

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** September 25, 2023

**Report Number:** CH2023-0128

**Report Name:** WTO Notified Amendment to Excessive Packaging National Standard

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

**Post:** Beijing

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report, WTO Notifications, MISC-Commodity

**Prepared By:** FAS China Staff

**Approved By:** Adam Branson

**Report Highlights:**

On September 15, 2023, China notified an amendment to the National Food Safety Standard for Restricting Excessive Packaging for Foods and Cosmetics (GB 23350-2021) to the World Trade Organization (WTO) under G/TBT/N/CHN/447/Add.2. The standard entered into force on September 1, 2023. This report provides an unofficial translation of the amendment.

## Summary:

On September 15, 2023, China notified an amendment to the [National Food Safety Standard for Restricting Excessive Packaging for Foods and Cosmetics \(GB23350-2021\)](#) (link to FAS China GAIN Report dated April 4, 2023) to the WTO under [G/TBT/N/CHN/447/Add.2](#). The Standard entered into force on September 1, 2023.

The major relevant revisions for trade include:

- Infant Formula Foods in Appendix A.1 have been classified with different sub-categories and the standard implementation requirements have been partly revised.

Other recent changes include packaging requirements for tea, mooncakes, and *Zongzi* (a traditional, rice snack filled with various products). Please see the implementation requirements in the amendment for different commodities.

This report provides an unofficial translation of the amendment.

## BEGIN TRANSLATION

### National Food Safety Standard

### Restricting Excessive Packaging for Foods and Cosmetics

### GB 23350-2021

### (Amendment Sheet Open for Comments)

## Contents of the Standard

### 1. Article 4.2 is revised as:

#### 4.2 Number of packaging layers

Grains and processed products, tea, moon cakes and Zongzi should not exceed three layers and other commodities should not exceed four layers.

### 2. Article 4.3 is modified as:

#### 4.3 Packaging costs

4.3.1 The production organization should take measures to control the proportion of costs of all packaging except for those in direct contact with the contents in sales price and follow the below requirements:

a) Tea production organizations with sales price of more than 200 yuan should control the proportion to within 15%,

- b) The production organization of mooncakes and Zongzi with sales price of more than 100 yuan should control the proportion to within 15%,  
 c) Other production organizations should control the proportion to within 20%.

4.3.2 Precious metals and mahogany materials should not be used for packaging of moon cakes, Zongzi, and tea.

**3. Contents of 4.5 items are added as:**

4.5 Total quality of goods

The total mass of tea products should not be greater than 6 times the mass of the tea contents.

**4. “Table A.1 Necessary Spatial Coefficient of Commodities” in Appendix A is modified as:**

“Commodity category” for “tea and products” is sub-divided into “pressed tea” and “loose tea and tea-related products”, and k values are set to 9.0 and 13.0 respectively. “Tea and tea-related products note g” is deleted and “note k: k value of Houkui, Maofeng, Shou (Gong), White Peony, and Leaves and Flowers tea substitute are set to 20.0” is added.

Under “Infant Formula Foods”, “note l: k value of raw cereal supplementary foods for infants and young children is 4.5, k value of biscuits or other cereal supplementary foods for infants and young children is 10.0, and k value of rice cakes for infants and young children is 20.0” are added. The contents of Table A.1 are as follows:

**Table A.1: Necessary Spatial Coefficients for Foods**

Commodity Category	k
Grains and processed products	4.5
Edible oils, fats, and products	4.5
Condiments	5.0
Meat products <sup>a</sup>	7.0
Dairy products <sup>b</sup>	4.5
Beverages <sup>c</sup>	5.0
Convenience foods <sup>d</sup>	9.5
Biscuits	10.0
Canned foods	2.5
Frozen drinks <sup>e</sup>	6.0

Quick Frozen foods		5.0
Potatoes and puffed foods		20.0
Candy products <sup>f</sup>		10.0
Tea and products	Pressed tea	9
	Loose tea and products <sup>k</sup>	13
Alcoholic drinks <sup>g</sup>		13.0
Vegetables and products		7.0
Fruits and products		7.0
Roasted seeds and nut products		5.5
Egg products		4.5
Cocoa and Roasted Coffee Products		4.5
Sugar		4.5
Aquatic products <sup>h</sup>		4.5
Starch and products		3.0
Pastry	Mooncakes	7.0
	Zongzi	5.0
	Other pastry	12.0
Bean products <sup>i</sup>		5.0
Bee products		5.0
Health foods <sup>j</sup>		18.0
Foods for special medical purposes		3.0
Formula foods for infants and children <sup>l</sup>		3.0
Special dietary foods		3.0
Other foods		10.0

If the product preparation requires a brewing machine, k value of the product is 3.5 times that of similar products. The net content of a single piece is less than 10g, k value of the product is 5 times that of similar products. The k value of product with inflatable packaging is twice that of similar products.

<sup>a</sup> k value of meat floss is 10.0.

<sup>b</sup> k value of dairy products is 3.0.
<sup>c</sup> k value of solid drinks is 15.0.
<sup>d</sup> k value of instant and prepared products is 11.0.
<sup>e</sup> k value of product with refrigerated substances such as dry ice in the package is 9.0.
<sup>f</sup> k value of chip shaped chocolate product is 15.0.
<sup>g</sup> for a product that is exempted from labeling shelf life, the minimum annual sales unit quantity is less than 10,000 pieces, and “limited edition” and the production quantity of the products are printed on the package, the k value is 30.0.
<sup>h</sup> k value of dried seaweed is 60.0.
<sup>i</sup> k value of puffed bean products is 20.0.
<sup>j</sup> refers to the four dosage forms of tablets, capsules, granules, or oral liquids. The k values of other categories of foods such as beverages, alcoholic drinks, biscuits, candies, pastries, liquid dairy products, etc. (excluding guttate pills) correspond to those under the general food categories in this Table.
<sup>k</sup> k value of Houkui, Maofeng, Shou (Gong), White Peony, and Leaves and Flowers tea substitute are set to 20.0.
<sup>l</sup> k value of raw cereal supplementary foods for infants and young children is 4.5, k value of biscuits or other cereal supplementary foods for infants and young children is 10.0, k value of rice cakes for infants and young children is 20.0.

### **Implementation Requirements for the Standard**

Notes k and l in Table A.1 of this amendment will be implemented upon issuance. The transition period for other new additions and revisions are 12 months. Products produced before the implementation date in compliance with GB 23350-2021 are qualified for sale until the end of their shelf life.

Products within the shelf life that are in the market before August 10, 2021 (when GB23350-2021 was released) or that are exempt from shelf-life labeling can continue to be sold.

**END TRANSLATION**

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.