

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: China Publishes New Organic Standard and Certification Rules

Country: China - Peoples Republic of

Post: Beijing

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On August 30, 2019, China published a revised national standard for organic products. The new standard will take effect on January 1, 2020. On November 12, 2019, China also released revised organic certification rules and an eligible product catalogue; these new regulations will also take effect on January 1, 2020. Neither the standard nor the certification regulations were notified to the WTO.

General Information

On August 30, 2019, the State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) and the Standard Administration of China (SAC) jointly published GB/T 19630-2019, a national standard on organic products covering mandatory requirements for production, processing, labeling, and management.¹ This standard will take effect on January 1, 2020. The new standard incorporates and replaces the existing organic standards published in 2011, including: GB/T 19630.1-2011 Organic Products-Production, GB/T 19630.2-2011 Organic Products-Processing, GB/T 19630.3-2011 Organic Products-Labeling and Marketing, and GB/T 19630.4-2011 Organic Products-Management System.

On November 12, 2019, China's Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) released revised organic certification rules.² The updated certification rules replace the current regulations adopted in 2012 and will enter into force on January 1, 2020.³ CNCA also released a new catalogue of products eligible for organic certification.⁴

China classified this new standard and the accompanying new certification regulations as voluntary, and on this basis, did not notify either to the WTO. However, if products are to be marketed in China as organic, compliance with this standard and accompanying regulations is mandatory.

Summary

The new organic standard includes changes to production and processing inputs, such as adding microbial preparations for control and prevention of animal diseases, adding detergents and disinfectants in plant production, adding requirements for packaging materials for feed products, adjusting lists of food additives, processing aids, and feed additives eligible for organic production and/or processing. The standard also changed the requirements for the labeling of organic conversion products.

The new organic certification rules appear to have streamlined some certification practices. For example, an overseas organic production site which has acquired organic certification for at least four years (inclusive) can be waived from a 12-month organic conversion period before being certified to the Chinese organic standard. And if an organic product is produced or processed overseas, the product sample can be tested by a local testing agency. Under the new regulations, field inspections will take

¹ The full text of the new organic standard (in Chinese), can be viewed at:

<http://openstd.samr.gov.cn/bz/gk/gb/newGbInfo?hcno=6C7830BA57AF12ACE93AF43B8CA7B315>

² The full text of the new organic certification rules (in Chinese) can be viewed at:

http://www.cnca.gov.cn/xxgk/ggxx/2019/201911/t20191112_57457.shtml

³ For more information on the 2012 regulations, please see GAIN Report CH12025 here:

https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=New%20Certification%20Regulations%20on%20Domestic%20Organic%20Products_Beijing_China%20-%20Peoples%20Republic%20of_3-16-2012

⁴ The full text of the 2019 organic catalogue (in Chinese), can be viewed at:

http://www.cnca.gov.cn/xxgk/ggxx/2019/201911/t20191112_57458.shtml

place on a limited number of farms if the organic production organization consists of multiple farmers, instead of inspecting each individual farm. Likewise, if the certified organic product is harvested multiple times a year, site inspections will be reduced to once a year.

The 2019 organic certification catalogue has been modified to include all products in the supplementary catalogues released between 2012 and 2018. Notably, wolfberry has been added to the new catalogue, but honey has not.

Attachments:

No Attachments.