

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: China Notifies WTO of Amendment to its Packaging Requirements for Foods and Cosmetics

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Beijing

Report Category: WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

On June 1, 2026, China notified to the WTO under reference number G/TBT/N/CHN/447/Add.3 that it submitted an amendment to its mandatory “National Standard for Restricting Excessive Packaging for Foods and Cosmetics (GB23350-2021)”. The notified amendment sets new requirements what China defines as excessive packaging for canned food, convenience food, and drip coffee products. Potentially affected stakeholders should conduct a review of the regulations to assess any market or regulatory effect on their business.

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

Report Summary: On June 1, 2026, China submitted a notification of Amendment No.3 for the Restriction of Excessive Packaging Requirements for Food and Cosmetics under reference number [G/TBT/N/CHN/447/Add.3](#). This notification has no comment period, but stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulations to assess any market or regulatory effect on their business. The notified regulation states that it enters into force on the date of publication. At the time of this report, Amendment No.3 has not been officially published in China.

The revised draft made the following revisions in Table A of the Appendix A in the regulation.

- The product category “Canned Foods” is subdivided into “Canned Livestock, Poultry and Aquatic Products” and “Other Canned Foods,” with k^1 values of 2.5 and 8.0, respectively.
- Under convenience foods, a new footnote is added stating: “The k value for instant rice and noodle products intended to be prepared in their own containers is 15.0.”
- A new footnote to cocoa and roasted coffee products is added stating: “The k value for drip bag coffee products is 8.0.”

Background: On August 10, 2021, China’s State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) released the updated mandatory National Standard for Restricting Excessive Packaging for Foods and Cosmetics (GB23350-2021), which entered into force on September 1, 2023. The standard regulates packaging layers, costs, spatial coefficients, and their calculation methods for processed foods. Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2023-0073](#) for more information on the regulation².

China has previously notified the WTO of the following amendments to GB23350-2021:

- On May 24, 2022, Amendment No.1 under [G/TBT/N/CHN/447/Add.1](#): revised requirements for packaging layers for grains and grain products. It has been published on May 24, 2022, and entered into force on August 15, 2022.
- On September 15, 2023, Amendment No. 2 under [G/TBT/N/CHN/447/Add.2](#): revised necessary spatial coefficient of foods for milk powder and modified milk powder, sea foods, expanded and dry soy products, nuts, and cereal-based complementary foods for infants and young children. Amendment No. 2 was published on March 25, 2024, and entered into force on March 1, 2025.

¹ The necessary spatial coefficients are expressed as k values.

² On September 22, 2023, SAMR also released the mandatory National Standard for Requirements of Restricting Excessive Packaging for Fresh Edible Agricultural Products (GB43284-2023). Please see FAS GAIN Report [CH2023-0138](#) for more detailed information.

Attachments:

No Attachments.