeans.

edible liquid products in bulk. SAMR will oversee the development of relevant management measures, including vehicles certification, the establishment of quality control personnel and systems, and the creation of a catalog for key edible liquid products. This revision was initiated due to a food safety issue regarding contamination during transportation of edible vegetable oils in bulk in China in 2024.

## 5. Agricultural Biotechnology

Imports of products derived from agricultural biotechnology are subject to strict oversight. MARA holds primary responsibility for the approval of biotech crops for import and domestic production, as well as for the development of agricultural biotechnology policy. The NHC holds primary responsibility for the approval of food ingredients derived from biotechnology and decides whether MARA technical experts need to assess the product's safety. GACC is responsible for the testing of agricultural and food products for GE content at ports of entry in China.

The biotechnology regulatory environment for agriculture is outlined in [the State Council's Administrative Rules for Safety of Agriculture GMOs](#) (link in Chinese), which was issued in 2001, and was most recently updated in 2017. The rules are implemented by the following measures:

- [Administrative Measures for the Safety Assessment of Agriculture Genetically Modified Organisms \(GMO\)](#) (issued on January 5, 2002, with the latest revision issued on January 21, 2022).
- [Administrative Measures for Safety of Agriculture GMO Imports](#) (link in Chinese) (issued on January 5, 2002, with the latest revision issued on November 30, 2017).
- Administrative Measures on Labeling of Agriculture GMOs (issued on January 5, 2002, with the latest revision issued on November 30, 2017). The revised [Draft Measures on Labeling Agricultural GMOs](#) were notified to the WTO on November 24, 2023. The draft measures update product listings in the Agricultural "GMOs" Labeling Catalog, removing soybean planting seeds, corn planting seeds, rapeseed/canola planting seeds, cotton planting seeds, tomato planting seeds, fresh tomatoes, and tomato paste and adding soy protein, soybean dregs, kibbled/broken corn, corn meal, cottonseed oil, cottonseed meal, alfalfa, and papaya. Other significant updates include the establishment of a 3 percent labeling threshold for products listed in the catalog. The revised draft also requires that "organisms that China has not issued agricultural GMO biosafety certificates, the word non-GMO must not be used on the product label and manual." This revision aligns with the revised Measures on Supervision and Management of Food Labeling, which SAMR released for public comments in July 2020. The SAMR Measures prohibit using "Not containing GMO," "Non-GMO," or similar text to introduce foods that do not use "GM" food materials. At the time of this report, the finalized Measures has not published.
- [Measures for the Review and Approval of Agricultural Genetically Modified Organisms for Processing](#) (link in Chinese) (implemented on July 1, 2006).

- Technical guidance, standards, and procedures released as MARA public notices.
- GACC Decree 262, [Administrative Measures of Inspection and Quarantine on Entry-Exit GM Products](#) (link in Chinese) (implemented on May 24, 2004, and the latest revision was issued on March 9, 2023). For agricultural GE products transiting through China to a third country, the updated measures remove a permitting requirement that had existed previously. Articles 11 and 12 specify corresponding inspection and quarantine requirements.

China requires the labeling of certain products derived from biotechnology and prohibits the import and sale of any unlabeled or mislabeled products. The types of products subject to mandatory labeling include:

1. Soybean seed, soybeans, soybean flour, soybean oil, and soybean meal.
2. Corn seed, corn, corn oil, and corn flour (including corn flour under HS codes 11022000, 11031300, and 11042300).
3. Rapeseed for planting, rapeseed, rapeseed oil, and rapeseed meal.
4. Cottonseed.
5. Tomato seed, fresh tomato, and tomato paste.

Please see the [2025 USDA Agriculture Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies Annual Report](#), which provides more detail on the overall biotechnology and new production technologies environment in China.

The “[Special Administrative Measures for Foreign Investment Access \(Negative List\) 2024](#)” (link in Chinese), published in September 2024, continues to prohibit foreign investment in the breeding of GE varieties of crops, breeding livestock and poultry, aquatic seedling species, as well as the production of their GE seeds (seedlings).

On November 9, 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) published [Announcement No. 965](#) (link in Chinese), announcing the issuance of 42 seed production and operational licenses, including 30 new genetically engineered (GE) corn, cotton, and soybean seed production and operational licenses. All Chinese field crop seed companies need to obtain an operational license, but this is only the third time licenses have included permission to commercially produce GE seeds. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0230](#) for more information.

## 6. Grains

China published the final version of the “[The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Assuring Food Security](#)” on December 29, 2023. The law aims to ensure absolute security in staple grains for food use and basic self-sufficiency in all other grains. The law instructs relevant authorities to ensure its food supply remains firmly under its control. The law mandates governments to protect farmland, ensure grain supply, reduce waste, and stipulates measures to increase the income of crop farmers. The law also contains provisions on the management of

grain reserves, distribution, processing, and emergency response. The law, passed at a session of the NPC Standing Committee, entered into force on June 1, 2024.

### **Registration of Grain Exporters (GACC Decree 243 revision)**

GACC is responsible for grains facility registration.

In February 2016, AQSIQ released the [Administrative Measures of Inspection and Quarantine for Entry and Exit Grain \(AQSIQ Decree 177\)](#) and GACC released [updated measures](#) (link in Chinese) in November 2018. The measures regulate inspection and quarantine for entry and exit grains, which includes registration requirements for overseas production, processing, and warehousing enterprises that ship grains to China.

On July 22, 2025, China notified the Measures for Inspection and Quarantine for Entry and Exit Grain to the WTO under G/SPS/N/CHN/882/Add.1. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0157](#) for more detailed information. At the time of the report, the Measures have not been finalized.

GACC asked foreign governments to establish registration systems for grain exporters and provide lists for publication on a CCP government website. GACC indicated that the lists are used to monitor compliance with grain import requirements. In 2017, USDA provided AQSIQ with a list of U.S. exporters of commodities covered by the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA). This list is maintained by USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) that operates under the USGSA of 1916, as amended.

While the USGSA pertains to U.S. entities shipping more than 15,000 metric tons, entities that ship less than 15,000 metric tons who request and are approved for a waiver will also be included on the list, which is then provided to GACC regularly. Lists of approved entities exporting grains and planted derived feed materials by a country can be found at the [GACC website](#).

For further information about exporting grain and the registration application, please visit [USDA AMS website](#). Any questions, comments, or concerns pertaining to this issue can be sent to [FGIS-DIIA@usda.gov](mailto:FGIS-DIIA@usda.gov).

### **Other Measures affecting Grain Purchase, Storage, Transportation, and Processing**

#### **The Regulation on the Administration of Grain Circulation (State Council Decree 740)**

[Decree 740](#) (link in Chinese) was published on April 7, 2021. The decree applies to the purchase, sale, storage, transportation, processing, import and export of grain (wheat, rice, corn, coarse grain, and finished product of grains), and other related business operations. The measures list general requirements for conducting grain business in China, such as the application process for obtaining a grain purchasing license and requirements on storage facilities, transportation, and record filing. The decree also designates government agencies in charge of general oversight of the grain market and instructs them to conduct inspections in accordance with laws and policies. The decree entered into force on April 15, 2021.

## Rules on the Management of Grain Reserves Safety (Draft for Public Comments)

In February 2021, the State Administration of Food and Strategic Reserves published [the draft Rules on Management of Grain Reserves Safety](#) (link in Chinese), aiming to clarify accountability and hold accountable agencies that fail to correct problems in the amount, quality, and safety of government reserves. Main contents include quality control on check-in of grains into storage, quality control during storage and grains check-out, requirements on test and exam agencies, and supervision and inspection.

On May 4, 2025, the State Council released [2025 Legislative Work Plan](#) (link in Chinese), proposing the review and the approval of the Rules on Management of Grain Reserves Safety, to improve national legal system and enhance higher levels of safety. At the time of this report, the draft was not finalized.

**Table 8. China: National Standards for Grains**

Issuance Date	Effective Date	Standard Number	Standard in English	Applications
12/23/2016	6/23/2017	GB2715-2016	<a href="#">Grains</a>	Physical and chemical requirements for unprocessed and processed grains for human consumption, which include cereals, beans, and tubers.
12/23/2016	12/23/2017	GB2716-2018	<a href="#">Grain Processing</a>	Requirements for sites, facilities, and personnel involved in raw material procurement, processing, packaging, storage, and transportation in the processing of grains by means of mechanical and other physical methods.
12/23/2016	12/23/2017	GB22508-2016	<a href="#">Code of Hygienic Practice for Storage and Transportation of Raw Grains</a>	Requirements of storage and transport of unprocessed food grains.
10/10/2018	5/1/2019	GB/T1354-2018	Milled Rice <sup>26</sup>	Recommended regulation for quality, testing, labeling, packaging, and transportation requirements.
2/22/2021	2/22/2022	GB31653-2021	Code of Practice	Code applies to peanuts,

<sup>26</sup> Please refer to [the link](#) for the Chinese full texts of this recommended national food safety standard.

			for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Food <sup>27</sup>	corn, cottonseed, tree nuts, and feed for dairy cows.
5/23/2023	12/1/2023	GB1351-2023	Wheat <sup>28</sup>	Specified the terms and definitions, classification, quality requirements, test methods, inspection rules, labeling, packaging, storage, and transportation requirements for wheat.
12/30/2022	7/1/2023	GB/T 42227-2022	Germ Remained Milled Rice <sup>29</sup>	Recommended for germ-remained milled rice.
12/30/2022	7/1/2023	GB/T 42173-2022	Germinated Brown Rice <sup>30</sup>	Recommended for germinated brown rice.

Updates for the national standards for grains and products in 2025 include:

- On March 27, 2025, NHC and SAMR jointly released the National Food Safety Standard for Edible Starch. The standard applies to edible starch products produced and sold in China, and it will enter into force on March 16, 2026. The updated standard modified the water content limits, added a specification for hydrocyanic acid, and adjusted microbial indicators. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0082](#) for more detailed information.
- On December 2, 2025, NHC and SAMR released updated [National Standard for Paddy Rice \(GB 1350-2025\)](#) (link in Chinese). The updated regulation mainly changed the relevant definitions, quality requirements, and testing methods for paddy rice. It will enter into force on January 1, 2027.

## 7. Feed and Feed Additives

Feed and feed additives are subject to strict regulations. Feed products and facilities must be registered to export to China. To export feed products and additives to China, the exporter must complete the following steps:

- 1) Apply for an import product registration license or product waiver from MARA through a China-based agent. Under MARA regulations, the following feed products and additives require a MARA import product registration license: pre-mixed, concentrate, compound, single cell protein feed, supplementary feed, single feed ingredients,<sup>31</sup> and feed additives. Registration information can be found on the [MARA website](#). Note, this is

<sup>27</sup> Please refer to [the link](#) for the Chinese full texts of this mandatory national food safety standard.

<sup>28</sup> Please refer to [the link](#) for the Chinese full texts of this mandatory national food safety standard.

<sup>29</sup> Please refer to [the link](#) for the Chinese full texts of this recommended national food safety standard.

<sup>30</sup> Please refer to [the link](#) for the Chinese full texts of this recommended national food safety standard.

<sup>31</sup> Single feed ingredients varieties are listed in Part IV of China's Feed Ingredients Catalog.

a complex process that requires Chinese language skills and can take several months or years to complete.

- 2) The manufacturing facilities must contact [USDA AMS](#) to obtain GACC facility registration information.
- 3) USDA AMS works with USDA FAS to register manufacturing facilities with GACC. China only allows imports of feed and feed additives from registered foreign facilities. To register, a facility must comply with the domestic laws, regulations, and standards, which must have the equivalent effect as the regulations and standards in China. Decree 118 also sets record filing requirements for China's importers, labeling, and feed exports.
- 4) Check that registration is complete before shipment. Ensure the feed products and additives are in the [MARA's Feed Ingredient Catalog](#) (link in Chinese) and [Feed Additive Catalog](#) (link in Chinese). If a product is not in these catalogs, the manufacturing facilities must complete [MARA's approval process for new feed or feed additives](#) or receive a product waiver.

In addition, export certificates are normally required for animal feed exports to China. For animal feed products not containing animal-based ingredients, please contact the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#), or contact local authorities for the issuance of the certificates. For feed products containing animal-based ingredients, please contact your local APHIS office. Exporters of animal feed should consult with their local authorities or importers to determine the appropriate certificate.

## **Major Feed and Feed Additive Regulations**

### **State Council Rules on the Administration of Feed and Feed Additives (State Council Decree 609)**

[Decree 609](#) (link in Chinese) was released by the State Council on November 3, 2011, and entered into force on May 1, 2012. The rules were revised in 2014, 2016, and 2017. The decree identifies the responsibilities of MARA in feed and feed additive oversight, including reviewing applications for feed/feed additive production, reviewing and approving applications for new feed and feed additives, developing the catalogues of feed materials and feed additive varieties approved for use in China, and developing quality standards for such products. Foreign producers that export feed and feed additives to China must register the company and products with MARA and must sell their products through agents based in China. The regulations also set requirements for feed and feed additive labeling and penalties for violators.

## **Administrative Measures for Inspection, Quarantine of Imports and Exports of Feed and Feed Additives (GACC Decree 262)**

AQSIQ issued the above Measures in July 2009, echoing State Council Decree 609. These Measures are the principal regulation for the inspection and quarantine of feed and feed additive imports and exports. In March 2023, GACC released [updated Measures](#) (link in Chinese), which requires that China only import feed and feed additives from foreign facilities that are registered with GACC. To register, a facility must comply with domestic laws, regulations, and standards, which must have the equivalent effect as China's regulations and standards. Qualified companies must be "recommended" by their respective government to GACC for registration. It also sets requirements on record filing for Chinese importers, labeling requirements, and China's feed exports.

On July 22, 2025, China notified the revised Administrative Measures for Inspection, Quarantine, and Supervision on Import and Export of Feed and Feed Additives to the WTO under G/SPS/N/CHN/109/Add.2. The updated Measures included new requirements for the designated facilities for storage and processing of imported high risk feed products and the qualifications for those facilities designated by the customs. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0157](#) for more detailed information of the revised Measures.

## **Administrative Measures for Registration of Feed and Feed Additive Imports (MOA Decree [2014] No. 2)**

Decree 2 sets requirements on dossiers, samples, and application procedures for registering feed and feed additives with MARA. Successfully registered feed products will be granted an import registration license, which contains information such as product name, manufacturer's address, product category, and main components of the ingredients. The import registration license is valid for 5 years. The product registration information and status can be searched and viewed on [MARA's online inquiry system](#) (link in Chinese), by inputting manufacturer's name or number of the import license.

On December 29, 2025, GACC published the [Announcement on Optimizing Inspection and Quarantine Regulatory Measures for Imported Feed and Feed Additives](#) (link in Chinese). In the Announcement, GACC stated based on the risk analysis results, customs have optimized the inspection and quarantine supervision measures for imported feed and feed additives by adjusting and publishing an updated [List of Risk Level Classifications and Corresponding Inspection and Quarantine Supervision Measures for Imported Feed and Feed Additives](#) (link in Chinese). In the updated list, the risk levels of the following products have been degraded to more simplified import procedures. It is effective at the time of the Announcement:

- Fish meal, fish oil, seafood residue powder, milk powder, whey powder, gelatin under "Processed animal protein and fats": risk level changed from II to III;
- Canned pet food: risk level changed from II to III;
- Forage: risk level changed from II to III;

- Processed plant protein, bran, and cake residue: risk level for “other category” changed from II to III, and if the wheat is from TCK areas:
  - If wheat bran has not undergone effective pest control treatment before import: risk levels changed from I to II;
  - If wheat bran has undergone effective pest control treatment before import: risk levels changed from I to III.
- Animal derived feed additives: risk level changed from II to III.

**Note:**

The import requirements for different risk levels are listed below:

- Risk Level I: Before importation, an import quarantine approval for animals and plants should be obtained; a quarantine certificate issued by the official authorities of the exporting country/region is required, inspection and quarantine will be carried out upon import; and quarantine supervision will be implemented at the processing facilities after importation.
- Risk Level II: a quarantine certificate issued by the official authorities of the exporting country/region is required, inspection and quarantine will be carried out upon import; and quarantine supervision will be implemented at the processing facilities after importation.
- Risk Level III: a quarantine certificate issued by the official authorities of the exporting country/region is required, and inspection and quarantine will be carried out upon import.

**Feed Ingredient Catalog**

MARA is responsible for updating the [Feed Ingredient Catalog](#) (link in Chinese). All feed and feed ingredients must be listed in the MARA catalog to be eligible for import into China. MARA published a master catalog in 2012, then updated the catalog through sequent MARA announcements.

In March 2025, MARA released an [updated Feed Ingredient Catalog](#) open for public comments to include more ingredients varieties as well as fermented feed materials. At the time of this report, the draft catalog has not been finalized.

For feed ingredients not listed, companies must complete MARA’s approval process for new feed ingredients before export. Updates (in Chinese) are published irregularly on the website of the [MARA Bureau of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services](#) (link in Chinese). Please refer to [FAS GAIN system](#) for information for periodical updates on the catalog.

## Feed Additive Catalog

MARA is responsible for updating the [Feed Additive Catalog](#) (link in Chinese). Companies interested in exporting feed additives to China must ensure their products are listed in the “Approved Feed Additives” catalog and meet the facility registration requirements established by GACC.

For additives not listed, companies must complete MARA’s approval process for new feed additives before export. Updates (in Chinese) are published irregularly on the website of the MARA [Bureau of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services](#) (link in Chinese).

In 2025, MARA made the following announcements to approve new feed additives and ingredients that can be produced and sold in China:

- [MARA Announcement No. 982](#) (link in Chinese): approved seven new feed additives, allowing their production, marketing, and use in China with specified monitoring periods and product standards. The production process of one feed additive has changed, and eight existing feed additives had their application scopes expanded to additional animal species with recommended dosages provided. Three new feed materials were added to the Feed Ingredients Catalog, and the catalog entry for milk powder was revised to specify product type and animal origin. Relevant product standards, labeling requirements, and testing methods are now officially in effect.
- [MARA Announcement No. 921](#) (link in Chinese): approved one feed ingredient and three new feed additives varieties. It also approved the expansion of the application scopes for two feed additives. A major change in the manufacturing process of one feed additive product has been approved. It approved the inclusion of new additives in the Feed Additive Catalog and revised the characteristic description of Brewer’s yeast culture in the Feed Ingredients Catalog.
- MARA Announcement No. 862: approved six new feed additive varieties, expansion of usage scopes for three feed additives, and addition of two feed additives and one feed ingredient into feed catalogs. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0001](#) for more information on the Announcement.

Please see [FAS GAIN System](#) for more updates on the feed additives and ingredients catalogs.

## Administrative Measures for New Feed and New Feed Additives

On January 7, 2022, MARA revised [the Administrative Measures for New Feed and New Feed Additives](#) (link in Chinese). These Measures listed materials and administrative procedures needed for the submission of new feed and feed additives products for the approval by MARA. The approved feed and feed additives products can be added to MARA’s feed and feed additives catalogs.

## Feed Label Standard

On October 10, 2013, AQSIQ published the amended [Feed Label Standard](#) (GB 10648-2013) (link in Chinese), which entered into force on July 1, 2014. The mandatory feed labeling standard provides the basic principles for labeling feed, additives, feed ingredients, and requirements on the content and pattern of the label.

## [Hygienic Standard for Feeds](#) (GB13078-2017)

On October 14, 2017, AQSIQ released a revised National Standard for Feed (GB13078-2017), which entered into force on May 1, 2018. This standard includes maximum limits of toxic and hazardous substances and microorganisms in animal feed, and outlines test methods.

## Facility Registration

GACC now maintains a list of countries/regions that are eligible to export feed products to China, as well as a list of permitted products. The list of countries/regions that are allowed to export feed, feed additives, and relevant products can be found at [GACC website](#).

USDA prepares and submits the U.S. list of feed additive exporters to GACC. Given GACC's registration of exporters together with MARA's requirement for product import registration license, [USDA-AMS](#) will obtain facility and product information and transmit to GACC for facility listing. For more detailed information regarding registration with GACC, please see Facility and Product Registration Requirements under Section VI of this report. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2024-0039](#) for more detailed information related to regulatory requirements for feed products in China.

## 8. Pet Food

Pet food is regulated as feed in China.<sup>32</sup> The major regulations for feed, including the State Council Regulation on the Administration of Feed and Feed Additives, AQSIQ Decree 118, the Administrative Measures for Registration of Feed and Feed Additive Imports, and the MARA Public Notice (2019) No. 226 apply to pet food as well.

In April 2018, MARA [Public Notice No. 20 \[2019\]](#) (link in Chinese) released six normative regulations, including:

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<sup>32</sup> According to the new draft pet food standards China released in 2025, pet food (feed) refers to the industrially processed and manufactured products intended for direct consumption by pets, including formula pet feed, pet feed additive premix, and other pet food.

- Administrative Measures for Pet Feed.
- Licensing Conditions for Pet Feed Manufacturers.
- Labeling Regulations for Pet Feed.
- Hygienic Regulations for Pet Feed.
- Requirements for Application Materials for Pet Compound Feed Production Licensing.
- Requirements for Application Materials for Pet Additive Premix Feed Production Licensing.

These regulations only apply to pet food for dogs and cats, including compound pet food, pet additive premix food, and other pet food. Currently, China has established recommended national pet food standards for complete dog foods (GB/T31216-2014) and complete cat foods (GB/T31217-2014). Please refer to FAS GAIN report [CH2022-0063](#) for an unofficial translation of the standards.

On August 11, 2025, MARA announced a new draft national hygienic standard for pet feed (food) soliciting public comments. On September 5, 2025, China notified the National Standard for Hygiene Requirements for Pet Foods to the WTO under G/TBT/N/CHN/2111. The new draft standard stipulated requirements for raw materials used during the production processes, and maximum levels of limits and testing methods for contaminants, mycotoxins, and natural plant toxins in pet foods. At the time of the report, the draft standard was not finalized. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0176](#) for more detailed information about the draft standard.

### **Pet Food Labeling**

MARA's [Public Notice No. 20 \[2019\]](#) (link in Chinese) provide detailed requirements for the labeling of pet food, which must include the product name, raw materials, product component analysis guaranteed value, net weight, storage conditions, instructions for use, cautions, production date, shelf life, name and address of the manufacturer, licensing certificate number and product standard. The labeling regulation has strict requirements for claims about pet food, including claims about ingredients, special features, and functions.

In September 2019, MARA released its [No. 210 Announcement](#) (link in Chinese), stating that after March 1, 2020, all domestically produced or imported pet food shall follow the pet food label requirements.

On August 11, 2025, MARA announced the draft new mandatory national standard for Pet Food Labeling soliciting public comments until October 10, 2025. On September 5, 2025, China notified the draft standard for pet food labels to the WTO under G/TBT/N/CHN/2112. This new draft standard specified the principles, content claims requirements, and composition of information on the labels for pet foods. The mandatory standard applies to pet compound feed or complete pet food, pet feed additive premix, complementary pet food, pet supplement, and other pet food or pet treats, produced or sold in China. At the time of the report, the standard was not finalized. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0169](#) for more detailed requirements of pet food labels.

## Facility Registration

Overseas pet food facilities that have registered with GACC are listed on [GACC website](#).

For additional information on China’s pet food regulations, see the GAIN report [CH2024-0039](#).

## 9. Organic Food

SAMR is responsible for managing organic food certification and accreditation, including the issuance of national standards and certification regulations for organic food. SAMR is responsible for maintaining the list of certified organic products. Currently, the lists of certified organic products are published on the [CNCA<sup>33</sup> website](#).

### Administrative Measures on Organic Certification

On November 20, 2013, AQSIQ announced its revised Administrative Measures for Organic Product Certification, which entered into force on April 1, 2014. The Measures are applicable to China’s domestic certification, production, processing, imports, and sales of organic products. Noticeable changes include, but are not limited to, a stipulation that the content of organic ingredients must be equal to or above 95 percent, and that the term “organic” must be listed on the product package and label.

SAMR amended the existing Administrative Measures for Organic Product Certification, and the amended measures took effect on November 1, 2022. The new Measures didn’t change the certification process of the current organic products but made changes to the regulatory agencies responsible for the organic products see GAIN report [CH2022-0132](#).

### Implementing Regulations for Organic Product Certification

CNCA issued a [revised Implementation Rules for Organic Product Certification](#) (link in Chinese) on September 25, 2025. It replaced the previous regulation with the same name and entered into force on January 1, 2026. On December 16, 2025, CNCA released an [announcement](#) (link in Chinese) to provide interpretation of the revised Rules. The regulation specified the basic requirements for certification procedures and management of the organic products. It applies to the certification of organic products within China, as well as to the certification of imported organic products based on Chinese standards.

### Updated Organic Certification Catalog

The 2019 organic certification catalog has been modified to include all products in the supplementary catalogs released between 2012 and 2018. The newest organic certification catalog was released in 2022, SAMR maintains [a list of products eligible for organic certification](#) (link in Chinese) in China.

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<sup>33</sup> The National Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) exercises the administrative responsibilities of certification and accreditation activities across the country. CNCA was affiliated to AQSIQ. After government restructuring in 2018, it is now affiliated to SAMR.

## **Revised National Standard for Organic Products (GB/T 19630-2019)**

The [revised National Standard for Organic Products](#) (GB/T 19630-2019) (link in Chinese) entered into force on January 1, 2020. The standard specifies the requirements for production, processing, labeling, and management systems for organic products.

## **Guidelines on Sampling Testing Items for Certification of Five Categories of Organic Products (Trial)**

Based on the Implementing Regulations for Organic Product Certification, CNCA published [Guidelines on Sampling Testing Items for Certification of Five Categories of Organic Products \(Trial\)](#) (link in Chinese) on December 15, 2020. The Guidelines specify the items required during sample testing by organic certifiers when certifying five categories of organic products including vegetables, fruit, tea, livestock and poultry, and dairy products. The trial guidelines came into force on July 1, 2021.

### **10. Seafood**

GACC is the authority for inspection and quarantine of seafood imports, as well as the registration of facilities that export seafood products to China.

#### **[Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety](#) (GACC Decree 249)**

The Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety (GACC Decree 249) were issued in April 2021 and entered into force on January 1, 2022. As the overarching regulation applicable to food exports to China, Decree 249 covers a broad range of requirements including the evaluation and review of foreign food safety management systems; overseas facility registration; record filing by importers, exporters, and commercial agents; quarantine and inspection; product labeling; and food safety risk alerts among others. It regulates the management of import and export of processed seafood products. The BIEFS of GACC manages the imported processed seafood products.

#### **[Administrative Measures for Inspection, Quarantine, and Supervision of Imports of Live Aquatic Animals](#) (GACC Decree 243)**

On July 26, 2016, AQSIQ published the Administrative Measures for the Inspection, Quarantine and Supervision of Imports of Live Aquatic Animals (AQSIQ Decree 183). [GACC Decree 243](#) (link in Chinese) revised the Decree 183 in 2018 to reflect the change of the regulating authority from AQSIQ to GACC.

The Measures stipulate the inspection, quarantine, and supervision requirements for the import of live aquatic animals. The Measures establish a quarantine access system and require foreign

aquaculture farms and packaging enterprises of live aquatic animals to register with GACC. The DAPQ of GACC manages the import of live aquatic animals.<sup>34</sup>

## **Market Access for U.S. Aquatic Species**

GACC is responsible for the approval of imports of aquatic species from foreign countries. DAPQ manages and publishes a [list of U.S. aquatic species \(live\)](#) approved for import to China. BIEFS of GACC manages and publishes a [list of U.S. seafood species \(not live\)](#) approved for import to China. Traders are recommended to check the market access status for specific aquatic species or seafood species before exportation.

GACC made clarifications on its website (link in Chinese) regarding quarantine access requirements for imported processed seafood products:

- aquatic animal oil, marine plant products (excluding chilled and frozen), dried fish maw do not need to obtain access;
- if the edible parts (e.g., internal organs) of the seafood have already gained access, then all other edible parts of the same species are considered to have access;
- if chilled products of a species have obtained access, then the same species with other processing methods obtained the access at the same time;
- only chilled or frozen aquatic products need to gain access, other processing methods of the seafood products are no longer subject to quarantine access management.

Depending on the product, there are three different U.S. agencies that facilitate market access requests. The [U.S. FDA](#) is responsible for market access requests for processed seafood products, the [Seafood Inspection Program](#) of U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is responsible for market access requests for live and unprocessed seafood products, as well as fish meal and oil, and the [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#) (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for market access for breeding stocks and ornamental use. U.S. exporters are advised to contact the appropriate agency depending on their products to submit market access requests to GACC.

## **Registration of Foreign Processed Seafood Facilities**

Overseas facilities exporting processed seafood products must register with GACC through competent authorities of their countries/regions. The [U.S. FDA](#) is responsible for submitting lists of U.S. exporters for registration with the GACC. See Section VI for additional information for facility registration with GACC.

GACC's BIEFS updates and publishes [Registration Information of Overseas Food Manufacturers of Imported Food](#) (link in Chinese), which contains the U.S. seafood exporting facilities registered with GACC. Exporters are recommended to check this link for their registration status prior to exporting products to China.

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<sup>34</sup> In the regulation, live aquatic animals refer to live fish, mollusks, crustaceans, jellyfish, echinoderms, cephalochordates, and amphibians, whether farmed or caught from natural waters, including their semen and fertilized eggs used for breeding.

## Registration of Foreign Live Aquatic Animal Facilities

The [Seafood Inspection Program](#) (SIP) of NOAA is responsible for maintaining the list of U.S. firms that ship live fishery products to China. To gain new or maintain existing listing status, reach out to your [local SIP office](#) to complete the process. U.S. exporters can find more information on how to register products with DAPQ at [NOAA's website](#) for export requirements. U.S. exporters are encouraged to check their registration status on [GACC's website](#) prior to exporting products to China.

## Designated Quarantine Sites for Entry of Edible Aquatic Animals

GACC designated quarantine sites for imported edible aquatic animals can be found at the [GACC website](#) (link in Chinese).

## National Food Safety Standard for Fresh and Frozen Aquatic Animal Products (GB 2733-2015)

On November 13, 2015, NHFPC (now NHC) published the [National Food Safety Standard for Fresh and Frozen Aquatic Animal Products](#) (GB 2733-2015). This standard entered into force on November 13, 2016. It applies to edible fresh and frozen aquatic animal products, including marine and freshwater products. It regulates the physical and chemical requirements for fresh or frozen aquatic animals, such as limits for volatile nitrogen, histamine, and shellfish toxin. In the regulation, it also states that the MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs of aquatic animal products should follow GB 2763<sup>35</sup> and GB 31650.<sup>36</sup> The food additives used should comply with GB 2760.<sup>37</sup>

### 11. Plant-Based Meat

China does not have specific government regulations for plant-based meat; however, as food products, plant-based meat must follow some general regulatory requirements for foods.

The USDA GAIN report [Market Overview of Plant-Based Meat Alternative Products in China](#) and [FAS China Pea Market Insights From the China Pea 2024 and Plant-Based Congress](#) provides an overview of China's plant-based meat alternative product sector, including the major products, industry leaders, marketing considerations, and relevant regulations.

## Voluntary Group Standard for Plant-Based Products

The rising significance of the plant-based meat sector is indicated by the development of a voluntary group standard by the Chinese Institute of Food Science and Technology (CIFST) - [Plant-based Meat Products \(T/CIFST 001-2020\)](#) (link in Chinese). The standard aims to clarify product definitions, establish technical and labeling requirements, and encourage and guide research and development for plant-based meat products; it was implemented on June 25, 2021.

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<sup>35</sup> [National Food Safety Standard Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides in Foods.](#)

<sup>36</sup> [National Food Safety Standard Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods.](#)

<sup>37</sup> [National Food Safety Standard Use of Food Additives in Foods.](#)

[CIFST released the Voluntary Group Standard for General Principle for Plant-Based Foods](#) (T/CIFST 002-2021) on August 23, 2021. It sets the classifications, labeling requirements, and basic principles for plant-based foods. On March 3, 2025, CIFST published [a draft voluntary industrial standard for plant-based foods](#) (link in Chinese) open for comments. At the time of the report, the voluntary industrial standard has not been finalized.

## **12. Non-Edible Animal Products (GACC Decree 262)**

On November 13, 2014, AQSIQ issued the Measures on the Inspection, Quarantine, Supervision and Administration of Entry-Exit Non-Edible Animal Products. The Measures entered into force on February 1, 2015, and the last revision was made in March 2023 as [GACC Decree 262](#) (link in Chinese). The Measures apply to the inspection and quarantine of non-edible animal products for entry, exit, or transit. The Measures do not apply to feed and feed additives of animal origin, animal breeding materials, and biological materials of animal origin and their products.

The Measures require non-edible animal products that enter China are subject to quarantine access requirements, which include product risk analysis, assessment of the exporting country/region's regulatory system, determination of inspection and quarantine requirements, as well as registration of overseas manufacturing establishments.

GACC maintains a [List of Products for Inspection and Quarantine Requirements](#) (link in Chinese) based on their risk levels. Exporters are encouraged to monitor the list for the adjustment of registration, quarantine, and certification requirements.

## **VIII. Geographical Indicators, Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights**

The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) is responsible for management and protection of products with geographical indicators. On September 29, 2023, CNIPA released finalized [Protection Measures for Geographical Indicators Products](#) (link in Chinese), which entered into force on February 1, 2024. The Measures specify the product names and logo usages for products with geographical indicators, clarify the application, review, and approval processes for protection of products with geographic indicators, and provide information on supervision and protection by authorities. China has signed multiple agreements with EU, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Asian countries to include provisions for GI protection in agricultural and food sectors.

NPC published the current [Trademark Law](#) (link in Chinese) on April 23, 2019, which entered into force November 1, 2019. On January 13, 2023, the [CNIPA](#) issued a [Draft Amendment to the Trademark Law of the People's Republic of China \(Draft for Comment\)](#) (link in Chinese). According to CNIPA's interpretation, the revision aims to reduce the malicious registration of trademarks and strengthen the integrity in the field of trademarks. The implementation date of the draft has yet to be determined.

CNIPA oversees national trademark registration and management. Trademark applicants must submit a registration application to the Trademark Office, which will provide a decision within nine months from the date of receipt of the trademark registration application documents. Foreign individuals or companies that apply for trademark registration in China will be handled in accordance with any agreement signed between their country of origin and China, any applicable international treaties jointly participated in, or the principle of reciprocity. Foreign individuals or companies that wish to apply for trademark registration or handle other trademark-related matters in China must engage an eligible Chinese trademark agency to represent them. The period of validity of a registered trademark is ten years, counting from the date of approval of registration. The period of validity may be extended subject to approval.

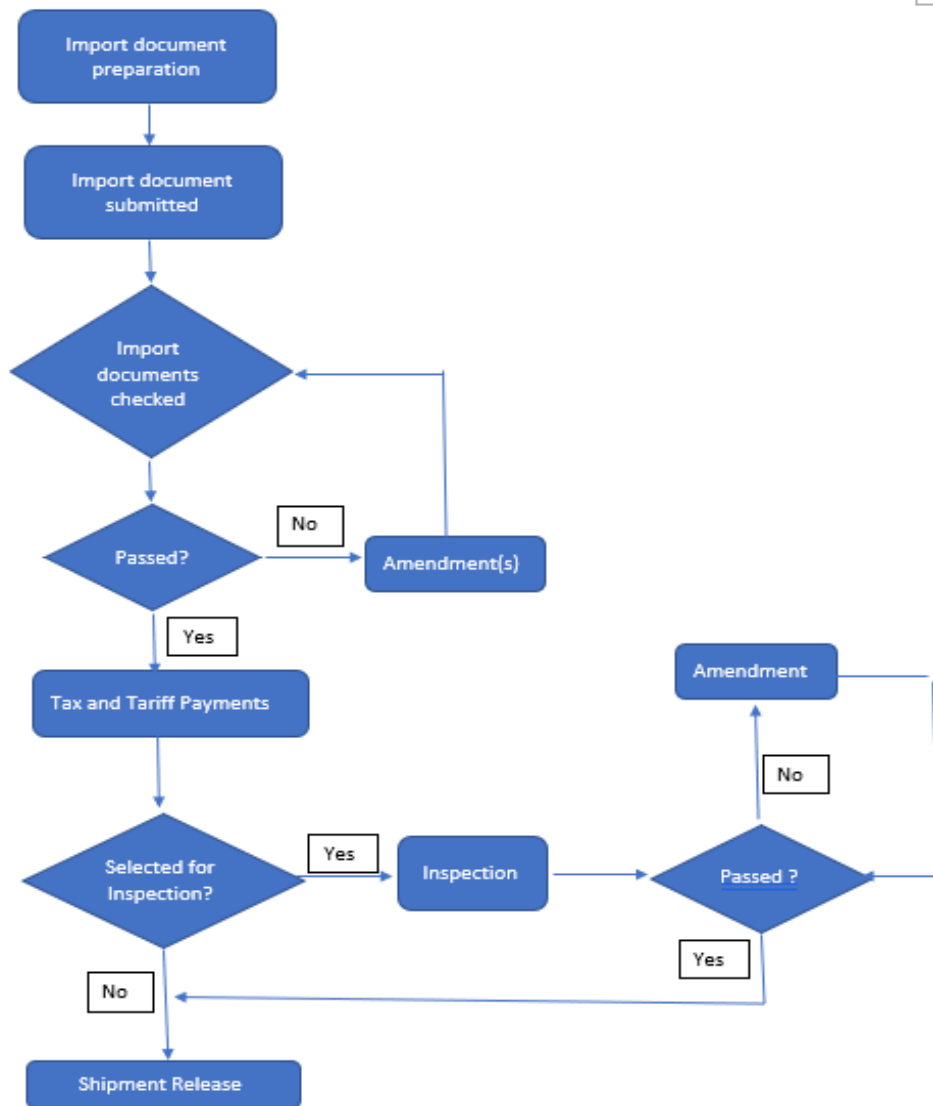
The Trademark Law regulates the registration of trademarks containing geographical indications. If a trademark containing a geographical indication misleads the public or the goods do not originate from the locations as stated in the indication, such trademark shall not be registered and shall be prohibited from being used. If the registration has been obtained in goodwill, such registration shall continue to be valid. Trademark opposition must be filed within three months from the publication date of the approval of the new trademark. The statute of limitations for filing against infringement is three years from the date when trademark owner knew or should have known about the infringement.

[The trademark application form](#) (link in Chinese), and the [trademark registration flow chart](#) (link in Chinese) are available at the [Trademark Office of China National Intellectual Property Administration](#) website.

[The United States Patent and Trademark Office](#) (USPTO) provides general guidance for businesses and practitioners in better understanding the basics of the IP landscape in China. U.S. companies are encouraged to reference the USPTO's [website](#) for additional information about introduction of IP policy and programs in China.

## IX. Import Procedures

GACC's [BIEFS](#) formulates rules and procedures on safety control, inspection, and quarantine of imported and exported food. GACC's [DAPQ](#) oversees formulating rules and procedures on the inspection and quarantine of imported animals, plants, and related live products. Each port of entry has a custom clearance inspection office that is responsible for carrying out BIEFS and DAPQ rules. The customs clearance process follows:



All documents must be submitted electronically in GACC's system. Document checks may be completed electronically for certain shipments. If all documents are true and correct, clearance can be expedited. Shipments may be purposely (or randomly) selected for samples inspection based on the risk levels. This inspection may take an additional one to 10 days depending on the product. Products that are considered high risk may be selected more frequently and delayed due to duplicate inspections. Exporters should work with importers in China to make sure the

required documents are submitted. For some packaged products, Chinese labels with necessary production and nutritional information (depending on the product) may be pasted on the outside the package. Please see labeling requirements under Section II of the report.

Samples for trade shows that are not intended for commercial distribution are not subject to the same import regulations as commercial goods. Samples for trade shows might request fewer compliance requirements and simplified procedures depending on the product categories. Some Chinese ports are preferable for certain food samples imports. Sample products for special exhibitions such as the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the Canton Fair might have special channels to expedite the processes and obtain exemption for duties. Exporters should contact their importers or agents for additional product specific requirements. Please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0130](#) for more detailed step by step guidance on samples import for trade shows.

## **X. Trade Facilitation**

GACC encourages pre-clearance for all products. Custom clearance agents usually submit import documents when they receive cargo manifests from shipping companies, which is usually two or three days before the shipments arrive by sea. For airfreight, custom agents usually begin submitting import documents once the flight departs. Generally, if all documents are ready in advance, and shipment is not selected for inspection, customs clearance may be completed in advance of arrival. Please refer to [GACC's Online Service Portal](#) website for more detailed information on requirements and procedures for forms, quarantine certificates, approvals, and relevant materials.

China has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) according to the WTO TFA database. In 2021, China reported the average customs clearance time for imports and exports in China was 36.64 hours and 1.74 hours, respectively. In 2022, these times increased to 40.18 hours for imports and decreased to 1.26 hours for exports. In the first quarter of 2023, clearance times improved to 33.05 hours for imports and 1.05 hours for exports.

During a [press conference](#) (link in Chinese) held on January 13, 2025, GACC officials introduced GACC's efforts in 2024 and its future plans to facilitate customs clearance processes. GACC's principles are to create more innovative, safety, convenient, and efficient customs clearance environment. In 2024, GACC promoted the simplification on checking quarantine certificates, realization of clearance procedures, and management of international trade on [China International Trade Single Window](#) platform.

GACC also implemented "smart customs" to implement online inspection to remote facilities, which alleges to reduce checking time for receipts and certificate by 90 percent. GACC established "high technology for goods inspection," which also allegedly reduced clearance time by 80 percent. With the application of advanced technologies and automated systems over the past two years, China Customs has significantly increased the efficiency of its customs clearance processes, particularly at more developed ports. For example, Hainan Province reported an average customs clearance time of 12.6 hours for imported goods in January 2026.

In 2025, China continued to implement “smart customs” pilot projects at local customs offices, utilizing online management systems to improve both the efficiency and accuracy of customs clearance.

During [the national customs meeting](#) in January 2026 (link in Chinese), officials identified further innovation and collaboration in the use of artificial intelligence as a key task for 2026, with the goal of enhancing supervision efficiency and quality.

For instance, several local customs offices are developing smart quarantine and supervision systems for imported grains:

- Before importation, customs can review the quantity and details of shipments.
- Upon arrival, customs can monitor port storage and the progress of quarantine operations.
- After arrival, customs can track the transportation and distribution of goods within China.

A nationwide monitoring system for tracking grain distribution has been implemented across all customs offices. This system assists customs officers in risk assessment and in preventing the illegal distribution of imported grains. The system is designed to create a closed loop of supervision, covering customs clearance approval, inspection and control, transfer, and processing.

China doesn't use the Global e-phyto hub. For airfreight, a trader is expected to pay terminal charges (by weight, product category, and temperature requirements), inspection fees if selected for inspection, taxes and tariffs, and custom clearance fees (around RMB 1,500 per shipment). Customs agents may charge an extra storage fee if the shipment is transported from customs to designated warehouses.

For sea shipments, the cost structure is almost the same as airfreight, which includes port surcharges, inspection fees if selected for inspection, taxes and tariffs, and custom clearance fees. Demurrage is another cost that traders must consider if containers are detained beyond free time.

China Customs has stated that it will continue emphasizing the application of innovative methods to improve efficiency for trade facilitation and use credit systems to manage enterprises.

## Appendix

### I. Chinese Government Regulatory Agencies

#### 1. State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR)

SAMR is responsible for the comprehensive coordination of China's food safety system; the development of major food safety related laws, policies, and regulations; the implementation of domestic market inspections; and the registration of special foods. The [Provisions on the Jurisdiction, Department and Staffing of the State Administration for Market Regulation](#) outlines its organization, functions, and division of responsibilities with other ministries when they are working on the same issue. SAMR also conducts nationwide compliance sampling tests of agricultural and food products, with higher sampling rates of meat and meat products, vegetable products, grains and grain products, bakery, seafood, beverages and liquor, and institutional food service.

#### Contact Information

8 Sanlihe Donglu, Xicheng District  
Beijing 100820  
China  
<http://www.samr.gov.cn>

#### 2. National Health Commission (NHC)

In the food safety regulatory system, NHC is responsible for food-safety risk assessment. NHC formulates and implements food safety risk surveillance plans in collaboration with SAMR and other departments. NHC holds the primary responsibility for the approval of food ingredients derived from biotechnology and decides whether MARA's technical experts need to assess biosafety of the products. The [Provisions on the Jurisdiction, Department and Staffing of the State Administration for Market Regulation](#) delineate roles of NHC and SAMR in this area. NHC develops most national food safety standards (while MARA develops pesticide and veterinary drug standards) and SAMR develops market regulation standards. Most of the food safety standards in China are released jointly by NHC and SAMR.

#### Contact Information

1 Xizhimenwai Nanlu, Xicheng District  
Beijing 100044  
China  
<http://www.nhc.gov.cn>

### **3. General Administration of Customs of China (GACC)**

GACC is primarily concerned with public security and border protection, entry-exit inspection and quarantine of goods, and the collection of import and export duties. Within GACC, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine (DAPQ) holds responsibility for the inspection and quarantine of animals and plants and their products, conducts inspections on entering-exiting animals and plants and their products, and register foreign facilities for animal and plant derived feeds and bulk agricultural products. GACC's Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety (BIEFS) develops and implements rules for inspection of imported foods and is responsible for registering foreign facilities that produce certain food and agricultural products for export to China. China's WTO TBT-SPS National Notification and Enquiry Center is currently at GACC's International Inspection and Quarantine Standards and Technical Regulations Research Center.

#### **Contact Information**

6, Jian Guo Men Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Beijing 100730  
China  
<http://www.customs.gov.cn>

### **4. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)**

MARA is responsible for regulating the quality and safety of domestically produced edible agricultural products, from planting and breeding products to wholesale and retail markets, but before delivery to food processors. MARA is also responsible for animal and plant disease prevention and control, regulating livestock and poultry slaughtering, raw milk production, and development of MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs. MARA works with SAMR and GACC on market access issues and product traceability.

#### **Contact Information**

11 Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang District  
Beijing 100026  
China  
<http://www.moa.gov.cn>

### **5. Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)**

MOFCOM provides guidelines and policies to catering services industry and alcoholic product distribution and circulation. It is primarily responsible for formulating and implementing policies and strategies for trade, investment, economic development, international trade cooperation, and negotiation. It also manages economics issues related to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on trade policy and trade agreement.

## **Contact Information**

2 Dong Chang An Street, Dongcheng District  
Beijing 100731  
China  
<http://www.mofcom.gov.cn>

### **6. Ministry of Public Security**

The Ministry of Public Security is responsible for the criminal investigation of food and drug violations. The 2015 Food Safety Law expands the scope of food and drug violations considered criminal. In 2019, the Ministry of Public Security established the Food and Drug Related Crime Investigation Bureau to coordinate with relevant departments in tackling food- and drug-related crimes.

#### **Contact information**

14, Dong Chang An Street, Chongcheng District  
Beijing 100741  
China  
<http://www.mps.gov.cn>

## **II. Other Import Contacts**

### **USDA Office Contact Information in Washington, D.C.**

#### **FAS Office of Trade Policy and Geographic Affairs, Asia Pacific Division**

Phone: (202) 378-1060  
Fax: (202) 690-2079  
Email: [ChinaDesk@usda.gov](mailto:ChinaDesk@usda.gov)

### **USDA Office Contact Information in China**

#### **Office of Agricultural Affairs, Beijing**

Phone: (86-10) 8531-3600  
Fax: (86-10) 8531-3636  
Email: [agbeijing@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agbeijing@fas.usda.gov)

#### **Agricultural Trade Office, Beijing**

Phone: (86-10) 8531-3950  
Email: [atobeijing@fas.usda.gov](mailto:atobeijing@fas.usda.gov)

**Agricultural Trade Office, Guangzhou**

Phone: (86-20) 3814-5310

Email: [atoguangzhou@fas.usda.gov](mailto:atoguangzhou@fas.usda.gov)

**Agricultural Trade Office, Shanghai**

Phone: (86-21) 6279-8622

Email: [atoshanghai@fas.usda.gov](mailto:atoshanghai@fas.usda.gov)

**Agricultural Trade Office, Shenyang**

Phone: (86-24) 2318-1380

Email: [atoshenyang@fas.usda.gov](mailto:atoshenyang@fas.usda.gov)

**USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – China Office**

Phone: (86-10) 8531-3030

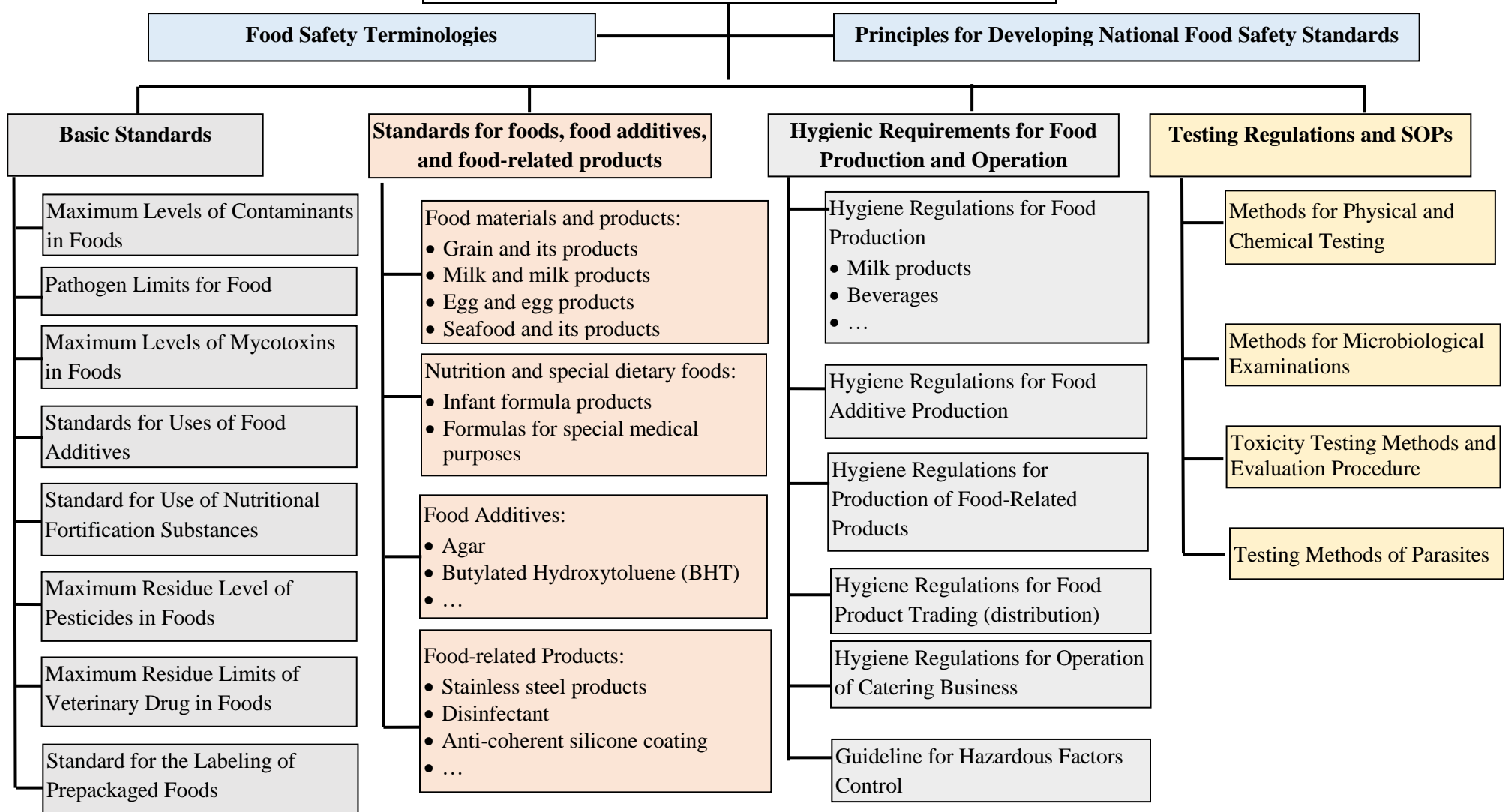
Email: [APHIS.Beijing.China@usda.gov](mailto:APHIS.Beijing.China@usda.gov)

**USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service – China Office**

Phone: (86-10) 8531-3983

Email: [BeijingFSISCorrespondence@usda.gov](mailto:BeijingFSISCorrespondence@usda.gov)

**Framework of the National Food Safety Standard System**  
**China's National Food Safety Standard System**



**Attachments:**

No Attachments