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Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report lists the major export certifications required by the Chinese government for imports of food and agricultural products. After the March 2018 government reorganization, the three main food safety regulators are the State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR), the General Administration of Customs (GACC), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). These authorities are revising existing regulations, rules, and procedures to reflect regulatory structure changes. For more information on these changes, and overall import requirements, please see the latest China Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Narrative Report.

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Executive Summary:

In March 2018, the State Council announced a government reorganization, aimed at reducing the number of ministries and agencies sharing related responsibilities. As a result, the three major food safety and agriculture regulators are SAMR, GACC, and MARA.

The reorganization expanded the scope of GACC by giving it many functions previously held by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ), and integrating all China Inspection and Quarantine (CIQ) offices located at Chinese ports into GACC's import/export inspection structure. GACC also handles registration for facilities that export certain products to China (including meat, dairy, seafood and feed). GACC has consolidated the customs declaration form and the inspection application form into one custom declaration form¹, and the customs declaration and inspection application systems are now combined into one system.

MARA expands the jurisdiction of the former Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), by including agricultural investment in its purview. It continues to regulate agricultural product safety and approval of agricultural genetically modified organisms.

SAMR was established by consolidating the market oversight functions previously shared by AQSIQ, the China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA), and the State Administration of Industry and Commerce (SAIC). SAMR implements market inspections and handles the registration of special foods (including registration of recipes of infant formula, registration of foods for special medical purposes, and registration/record filing of health foods).

These newly created regulatory agencies continue to revise existing regulations, rules, and measures to reflect the change of authority and new procedures. We believe the revision will continue for one to two years before slowing down. Post suggests that stakeholders closely monitor the regulating agency official websites for policy updates that may impact their operations. Post will provide timely reports for the revised and newly issued regulations that have significant impact on trade.

For clarity, we maintain the original titles of some regulations that contain former authority names (e.g., AQSIQ or CFDA), even though these agencies have been consolidated and are no longer active. The official government links for many regulations (in particular those released by CFDA and AQSIQ) are no longer accessible due to construction of new agency websites. We anticipate these regulations will be reposted on to newly created agency websites.

Disclaimer:

This report was prepared by the Office of Agriculture Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Beijing, China for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was 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. U.S. exporters should verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are best equipped to consult with local authorities, before any goods

¹ The GACC public notice concerning consolidating the forms and procedures is available at: <http://www.customs.gov.cn/customs/302249/302270/302272/1949150/index.html>

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 ENTRY.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix)

This section outlines the documents needed to export U.S. food and agricultural products to China, including quality, quarantine, origin, and import control regulations. Regulations vary according to products and/or product categories. Products may also have to meet other requirements related to packaging, pre-clearance, treatment, labeling, and container conditions.

Products	Certification	Attestation Required	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
All Agricultural and Food Products	Quarantine Inspection Permit (QIP)	Information regarding the content, volume, and physical characteristics of the shipment	General Import Certificate	GACC
Feed	Dairy Products for Feed: APHIS Export Health Certificate	Certifies that the United States is free of animal diseases such as rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia	Health Certificate	GACC
	Imported Feed and Feed Additive Registration License (for MARA-designated products)	Certifies safety of imported feed and feed additives, and to protect animal production safety. Decree 1773 requirements began on January 1, 2013	Animal Health	MARA
	Facility registration varies by product (Decree 118)	Certifies that the production facility meets phytosanitary requirements	Traceability	GACC
	Fishmeal and Fish Oil and other Aquatic Protein: DOC (NOAA) Health Certificate ²	Certifies imported products come from registered establishments, meet veterinary sanitary requirements, and are for feed use	Animal health	GACC
Dairy Products (Milk and Milk Products)	AMS Export Sanitary Certificate DA-240 (1/2013)	Product has been pasteurized and conforms to sanitary requirements of country	Sanitary Certificate	GACC
	Facility registration (Decree 145)	Certifies that the production facility meets Chinese sanitary requirements	Traceability	GACC
	Recipe registration Infant Formula (Decree 26)	Certifies product is formulated in accordance with the Food Safety Law, and to ensure quality and safety.	Food Safety	SAMR

² For more information on China-specific requirements for fishmeal, please visit the [NOAA](#) website.

Products	Certification	Attestation Required	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Animal	Live animal ³ : APHIS Export Health Certificate	Certifies animal health. (Note: Cattle cannot be exported to China due to BSE-related restrictions)	Animal Health	GACC
	Live Swine ⁴ : APHIS Temporary Attestation for Live Swine Certificate for H1N1	Certifies live swine are free of H1N1	Animal Health	GACC
	Chilled and frozen animal products: FSIS Export Health Certificate FSIS Form 9060-5 and Form 9295-1 ⁵	Certifies quality and safety of products	Food Safety	GACC
	Poultry: Automatic Registration Form ⁶	Import permit supplied by the importer only	Traceability	MOFCOM
	Pork ⁷ : H1N1 Certificate FSIS Form 2630-9	Certifies pork is free of H1N1	Animal Health	GACC
	Pork: Ractopamine test report (Applicant must provide documentation through FSIS Form 9060-6 when applying for the FSIS Form 9060-5)	Certifies pork is free of Ractopamine	Animal Health	GACC
Wood Products	APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate	Certifies wood and wood products are free from quarantine pests	Plant Health	GACC
	Certificate of Origin	Certifies origin of wood and wood product imports	Product Origin	GACC
	Certification of Fumigation	Certifies that logs with bark are fumigated to prevent pests	Plant Health	GACC

³ For more information on China-specific export requirements on live animals, please visit the [APHIS](#) website.

⁴ Since August 1, 2014, China requires negative PCR test results for porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) and porcine delta coronavirus (PDCoV) during quarantine.

⁵ Electronic pre-notification is required for imported beef and pork products. Visit the FSIS website for a [complete description](#) of certificates. For more information on China-specific export requirements for animal products, please visit the [APHIS](#) website.

⁶ Effective January 9, 2015, all poultry products are ineligible for export to China.

⁷ Pork and pork products with FSIS export certificate issuance dates on or after July 1, 2014 must be derived from lots of hogs that are produced in accordance with either of the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) "Never Fed Beta Agonists" Program or a specifically developed, written Ractopamine-free program. Visit the FSIS website for more information on this [certificate](#).

Products	Certification	Attestation Required	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Aquatic Products (Live and Processed)	Certificate of Origin	Certifies product origin	Animal Health	GACC
	DOC (NOAA) Health Certificate ⁸	Certifies imported fishery products come from approved establishments, meet veterinary sanitary requirements, and are fit for human consumption	Health Certificate	GACC
	Facility registration processed products (Decree 145)	Certifies that the production facility meets requirements	Traceability	GACC
	Facility registration live products (Decree 183)	Certifies live aquatic animals (including edible and non-edible live aquatic animals) are from registered facilities ⁹	Traceability	GACC
Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, Forest Products, and Tree Nuts	Phytosanitary Certificate APHIS PPQ Form 577	Varies by product. Certifies product is free of quarantine pests (Note: For apples, the shipment must also show proof that cold treatment was applied).	Plant Health	GACC
	Certificate of Origin	Varies by product. A State Chamber of Commerce or other official body certifies origin from China-approved locations	Product Origin	GACC
Grains	APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate	Certifies product is free of quarantine pests	Plant Health	GACC
	BioSafety Certificate	Certifies that the product “contains registered GMOs.” Proper labeling is also required for all biotech products	Plant Health	MARA/GACC
	Agricultural biotech products: MOA import permission	Permits the importation of crops of agricultural biotechnology; each permission is valid for each shipment and for a period of six months.	Import control	MARA/GACC
	Facility registration (AQSIQ Decree 177)	Certifies the grains are from registered facilities ¹⁰	Traceability	GACC
	FGIS Grain Inspection Service	Certifies product quality	Product Quality	GACC

⁸ For more information on China-specific export requirements for Aquatic products, please visit the [NOAA](#) website.

⁹ U.S. agencies continue to consult with GACC about implementing guidelines for this registration.

¹⁰ For more information on facility registration requirements under Decree 177 see the FAIRS Narrative Report.

Products	Certification	Attestation Required	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Cotton	APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate	Certifies product is free of quarantine pests	Plant Health	GACC
	AMS Quality Classification	Certifies quality of cotton imports	Product Quality	GACC
	Facility Registration (AQSIQ Decree 87)	Certifies the cotton shipped to China is from registered facilities. Implemented since 2008.	Traceability	GACC
Processed Products	Certificate of Origin	Varies by product. State Chamber of Commerce or other official body certifies origin from China-approved locations	Product Origin	GACC
Oilseeds	APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate	Certifies product are free of quarantine pests	Plant Health	GACC
	FGIS Grain Inspection Service	Certifies product quality	Product Quality	GACC
	Agricultural biotech products: MOA Biosafety Import Certificate	Certifies that the product “contains registered GMOs.” Proper labeling is also required for all biotech products	Plant Health	MARA/ GACC
	Agricultural biotech products: MOA import permission	Permits the importation of crops of agricultural biotechnology; each permission is valid for one shipment	Import control	MARA/GACC
	Facility Registration (AQSIQ Decree 177)	Certifies the oilseeds are from registered facilities	Traceability	GACC
Vegetable Oil	Crude oil: Phytosanitary Certificate	Health and Phytosanitary Attestation	Plant Health	GACC
	Certificate of accreditation (by 3rd party or trader)	Certifies the product complies with quality requirements	Product Quality	GACC
Wine ¹¹	Wine Export Certificate	The multiple-purpose certificate used for certificate of origin, certificate of health/sanitation, and certificate of authenticity/free sale.	Product Declaration	GACC

¹¹ As of March 1, 2014, The Tax and Trade Bureau of the U.S. Department of Treasury adopted the “Wine Export Certificate” as the only official certificate for wine exports to China.

Section II. Description of Export Certifications and Registrations

This section describes in more detail the certifications, permits, and registration processes that must be completed to export U.S. food and agricultural products to China. Sample copies of certificates, permits, and registrations are not available as they differ for each product and are subject to change.

Quarantine Inspection Permit (QIP)

To import any agricultural good into China, an importer must apply for a quarantine inspection permit (QIP) to cover each contract volume. The importer must supply documentation regarding the origin and volume of the shipment to GACC with the QIP application. A QIP can include multiple loads or containers, and is valid for six months.

Certificate of Origin

For some products, China requires a certificate of origin, which is a document issued by the relevant authority of the exporting country's government, local or state Chambers of Commerce, state government, industry association, manufacturer, or supplier. This certificate should accompany the export consignment of all food and agricultural products, including processed and packaged food. Exporters should maintain close contact with importers to obtain the certificate of origin type that will satisfy the local quarantine and customs authorities.

Phytosanitary Certificates

This certificate is required to strengthen the administration of the examination and approval of animal and plant import quarantine and prevent infectious or parasitic animal diseases, insect pests, weeds dangerous to plants, and other harmful organisms, from entering the country.

Section III-V describe the attestations required on export certificates, certificate submission requirements and procedures, and other registration (e.g., facility, additives, recipes, import licenses, etc.) requirements and product clearance procedures for specific products not covered in the previous sections.

Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

An original export certificate must accompany each export consignment at the time of entry into China. The certificate and attestation must match the container numbers in the shipment. Export declarations provided by suppliers or manufacturers, and state-issued phytosanitary certificates, are not acceptable. However, China will accept state-issued certificates of origin or certificate of free sale (see below).

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

Apart from quarantine regulations, product imports may also have to meet other requirements, details of which are contained in the latest China Food and Agriculture Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report.

Starting on August 1, 2018, GACC is consolidating the customs declaration form and the inspection application form into one custom declaration form¹². The customs declaration and inspection application systems are combined into one system. With the reform, a trader must prepare one custom declaration form, one set of attached documents, and submit the application into one system. To facilitate adoption of the consolidated form and system, GACC issued the “Guidance for Completing the Customs Declaration Forms for the Import and Export of Goods” (GACC Public Notice [2018] 60)¹³, the “Format of Filling the “Customs Declaration Form of Imported and Exported Goods” and the “Recordation Lists of Entry and Exit Goods” (GACC Public Notice [2018] 61)¹⁴, and the “Format of Electronic Application Form for Custom Declaration of Import and Export of Goods” (GACC Public Notice [2018] No.67¹⁵.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

1. Registration Requirements

China launched a number of registration schemes for a variety of consumer oriented products and bulk commodities. Foreign facilities seeking to export these products must ensure they are in compliance with registration requirements. For more detailed information regarding registration requirements please see the latest China FAIRS report.

1) Registration of Overseas Food Manufacturing Facilities ([AQSIQ Decree 145](#)) Currently applied to meat, processed seafood, dairy, infant formula, and cubilose (bird nest)

In May 2012, AQSIQ published Administrative Measures for the Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Food, known as Decree 145. The Measures states that foreign food production facilities that export products to China must be registered with the Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA). On November 26, 2015, AQSIQ released the latest [Implementation Catalogue for Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Food](#), which requests registration for meat, seafood, dairy, infant formula, and cubilose (bird nest) production facilities. Registration requirements vary by product.

U.S. meat production facilities under the jurisdiction of FSIS are exempt from registration. However, U.S. processed meat facilities are not exempt from registration. FSIS is working with GACC to determine how U.S. processed meat facilities will meet registration requirements. Registration requirements vary by product.

The facility registration lists (by product categories and countries) are accessible at <http://www.cnca.gov.cn/ywzl/gjgnhz/jkzl/>. The lists used to be updated by CNCA on a regular basis. Due to the government reorganization, GACC has yet to create and update these lists on their website.

¹² The GACC public notice concerning consolidating the forms and procedures (in Chinese) is available at: <http://www.customs.gov.cn/customs/302249/302270/302272/1949150/index.html>

¹³ The GACC Public Notice [2018] No.60 could be found at: <http://www.customs.gov.cn/customs/302249/302266/302267/1898145/index.html>

¹⁴ The GACC Public Notice [2018] No.61 could be found at: <http://www.customs.gov.cn/customs/302249/302266/302269/1897399/index.html>

¹⁵ The GACC Public Notice [2018] No.67 could be found at: <http://www.customs.gov.cn/customs/302249/302266/302267/1905646/index.html>

2) Registration Requirements for Grain and Oilseeds ([AQSIQ Decree 177](#))

In February 2016, AQSIQ released the Administrative Measures of Inspection and Quarantine for Entry and Exit Grain (AQSIQ Decree 177), which includes registration requirements for overseas production, processing, and warehousing enterprises. Decree 177 was implemented on July 1, 2016. For more information on registration requirements under Decree 177, please see “Grains” section of the latest FAIRS report.

3) Registration Requirements for Feed and Feed Additives ([AQSIQ Decree 118](#))

AQSIQ Decree 118 requires that China only import 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 Chinese regulations and standards. The qualified companies will be recommended by the exporting government to relevant Chinese authorities for registration. Decree 118 also sets requirements on record filing for Chinese importers, labeling, and Chinese feed exports.

FAS GAIN report CH15062 on [the Roadmap to China’s Challenging New Feed Regulatory System](#) is a comprehensive introduction of the feed regulatory system in China.

4) Registration Requirements for Infant Formula Recipes ([CFDA Decree 26](#))

The Measures announced in June 2016 outline requirements and procedures registering individual infant formula recipes. They also elaborate requirements for labeling and product descriptions. For more details on Decree 26, please see the Infant Formula Section in the latest China FAIRS report.

With the government reorganization in March 2018, the Department of Special Food Safety Regulation of SAMR oversees registration of Infant Formula Recipes.

5) Registration Requirements for Foods for Special Medical Purposes ([CFDA Decree 24](#))

In March 2016, CFDA published the Measures pertaining to registering FSMP produced and distributed in China, or imported into China. The Measures were implemented on July 1, 2016, but CFDA granted a second grace period. The measures will be enforced on January 1, 2019. For more details on registration requirements, please see the Special Foods section in the latest China FAIRS report.

With the government reorganization in March 2018, the Department of Special Food Safety Regulation of SAMR oversees registration of foods for special medical purposes.

6) Registration and Record Filing Requirements for Health Food ([CFDA Decree 22](#))

In February 2016, CFDA published the Measures to regulate registration and record filing of health foods that are produced and distributed in China, or imported into China. The Measures were implemented on July 1, 2016.

With the government reorganization in March 2018, the Department of Special Food Safety Regulation of SAMR oversees registration/record filing of health foods.

2. Record Filing for Foreign Exporters/Agents of Food Products and Consignee of Imported Food Products to China (2015 Update to AQSIQ Public Notice [2012] No. 55)

AQSIQ (now GACC) maintains a record filing system for foreign exporters, agents, and consignees, of imported food products to China. Exporters, agents, and consignees of certain food categories file their information at <http://ire.eciq.cn/> in order to get their shipments released at Customs. The GAIN report [CH 12057](#) provides answers about the record filing system.

3. Biosafety Import Permit Certificate for Agricultural Biotech Products

For the importation of agricultural biotech products for processing, such as GE corn, soybeans, rapeseed, and dried distillers grain, importers must apply for a biosafety import permit from MARA before signing a contract with an exporter. The application for the import permit must include copies of all of MARA's event approval certificates for the events that could be contained in the consignment of GE grain or oilseeds. Each import permit covers one consignment, and is valid for six months from date of issuance.

4. Agriculture Biotech Product Labeling Policy

China's biotech labeling regulations, governed by the Administrative Measures on Labeling of Agriculture GMOs, require mandatory labeling of products that are produced from GE materials or contain the following GE substances:

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

5. Automatic Registration Form (ARF) on Poultry

In addition to the GACC regulated Quarantine Import Permit (QIP), the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) administers a separate import permit for poultry, the Automatic Registration Form (ARF), which allocates a specific volume to eligible importers. According to MOFCOM, there is no predetermined trade volume limiting the issuance of ARFs. Virtually all traders who apply for an ARF receive one. Refer to GAIN report CH7043 published in June 2007 for more information.

6. Automatic Import License for Corn and Corn Substitutes

Imports of corn and corn substitutes (such as barley, sorghum, cassava, and distiller's dried grains with solubles) are subject to an "automatic import license" (Table 1). According to a notice by MOFCOM and the State Administration of Customs, Public Notice [2015] 34, barley, cassava, distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS), and sorghum will be included in the "Catalogue of Goods Subject to Automatic Import License Administration"(AIL).

Table 1. Catalogue of Goods Subject to (AIL)

Commodity	HS Code	Note	Unit
Barley	10031000	Seed	Kg
	10039000	Other	Kg
Sorghum	10071000	Seed	Kg
	10079000	Other	Kg
Cassava	07141010	Fresh	Kg
	07141020	Dried	Kg
	07141030	Chilled or frozen	Kg
DDGS	2303300010	-	Kg

According to MOFCOM, imports of soybeans, rapeseed, vegetable oils, and soybean meal are also subject to AIL. As of this report, Post has not heard complaints related to AIL procedures for imports.

7. H1N1 Certification for Pork

China halted pork imports from all H1N1 infected countries in May 2009. In May 2010, AQSIQ lifted these restrictions, but all pork imports from the United States must have a H1N1 certification, and pack dates on or after March 24, 2010.

8. H1N1 Certification for Live Swine

Effective March 2011, U.S. exports of live swine to China must be accompanied by an APHIS temporary attestation certifying that the live swine is free from H1N1.

9. Ractopamine-Free Certificate for Pork

Effective March 1, 2013, U.S. exports of pork to China are required to provide a “Ractopamine-Free” certificate.

10. Organic Certification

Organic field crops, livestock, aquaculture, wild plants, fungus, processed foods, fertilizers, and pesticides sold in China must be certified to Chinese organic standards. Producers must pay a certifier, accredited by SAMR, for in-country inspection and certification-related expenses. The certificate is valid for one year. Certification renewal requires a follow-up in-country inspection by an accredited certifier. For more information, please refer to the GAIN [Organics report](#).

Table 2. U.S. Products and Product Categories Approved for Export to China

Feed and Feed Additives

Product	Status
Dairy feed products	Approved
Pet food	Approved imports from the registered facility (list)
Non-ruminant feed ingredients & fat	Approved imports from the registered facility (list)
Processed aquatic animal protein (fat)	Approved imports from the registered facility (list)
Brine shrimp eggs and larva	Approved
DDGS	Approved
Forage alfalfa	Approved imports from the registered facility (list)
Rice bran	Approved imports from the registered facility (list)
Sugar Beet Pulp	Approved imports from the registered facility (list)

Source: Customs website, updated January 2018

Fruit

Product	Region
<i>Prunus avium</i> ; Cherry	Washington State, Oregon, California, and Idaho
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> , Grape	California
<i>Malus domestica</i> ; Apple	California
<i>Citrus</i> spp.	California, Florida, Arizona, Texas
<i>Pyrus communis</i> ; Pear	California, Washington State, Oregon
<i>Fragaria ananassa</i> ; Strawberry	California
<i>Prunus salicina</i> , <i>Prunus domestica</i> ; Plum	California

Source: [GACC website](#), updated October 2018.

Grains

Country/Region	Product
United States	Wheat
	Corn
	Soybeans
	Grains for feed use and beans (e.g., pea, sorghum), please refer to the “Catalogue of Plant-derived Foods that Needs Risk Analysis When It Is Imported for the First Time as Well as Countries or Regions that Have Had Such Export Trade to China”

Source: [GACC website](#), updated May 2018.

Appendix I:

AQSIQ (now GACC) maintained a “List of Foods that Comply with Assessment/Review Requirements and Already Have Trade”, which contains several sub-categories, including meat, aquatic products, dairy products, cubilose (bird nest), Chinese herb medicine, sausage casing, plant-origin foods, and bee products. Products on the list can be exported to China without completing market access procedures. Exporting products not on the list will require an official market access request submitted by the exporting country’s competent authority. Due to government restructuring and changes to official websites, the links to the List are not accessible.