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Prepared By: FAS China Staff and Joshua DeMoss

Approved By: Adam Branson

Report Highlights:

This report presents regulations and standards applicable to food and agricultural imports, including changes to existing national food safety laws and regulations. In 2024, China released and implemented several new or updated regulations and standards that could affect trade. A number of draft regulations have been released in 2024 and early 2025, some of which China notified to the WTO SPS and TBT committees for comments, but no implementation dates have been established. U.S. exporters should verify the full set of current import requirements with their China-based representatives or customers prior to shipment.

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Abbreviations

AQSIQ ¹	General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
CFDA ²	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 ³	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

Executive Summary

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

The government of the People's Republic of China (China) food and agricultural import regulatory system continues to evolve and often presents considerable challenges to exporters. This report aims to provide a general summary of China's regulatory framework and standard updates since publication of the [2024 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standard Country Report](#) (FAIRS Country Report).

¹ 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.

² 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.

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

China continues to implement the Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food of GACC's Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety (BIEFS) (Decree 248). GACC has proposed changes to Decree 248 on the regulations on the registration and administration of overseas producers of imported food and has solicited comments for proposed changes, which include the addition of a systems recognition process and adjustments to the list of categories that require competent authority recommendation under Decree 248. The measures require registration of overseas food production and cold storage facilities that export most food and agricultural products to China (see Section VI for details). Some primary agricultural products are required to register with the GACC Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine (DAPQ). Exporters should ensure that the facilities producing products subject to registration requirements for export to China are fully registered before shipment.

Food safety standards continue to be updated, covering contaminants, additives, veterinary drugs, and pesticide residue limits. Maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides and veterinary drugs have been expanded, with over 15,000 limits targeted by 2025. New regulations for food packaging, including sustainability measures, have also been introduced to reduce excessive packaging.

In March 2025, SAMR announced its legislative tasks for 2025, and 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, MARA's draft catalog has not been finalized. SAMR's announcement detailed plans for revisions or administrative measures of 27 laws and regulations highlighted in this report. Laws and regulations in SAMR's announcement include:

- Food Safety Law
- Product Quality Law
- Certification and Accreditation Regulations
- Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Live E-commerce
- Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Platform Business
- Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Entrusted Food Production
- Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Food Labelling
- Food Recall Management Measures

SAMR will publish detailed revisions and measures later in 2025. U.S. exporters are advised to monitor the USDA GAIN system for updates and to review the latest China FAIRS Country Report.

Notably, the cross-border e-commerce (CBEC) sector has grown significantly, now accounting for 6 percent of China's total trade volume. China's policy adjustments attempt to streamline CBEC import processes, making it an attractive option for exporters of fresh and frozen food products.

The Office of Agricultural Affairs in Beijing provides updates to regulations and standards in this report via the Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) system as information

becomes available throughout the year. Chinese Communist Party (CCP) authorities have been inconsistent with WTO notifications but often publish new regulations and standards for domestic comment and, as such, transparency is often lacking. Moreover, many of the published regulations or standards do not provide a science-based justification when measures are notified. For further information on China's food and agricultural standards, reach out to the FAS China contacts listed in the Appendix of this report.

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 Chinese customers. 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)⁴ 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:

- Integrates domestic food safety regulatory and enforcement authority (under China Food and Drug Administration, CFDA⁵).
- Emphasizes oversight of the food production process rather than the finished product.
- Holds food producers and traders accountable for food safety incidents caused by unsafe food products.
- Refocuses toward risk prevention.
- Imposes stringent oversight of special foods (e.g., health foods, infant formula, and foods for special medical purposes).
- Imposes more severe punitive measures (including criminal penalties) for noncompliance.

Revisions of the Food Safety Law

NPC made the first revision of the 2015 [Food Safety Law](#) (link in Chinese) 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 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.

On January 19, 2024, SAMR released an [Announcement Soliciting Public Comments for an Update to the Current Food Safety Law](#). This third revision added new registration requirements for liquid formula milk for infants and young children. The product formulas must be registered with SAMR under the guidance of ensuring product safety.

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

⁵ SAMR is now responsible for domestic food safety regulation and enforcement.

On February 17, 2025, SAMR announced [Soliciting Public Comments for the Food Safety Law](#). This is the fourth revision of the law, and it included a new article and a modified article to regulate the management of transportation of key liquid foods such as edible oils in bulk. This new addition alleges to strengthen the whole supply chain management to secure food safety during bulk transportation.

The Implementing Regulations of the Food Safety Law

On October 31, 2019, the State Council released Implementing Regulations of the Food Safety Law. The Implementing Regulations, which contain 86 articles in ten chapters, entered into force on December 1, 2019. The Implementing Regulations echo the principles found in the law itself, including the stipulation that food producers and operators hold primary accountability for food safety, and the importance of traceability of food and agricultural products sold in China.

The Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Law

The Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Law pertains to quality and safety management of primary edible products derived from agriculture (“edible agricultural products”⁶), 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.

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.

⁶ 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.

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.⁷ 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 [the Implementing Regulations](#) (link in Chinese) of the Law on Inspection of Import and Export Commodities in March 2022 following the revision of the Law in April 2021.

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.

In 2024, GACC updated several quarantine measures and requirements as GACC gradually updates its systems on risk evaluation and contamination prevention.

- On June 28, 2024, GACC announced the [cancellation of inspection and quarantine approval requirements for certain imported products](#) such as plant derived feed, plant derived fertilizers and cultivation media, plant derived Chinese medicinal materials, tobacco leaves, fresh vegetables, fishmeal, and animal hides. In August 2024, GACC announced the [removal of quarantine requirements for frozen fruit imports](#), which facilitates the entry of U.S. frozen fruit products such as mixed frozen berries and frozen raspberries.
- GACC maintains a [catalog of quarantine pests for import plants](#) to China, which includes 446 quarantine pests. On June 28, 2024, China notified [a supplementary list](#) to the WTO for additional 47 new pests for import plants and products. The final list published on GACC's website on January 9, 2025, and on MARA's website on November 28, 2024.
- On July 11, 2024, China notified the WTO regarding the [draft Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Quarantine for Entry and Exit Medicinal Materials](#) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1314. The draft measures included inspection and quarantine

⁷ GACC regularly adjusts this catalog; the latest catalog was published on August 30, 2022, and implemented on October 1, 2022.

requirements for plant derived and animal derived substances used in traditional Chinese medicines, which covers ingredients that can be both used and regarded as medicines as foods in China, such as American ginseng and beans. At the time of this report, the lists have not been finalized.

- On November 18, 2024, GACC announced a [revised Administrative Measures for Inspection and Quarantine of Import and Export Feed and Feed Additives Soliciting Domestic Comments](#) (link in Chinese). The major modifications include the removal of grains for feed use from the scope of application, the addition of the requirements on labeling, packaging, and transportation for bulk feed products, the cancellation of filing requirements for import and export operating enterprises, the implementation of risk management measures such as suspension of import and export, and the clarification on quarantine for designated storage and processing requirements. At the time of the report, the draft measures have not been finalized.

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.

2. Additional Food Safety Regulations, Rules, and Standards

The Special Provisions of the State Council to Reinforce the Safety, Supervision, and Management of Food and Other Products

The State Council issued the Special Provisions on July 26, 2007, as [Order No. 503](#) (link in Chinese). The provisions define the responsibilities for food safety, separating the duties of food producers and traders from those of regulators. The special provisions attempt to address the problem of “segmented oversight” by urging multiple regulating authorities to make joint efforts to ensure food safety. However, producers and traders remain primarily accountable for the safety of the foods that they produce and sell.

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 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.

Traceability

China's establishment of traceability systems started since 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. The 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 safety of the foods.

In January 2022, the NDRC held a [press conference](#) (link in Chinese) to introduce China's 14th five-year plan for the establishment of a modern circulation system. NDRC emphasized the need to improve the traceability of key products and integrate the digitalization of quality and safety information—especially for food and agricultural products—into laws. NDRC also encouraged the development and application of traceability systems.

In 2024, China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA) encouraged food producers to implement digital labeling on the food packaging to help consumers obtain production information. The Center of Agro-product Safety and Quality at MARA developed a [national agricultural food quality safety traceability management information platform](#) (link in Chinese) which is a national online platform to trace sources, distribution, and recalls of agricultural products.

Several developed cities or provinces have already established traceability platforms for foods and agricultural products, but it is still challenging for the central government to establish a complete national system to trace products that cross different geographic regions.

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.

E-Commerce

Some products may enter China through cross-border e-commerce (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 import. 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 a rise 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. fresh and frozen produce, please see GAIN report: [Staying Cool - How New Cold Chains Provide Opportunities for US Fresh Products in China's Cross-border E-commerce](#).

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 2024, NHC published five announcements to include 74 new foods. Please refer to [NHC website](#) (link in Chinese) and [FAS GAIN Report system](#) for more details.

On September 13, 2024, CFSA, under NHC, released [Requirements for Application Materials for Safety Evaluation of GMMs Used in Food Processing \(Trial\)](#) (link in Chinese) to clarify the safety evaluation requirements for new food raw materials, new varieties of food-related products, and new varieties of food additives produced from Genetically Modified Microorganisms (GMMs). The release of this document signifies that, in addition to food additives, GMMs derived products without residual of exogenous genes and GMMs can also be used as new food raw materials and new varieties of food-related products. According to [industry interpretation](#), NHC is responsible for evaluation and approval when the final products contain no residual exogenous genes and residual live cells of GMMs, which means these products do not need to undergo [Genetically Modified Organism safety approval](#) from MARA. For detailed information on the requirements, please refer to [FAS GAIN Report CH2024-0127](#).

The National Food Safety Standards

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). Until October 2024, China has issued 1,610 national food safety standards and has established a national food safety standard framework. In 2024, China published 47 new or updated national food safety standards covering food additives, pesticide and veterinary drugs residues, products standards, and sampling testing for different categories of foods. China also notified WTO for over 30 food safety standards or measures and has released over 50 draft national food safety standards soliciting public comments. Please refer to FAS GAIN system for unofficial translations and analyses of those reports.

Appendix 3 of this report provides the Framework of China's National Food Safety Standards. Please refer to the most recent [National Food Safety Standards Catalog](#) (link in Chinese) for the lists of current standards for different categories that foods exporters should follow.

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, 2025, 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, and relevant national food safety standards. 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:

- Name, specification, net content, and date of production
- Table of ingredients or formulation
- Producer name, address, and contact information
- Shelf life
- Code of product standard(s)
- Storage requirements
- Generic name of the food additives as used in the national standard
- Production License Number [Note: for imports, the facility registration number], and other information as required for specific products, such as infant formula and products derived from agricultural biotechnology (see Section VII on product-specific regulations and standards).

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: 土豆、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)		
生产日期: (Year/Month/Date) (Production Date)		
保质期: 12个月 (Shelf life)		
贮存条件: 请存放于通风干燥处, 避免阳光直射及高温。 (Storage Requirements)		
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 (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 Information)		
项目	每100克(g)	营养素参考值%
能量	2214千焦 (JKJ)	26%
蛋白质	9.8克 (g)	14%
脂肪	30克 (g)	43%

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

2. Labeling Requirements for Imported Food Products

The [Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety \(GACC Decree 249\)](#) consolidate existing labeling requirements on imported foods. Article 30 of Decree 249 states that:

The packaging, labels, and markings of food imports shall conform with the provisions of Chinese laws, regulations, and national food safety standards; if product instructions are required, instructions in Chinese shall be attached.

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 firm, 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. Facility Registration Number Labeling

Article 15 of GACC Decree 248 of [Overseas Facilities Registration Regulation](#) provides that a registered producer shall mark the Chinese registration number or the registration number approved by the competent authority of the country/region on the inner and outer packaging of the foods exported to China. For more details on Decree 248, please see Section VI Facility and Product Registration Requirements.

4. 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

Standard Number	Standard in English
GB7718-2011	General Principles for the Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods
GB28050-2011	Standard for Nutrition Labeling of Prepackaged Foods
GB13432-2013	Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses

In 2024, China notified the following two standards to WTO, but at the time of this report, the standards have not been finalized.

On July 11, 2024, China notified [draft Food Labeling Supervision and Management Measures](#) to the WTO under [G/TBT/N/CHN/1401/Add.2](#). The draft measures regulated markings of production dates and shelf-life expiration dates, stipulate font size, color, and location of characters, digits, and images of the labels, specified special requirements for health foods, infant formula, and foods for special medical purposes, and stated labels of edible agricultural products should follow [the Measures for Supervision and Administration of Quality and Safety of Edible Agricultural Products in Markets](#). The draft measures will replace the existing Food Labeling Management Measures published under [No. 102 Announcement](#) (link in Chinese).

On the same day, China also notified revisions to the [draft National Food Safety Standard of General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods](#) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1295/Add.1](#). The General Principles for Labeling of Prepackaged Foods is a mandatory national food safety standard that provides basic requirements for the labeling of domestic and imported prepackaged foods of all categories.

The draft standard specified labels requirements for prepackaged foods on safety aspects and included a specific section for requirements on imported prepackaged foods under Article 8. The draft standard also encouraged enterprises to use digital labeling or other methods to facilitate the delivery of more accurate products information to consumers.

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. Standards with corresponding GAIN reports have hyperlinks. In 2024, three standards, including Food Contact Plastic Materials and Articles (GB4806.7-2023), Food Contact Metal Materials and Articles (GB4806.9-2023), and Food Contact Rubber Materials and Articles (GB4806.11-2023), entered into force.

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

Standard Number	Standard Name
GB4806.1-2016	General Safety Requirements of Food Contact Materials and Articles
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	Food Contact Paper and Paper Board Materials and Articles
GB4806.9-2023	Food Contact Metal Materials and Articles
GB4806.10-2016	Food-contact Coating and Coating Layers
GB4806.11-2023	Food Contact Rubber Materials and Articles
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

Some packing materials, such as wood, will require inspection and quarantine requirements from China customs. Special quarantine and customs declaration procedures should be followed. Exporters are highly encouraged to check with their importers for specific requirements before shipment.

Packaging Sustainability Measures

China is increasingly emphasizing reducing excessive packaging and have released several standards to regulate excessive packaging:

- The National Standard – Packaging Terms -Part 1: Basic (GB/T 4122.1-2008) provides that excessive packaging refers to packaging that exceeds the normal functional requirements (i.e., the number of packaging layers, the space (within) packaging, and packaging costs exceed the necessary level).

In August 2021, SAMR released the 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. However, the standard is not applicable to gifts or products not for sale. The standard replaces GB23350-2009 of the same title and became effective on September 1, 2023.

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 standard 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. The new standard specified requirements restricting excessive packaging of edible agricultural products, including the interspace ratio, packaging layers, packaging cost, and packaging weight ratio for fruits, meat, eggs, and aquatic products. The standard applies to the sales packaging for fresh edible agricultural products.

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. Previously, flavoring substances, gum-based substances in gum-base candies, and processing aids were included in food additives. With the publication of the most recent [National Food Safety Standard for Usage of Food Additives](#) by NHC and SAMR in 2024, nutrition fortification substances are also included as food additives.

The new regulation entered into force on February 8, 2025. The updated 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, 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.

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:

- food spoilage should not be covered;
- quality defects in the food itself or in the processing process should not be covered;
- 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](#). 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 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.

NHC maintains a [catalog](#) in Chinese for new food ingredients, additives, and food related products, which includes lists of approved feed additives and applicable corresponding national food safety standards. In 2024, China published four announcements for approval of a total of 54 new food additives, materials, and products. The lists of new foods and relevant quality requirements can be found on [NHC's website](#). Please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2024-0043](#), [CH2024-0102](#), and [CH2025-0036](#) for the summaries of the new food additives.

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.

Major Food Additive Standards

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

Standard Number	Standard in English
GB2760-2024	Standard for the Use of Food Additives
GB29924-2013	General Standard for the Labeling of Food Additives
GB31647-2018	General Hygiene Regulation for Food Additive Production
GB29938-2020	General Standard for Flavoring
GB14880-2012	Standard for Use of Nutritional Fortification Substances in Foods

In 2024, China notified the following national food safety standards related to food additives to the WTO; at the time of this report, the standards have not been finalized:

- On October 18, 2024, China notified draft National Food Safety Standard for Flavorings to under G/SPS/N/CHN/1315, please see [FAS GAIN Report CH2024-0155](#) for more details.

- On July 11, 2024, China notified several food additives standards:
 - draft National Food Safety Standard Food Additive Dibutyl Hydroxytoluene (BHT) notified under G/SPS/N/CHN/1306, please see [FAS GAIN Report CH2024-0113](#),
 - draft National Food Safety Standard Food Additive Ammonium Carbonate notified under G/SPS/N/CHN/1308, please see [FAS GAIN Report CH2024-0105](#),
 - draft National Food Safety Standard Food Additive Paprika Oleorein notified under G/SPS/N/CHN/1307, please see [FAS GAIN Report CH2024-0103](#),
 - draft National Food Safety Standard Food Additive L-malic acid notified under G/SPS/N/CHN/1305, please see [FAS GAIN Report CH2024-0106](#).

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 the [14th Five-year Plan for National Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Improvement](#) (link in Chinese), MARA indicated plans expand MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs in foods to 15,000 by the end of the current 14th Five-year Plan period (2021-2025).

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 (MRL) for pesticides in 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 March 28, 2024, China [notified the National Food Safety Standard of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides in Foods to WTO](#) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1299. The notification provided updates to the above mentioned MRLs standards. The notified draft was not finalized at the time of this report's publication.

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 Catalogue of Imported Veterinary Drugs

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. The MARA and GACC joint notice updating the catalog is available at the [MARA website](#) (link in Chinese).

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 new 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 March 7, 2023, China notified to the WTO a new standard for contaminants: [National Food Safety Standard for Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods \(GB2762-2022\) 4,8 the MLs of Nitrite](#) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1276](#). The notified standard is an amendment to GB2760-2022, which changed the maximum level of Nitrite in packaged drinking water from 0.005mg/L to 0.1mg/L and added in the maximum level requirement of Nitrite (30mg/L) for bird nest products. The updated standard entered into force on June 30, 2023.

In 2024, China notified the below draft standards to the WTO; at the time of this report, the draft standards have not been finalized:

- On October 18, 2024, China notified a new [National Food Safety Standard for Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods Amendment No. 2](#) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1321. The notified document adjusts the food category for the dried cooked meat products in the food category description table in the document.
- On July 11, 2024, China notified a new [National Food Safety Standard Code of Practice for Principle for the Control of Acrylamide Contamination in Foods](#) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1311. The new standard applies to prevention and control of acrylamide in foods made from raw materials rich in reducing sugars and asparagine (including potatoes, grains, coffee, etc.) through thermal processing such as frying and roasting.
- On July 11, 2024, China notified a new [National Food Safety Standard Code of Practice for Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods](#) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1312. The draft standard provides requirements and measures to prevent and reduce lead contamination during planting, processing, storage, and transportation of agricultural products. China also notified a draft standard for [Soil Environmental Quality Risk Control for Soil Contamination of Agricultural Land](#), which is relevant to the lead contamination standard mentioned above.

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.

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). (**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.)

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 CIFER [website](#). 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.

In January 2025, China notified the [updated Administrative Provisions on Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Food \(Draft for Comments\)](#) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1324](#). Exporters are encouraged to review current information on Decree 248 and the facility registration process in the [GAIN system](#). There are several GAIN reports on the decree, including reports containing comprehensive lists by HS code of the products covered by the decree and the type of registration required. FAS China provides updates as information becomes available. The current lists of registered facilities under Decree 248 are accessible on [China Import Food Enterprises Registration \(CIFER\) system](#).

In 2024, Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine (DAPQ) of GACC 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 have been consolidated in the online portal. During the same year, DAPQ also expanded the list of commodities that require export facility registration, please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2024-0138](#) and the [FAS GAIN system](#) for the full list of categories required for registration before shipment can be sent to China.

Currently, the product types in GACC's online portal include aquatic animals, terrestrial mammals, feed and feed additives, pet food, traditional Chinese Medicine materials, grains (including miscellaneous grains, oil crops, and beans), plant derive feed (including forage grass), planting products for processing (including green coffee and cocoa beans), fresh fruits and vegetables, and substances that are traditionally for foods and Chinese Medicine materials. Under each product type mentioned, more detailed categories have been listed in the system. Exporters of relevant facilities can access the online system to check the status of their facility registration status.

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. For general information regarding registration with DAPQ, please contact: 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 [Internet Plus Customs](#) 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.



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.

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 [GACC website](#). See Section VI for additional information.

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 ⁸
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB19645-2010	Pasteurized Milk ⁹
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB25190-2010	Sterilized Milk
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB25191-2010	Modified Milk ¹⁰
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB19302-2010	Fermented Milk ¹¹
2/8/2024	2/8/2025	GB19644-2024	Milk Powder and Modified Milk Powder
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB11674-2010	Whey Powder and Whey Protein Powder
3/26/2010	12/1/2010	GB19646-2010	Cream, butter, and anhydrous milkfat ¹²
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 2024 include:

- On January 29, 2024, NHC published a new draft for [National Food Safety Standard High Temperature Processed Milk](#) (open for public comments). This new standard applies to extended shelf-life milk products, the thermal processing temperature and time, and evaluation methods of the products are different than traditional pasteurized milk or Ultra-High Temperature Processed (UHT) milk products. At the time of this report, the draft standard has not been finalized.
- On March 12, 2024, NHC and SAMR jointly published [updated National Food Safety Standard for Milk Powder and Modified Milk Powder](#) (GB19644-2024), which entered into

⁸ On October 25, 2023, China notified the [National Food Safety Standard for Raw Milk No. 1 Amendment](#) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1288. The amendment revised the required acidity indicator for the cow milk under the physical and chemical indicators. At the time of the report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ On October 25, 2023, China notified the [National Food Safety Standard for Modified Milk](#) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1287. At the time of this report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

¹¹ On September 14, 2020, China Notified the revision to the National Food Safety Standard on Fermented Milk (GB 19302-xxx) to the WTO SPS Committee for comments under G/SPS/N/CHN/1167. At the time of this report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

¹² On June 16, 2021, China notified draft National Food Safety Standard of Cream, Butter and Anhydrous Milk Fat (GB19646-xxxx)v to the WTO SPS Committee under G/SPS/N/CHN/1221. At the time of this report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

force on February 8, 2025. The updated standard expanded raw milk ingredients to broader varieties than cow and goat milk, deleted some microbial limits, and added labeling requirements to the finished products.

- On July 11, 2024, China notified the [draft National Food Safety Standard of Milk Protein](#) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1303, the new standard stipulated definition and technical requirements for milk protein concentrates and milk protein isolates. At the time of this report, the draft has not been finalized.
- On November 25, 2024, China notified the National Food Safety Standard for Sterilized Milk Amendment No.1 under G/SPS/N/CHN/1322. The draft amendment revised definitions and labeling requirements of the current standard, please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2024-0145](#) for more information. At the time of this report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

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 an updated [Administrative Measures for the Registration of Recipes for Formula Powder Products for Infants and Young Children](#), 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](#).

SAMR Public Notice Concerning Recipe Registration of Formula Powder for Infants and Young Children

On March 23, 2021, SAMR issued [Public Notice \[2021\] No. 10](#) (link in Chinese), clarifying several issues related to recipe registration of formula powder for infants and young children after the announcement of three national food safety standards [Infant Formula \(GB 10765-2021\)](#), [Follow-up Formula for Older Infants \(GB 10766-2021\)](#), and [Follow-up Formula for Young Children \(GB 10767-2021\)](#). The three standards came into force on February 22, 2023. Public Notice 10 provides instructions on several issues, including adopting new national food safety standards after they are issued but before their implementation, adjustment of a recipe which has

been registered, applying for modification of a registered recipe, and requirements for an applicant to provide materials proving stability of a product during its shelf life.

Administrative Measures for Product Formula Registration of Formula Milk Powder for Infants and Young Children

On July 10, 2023, SAMR released revised the [Administrative Measures for Product Formula Registration of Formula Milk Powder for Infants and Young Children](#). The updated measures clarified the need to take product samples for testing during production processes, standardized labeling requirements, such as prohibited languages or images on labels, and encouraged research and innovation. The measures went into effect on October 1, 2023.

On January 19, 2024, SAMR released an [Announcement Soliciting Public Comments for an Update to the Current Food Safety Law](#). The revision added new registration requirements for liquid formula milk for infants and young children with SAMR. The product formulas must be registered with SAMR under the guidance of ensuring product safety. The draft revision has not been notified to the WTO as of this report's publication. According to industry contacts, there is no production of liquid formula milk for infants and young children in China at present due to shelf life and pricing challenges and lack of familiarity or customary eating habits of local people.

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 U.S. to China. Successfully registered facility lists with GACC are available on the [GACC 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. Imported infant formula must have a minimum of three months of shelf-life upon clearing customs.

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. According to the notice, formula labeling for infants and young children must be truthful, accurate, clear, and easy to distinguish, and shall not contain false, exaggerated, misleading characters, pictures, or absolute language. 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. The notice requires applications for recipe registration of infant and young children formula

powder. Labeling of products produced on or after February 22, 2023,¹³ must conform to requirements in the notice. Products produced before this date may be sold until their shelf life expires.

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. In addition, facilities must not produce infant formula with different product names but contain the same ingredients and must only use cow milk, sheep milk, goat milk, and other dairy products (such as milk protein and lactose) to produce infant formula.

Table 5. China: Standards for Infant Formulas

Issuance Date	Effective Date	Standard Number	Standard in English
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	Infant Formula
2/22/2021	2/22/2023	GB10766-2021	Follow-up Formula for Older Infants
2/22/2021	2/22/2023	GB10767-2021	Follow-up Formula for Young Children

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. For example, raw material and food additive producers may undergo risk-based inspections, production samples must be taken, and clinical trials must ensure traceability.

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

¹³ The implementation date of the three national food safety standards - Infant Formula (GB 10765-2021), Follow-up Formula for Older Infants (GB 10766-2021), and Follow-up Formula for Young Children (GB 10767-2021).

FSMP has been registered. Documents available on the [SAMR website](#) provide additional details on FSMP registration.

On September 25, 2023, NHC [announced a list of 85 updated National Food Safety Standards and 3 amendments](#), which included the [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.

In November 2020, China Nutrition and Health Food Association solicited comments about introducing a special logo for FSMP. 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 March 6, 2023, China notified for comment the [National Food Safety Standard of Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants](#) to the WTO SPS Committee under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1268](#). The standard applies to the formulas for special medical purposes for infants aged 0-12 months old and regulates the technical requirements for the formula foods. At the time of this report, the standard was not finalized.

Health Foods¹⁴

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 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. To regulate health food naming and claims made about health foods, SAMR released [Guidance for Naming of Health Foods \(2019 Version\)](#) (link in Chinese) in November 2019.

¹⁴ 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).

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. The Guidance also requires that shelf-life labeling of health foods be presented in the following format: “The quality guarantee period ends on xxxx (year) xx (month) xx (day).” The guidance entered into force on January 1, 2020.

On December 31, 2023, SAMR, NHC, and National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (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 February 8, 2024, SAMR published an [Announcement to solicit public comments for technical requirements for the filing of American ginseng as food ingredient](#) (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.

3. Meat and Poultry Products

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

Import Regulations

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.

Port Clearance Procedures: The [Regulations on the Inspection and Quarantine of Entry-Exit of Meat Products \(AQSIQ Decree 136\)](#) outline the clearance procedures for imported meat, excluding canned meat. On November 23, 2018, GACC issued Decree 243, a revised version of

Decree 136, to reflect the change in authority for imported meat from AQSIQ to GACC. [GACC Decree 249](#), which entered into force in January 2022, replaced Decree 243 to regulate overall import and export foods.

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	Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods
9/20/2022	2/1/2023	GB31650.1-2022	Maximum Residue Limits for 41 Veterinary Drugs in Foods
9/6/2023	9/6/2024	GB19303-2023	Code of Hygienic Practice for Cooked Meat Products

In June 2024, NHC published a revised [National Food Safety Standard for Cooked Meat Products](#) to solicitate public comments. The updated draft added bulk cooked meat products to the scope of application and revised microbial limits to meet the safety standard for ready to eat products. At the time of this report, the draft standard has not been finalized.

On March 12, 2024, NHC and SAMR published the updated [National Food Safety Standard Microbiological Testing Meat and its Products Sampling and Testing Processing](#) (GB 4789.17-2024) (link in Chinese), regulating sampling and testing for meat and its products. The updated standard entered into force on August 8, 2024.

In the previous year, China also notified the WTO of three meat related national food safety standards including standards for Edible Animal Blood Products under G/TBT/[N/CHN/1522](#), [Code of Hygienic Practice of Producing for Prepared Meat Products](#) under G/SPS/[N/CHN/1240](#), and [Code of Hygienic Practice for Livestock and Poultry Edible Offal and By-Products](#) under G/SPS/[N/CHN/1234](#). At the time of this report, the draft standards have not been finalized.

4. Vegetable Oil

Import Regulations

Under current 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. Registration lists are available on the [GACC website](#). See Section VI for additional information. 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](#)). At the time of this report, the draft has not been finalized.

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.

In November 2016, China implemented the [National Food Safety Standard for Edible Vegetable Oil Seeds](#) (GB 19641-2015). The standard applies to oil seeds used in the production of edible vegetable oil. On June 21, 2018, China released the [National Food Safety Standard - Edible Vegetable Oil \(GB 2716-2018\)](#), which entered into force on December 21, 2018. 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, powdered oil) are not covered by the standard. On May 23, 2023, SAMR published the updated [National Standard for Soybeans \(GB1352-2023\)](#), which entered into force on December 1, 2023. The updated standard contains changes in quality requirements and adds an additional grade for soybeans.

Vegetable oil produced from crops derived from agricultural biotechnology is subject to [GACC Decree 262 revision, 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 July 11, 2024, China notified the WTO of a draft [National Food Safety Standard Code of Practice for Reduction of 3-MCPDEs and GEIs in Refined Oils and Food Products made with Refined Oils](#), under G/SPS/N/CHN/1310. This new standard specifies requirements for the control of 3-MCPDEs and GEIs in production of edible oil and production of other foods using edible oil as raw materials.

On October 28, 2024, SAMR released the [National Food Safety Standard Hygienic Requirements for the Bulk Transportation of Edible Vegetable Oils](#) (GB44917-2024). The new standard entered into force on February 1, 2025. It defined basic hygiene requirements and management for the transportation of edible vegetable oils in bulk, regulating edible vegetable oil and vegetable crude oil as raw material for production of edible vegetable oil.

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 GMOs](#) (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 final version of the measures has not been 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 revision, [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.

The Implementing Regulations of the Food Safety Law released in October 2019 provide that “Production and trading of genetically modified foods should be conspicuously marked; the measures for marking (the production and trading) will be developed by the food safety supervision and administrative department of the State Council together with the agricultural administrative department of the State Council.”

Please see the [2024 USDA Agriculture Biotechnology Annual Report](#), which provides more detail on the overall biotechnology environment in China.

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. The [Draft Grains Law](#) was submitted to the NPC for consideration in February 2016. In the context of the Grains Law, “grain” refers to cereals and their finished products, soybeans, and tubers.

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.

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) which 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.

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. At the time of this report, the draft hasn't been finalized.

[National Food Safety Standard for Grains](#)

On December 23, 2016, the Chinese Government released the National Food Safety Standard for Grains (GB2715-2016), which entered into force on June 23, 2017. This standard applies to unprocessed and processed grains for human consumption, which include cereals, beans, and tubers. The standard does not apply to raw materials for the processing of edible oils.

[Revised National Food Safety Standards on Grain Processing](#)

The National Food Safety Standard for Code of Hygienic Practice for Grain Processing (GB13122-2016) entered into force on December 23, 2017. This Standard specifies the basic requirements and management rules for sites, facilities, and personnel involved in raw material procurement, processing, packaging, storage, and transportation in the processing of grains to rice, wheat flour, corn particles, corn flour, and other primary products by means of mechanical and other physical methods.

Chinese authorities refer to these standards when inspecting foreign grain processing facilities that apply to export grain products to China.

[Code of Hygienic Practice for Storage and Transportation of Raw Grains](#)

The National Food Safety Standard for Code of Hygienic Practice for Grain Processing (GB22508-2016) entered into force on December 23, 2017. This Standard applies to the storage and transport of unprocessed food grains, including hygienic requirements for raw grains, depot areas, storage facilities and equipment, transportation facilities and equipment, and safety control measures.

Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Food

On February 22, 2021, China 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 applies to peanuts, corn, cottonseed, tree nuts, and feed for dairy cows.

National Standard for Milled Rice (GB/T 1354-2018)

On October 10, 2018, China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) published a new national standard for [Milled Rice \(GB/T 1354-2018\)](#) (link in Chinese). The new national standard for rice applies to both domestically produced and imported rice, narrowing grading specifications for each class of rice. Some of the technical terms in this standard reference international standards. GB/T 1354-2018 entered into force on May 1, 2019.

National Standard of Wheat (GB1351-2023)

On May 23, 2023, SAMR released the updated [National Standard of Wheat](#) (link in Chinese). The standard specifies the terms and definitions, classification, quality requirements, test

methods, inspection rules, labeling, packaging, storage, and transportation requirements for wheat. It entered into force on December 1, 2023, and it replaced the National Standard of Wheat (GB1351-2008).

On December 30, 2022, China published two new rice related national standards (recommended), including the National Standard for [Germ Remained Milled Rice](#) (link in Chinese) and the [National Standard for Germinated Brown Rice](#) (link in Chinese), both went into force in July 2023.

The National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration published an [Industry Standard for Food Grade Rice Bran](#) (link in Chinese) for public comments in April 2022. At the time of this report, the standard was not finalized.

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,”¹⁵ and feed additives. Registration information can be found on the [MARA website](#). Note, this is 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 Catalogue](#) and [Feed Additive Catalogue](#).¹⁶ If a product is not in these catalogues, 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](#)

¹⁵ Single feed ingredients varieties are listed in Part IV of China’s Feed Ingredients Catalog.

¹⁶ 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.

[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 importer to determine the appropriate certificate.

For more information on China's feed and feed additive regulations, see GAIN report [Overview of Feed and Feed Additives, and Pet Food Regulations for Export to the China](#).

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 revision)

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.

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 registration license, [USDA-AMS](#) will obtain facility and product information and transmit to GACC for facility listing.

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. In 2016 and 2022, MARA released [updated measures](#) (link in Chinese), which require a description of the preservation status of the strains for microbial or fermented products.

Detailed requirements and procedures for applying for registration of feed and feed additive imports can be found on the [MARA website](#) (link in Chinese).

MARA Public Notice (2019) No. 226 and 227 on Requirements for Feed Ingredient and Feed Additive License

In late 2019, MARA issued two notices that update the application process for feed ingredient and feed additive licenses. These measures set forth new application requirements related to the safety of the product and aim at better facilitating applications for both domestic and foreign feed manufacturers. The second measure institutes a consultation service for applicants. For more details on the two notices, please read the USDA GAIN report - [MARA Updates Application Requirements for Feed Ingredient and Feed Additive Licenses](#). In June 2022, MARA published [an updated catalogue for the imported feed and feed additives product licenses](#) (link in Chinese), which included all products and firms that have been granted with MARA's import license.

Feed Ingredient Catalog

MARA is responsible for updating the [Feed Ingredient Catalog](#). All feed and feed ingredients must be listed in the MARA catalog to be eligible for import into China. MARA published the [full catalog](#) (link in Chinese) in 2022, and 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 updated information for periodical updates on the catalog.

Feed Additive Catalog

MARA is responsible for updating the [Feed Additive Catalog](#). The [2021 Catalog of “Approved Feed Additives”](#) is a revision of the same document published in December 2013. The 2021 version consolidates six notices made by MARA from July 2014 to November 2020. 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). The most recent catalog updates were made in January 2025, please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2025-0001](#) for more information.

National Standards of Feed Additives

In 2024, over 20 feed additives national standards were notified to WTO under SPS platform, and at the time of this report, those standards are not finalized. Please refer to the FAS GAIN system for future updates.

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, the CCP government 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

Overseas feed facilities that have registered with GACC are listed on [DAPQ website](#). For more detailed registration issues, please refer to Section VI. For additional information on China's feed regulations, see the [GAIN report CH2024-0039](#).

8. Pet Food

Pet food is regulated as feed in China.¹⁷ 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.

¹⁷ Pet food (feed) in China includes pet compound feed, pet additives premixed feed, and other pet feed. Pet compound feed refers to pet food that can provide complete nutrition needs for pets at different life stages. Pet supplement products are under pet feed additives and premixes category, and managed by relevant regulations for feed additives and premixes.

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

- 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.

On April 24, 2022, the Technical Committee of China National Feed Industry Standardization issued a notice to collect industry inputs on the formulation or revision of the national pet food standards. The notice covers pet food related national and industry standards such as products standards, production technical requirements, additives and ingredients standards, and pet food evaluation and testing methods. Currently, China has established 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.

Pet Food Labeling

PRC labeling regulations provide very 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.

Facility Registration

Overseas pet food facilities that have registered with GACC are listed on [DAPQ 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 (in Chinese) are published on the [CNCA¹⁸ 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

[Revised implementing regulations for organic product certification](#) (link in Chinese) entered into force on January 1, 2020. The updated regulations clarified the requirements for certification organizations and personnel, procedures of the certification, and management after certification processes.

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](#) in China.

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 replaces and incorporates the previous standards on organic products (GB/T 19630-2011), including production, processing, labeling, and management systems.

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](#)

¹⁸ 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.

[\(Trial\)](#) (link in Chinese) on December 15, 2020. The guidelines specify the mandatory items 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.

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 replaced the Administrative Measures of Inspection, Quarantine, and Supervision on Entry and Exit Aquatic Products (AQSIQ Decree 135). 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.

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. The Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety 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.

Depending on the product, there are three different U.S. agencies that facilitate market access requests. The U.S. [Food and Drug Administration](#) (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 processed seafood products, 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

According to the GACC Decree 248, overseas facilities exporting processed seafood products must register with GACC through competent authorities of their countries/regions. Registration lists are available on the [GACC website](#). The [USFDA](#) is responsible for submitting lists of U.S. exporters for registration with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). See Section VI for additional information.

The GACC Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety updates and publishes [Registration Information of Overseas Food Manufacturers of Imported Food](#), 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.

Registration of Foreign Live Seafood/Aquatic Animal Facilities (GACC Decree 243 revision)

On July 26, 2016, AQSIQ published the Administrative Measures for the Inspection, Quarantine and Supervision of Imports of Aquatic Animals (AQSIQ Decree 183). These measures entered into force on September 1, 2016. [GACC Decree 243](#) (link in Chinese) revised the Decree 183 in 2018 to reflect the change of the regulating authority.

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 to register with GACC. Chinese importers will also be requested to register and keep business records.

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 [Export Requirements by Country and Jurisdiction \(A-F\) | NOAA Fisheries](#). [APHIS](#) is responsible for maintaining the list of breeding stocks and ornamental aquatic species. 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.

Veterinary Drug Limits

Imported seafood products should comply with limits set in the [National Food Safety Standards of Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods](#) (GB 31650-2019) and the [National Food Safety Standards of Maximum Residue Limits for 41 Veterinary Drug in Foods](#) (GB 31650.1-2022).

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:

- Food production licensing through the local market regulations authority
- Approval of new food materials by the NHC
- Approval of new food additives by NHC*
- Labeling*¹⁹

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 labelling/marketing requirements, and encourage and guide research and development; it was implemented on June 25, 2021. The [draft Voluntary Group Standard for Plant-Based Food](#) (T/CIFST 002-2021) was released for public comments on April 8, 2021, and the [final full text](#) (link in Chinese) was published on August 23, 2021. In November 2024, CIFST released the [draft voluntary General Standard for Plant-Based Food](#) (link in Chinese) to solicitate public comments, which provided more detailed requirements on production of plant-based food and the use of food additives during production. At the time of this report, the draft 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. The measures apply to the inspection and quarantine of non-edible animal products for entry, exit, or transit. These 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.

¹⁹ The second two items only apply to new products/materials/additives.

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.

According to the Trademark Law, a trademark is protected once it is successfully registered, upon which the trademark registrant has the right to exclusive use of the trademark. 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.

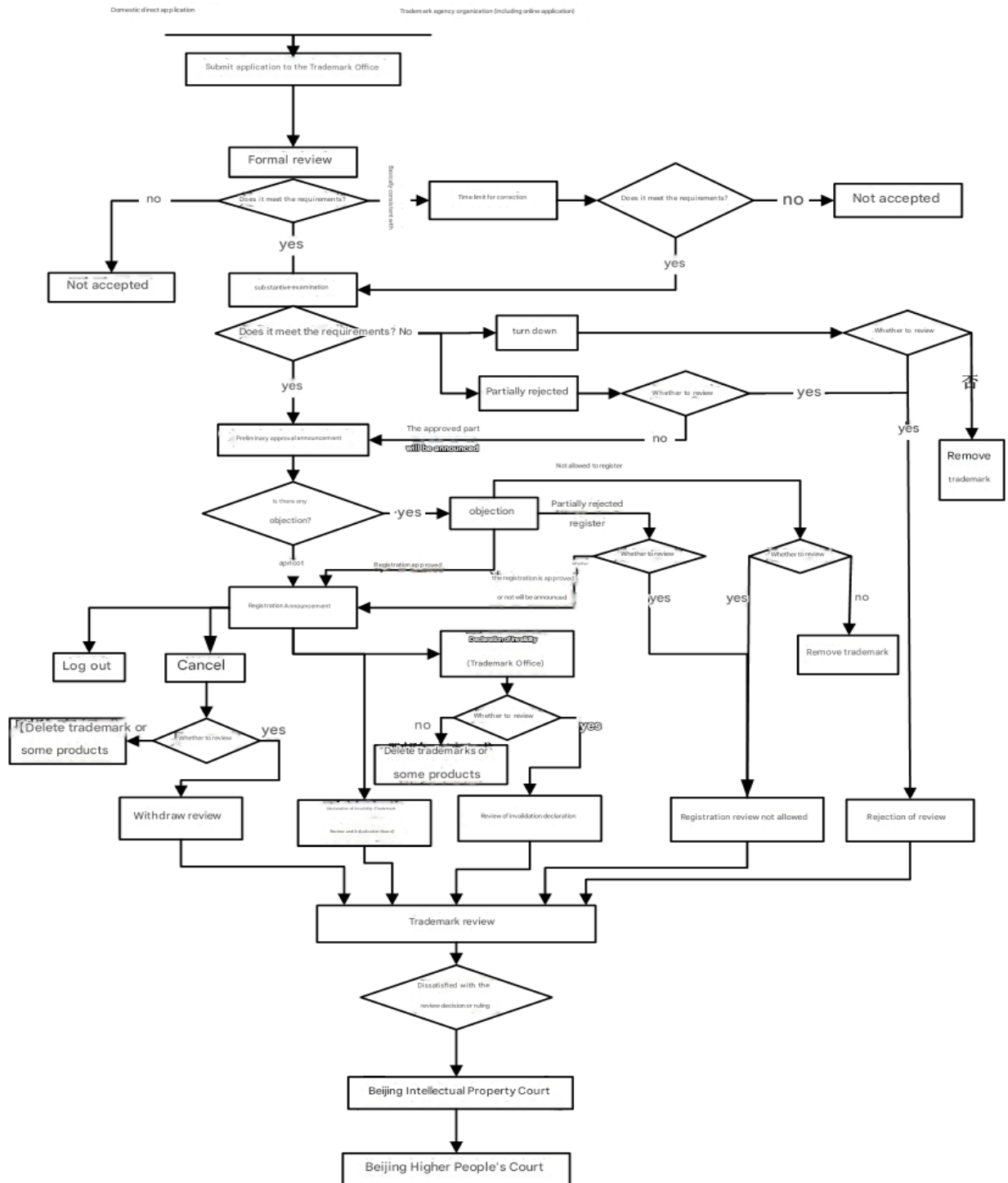
According to the Trademark Law, any logo that can distinguish the products of natural persons, legal persons, or other organizations from the products of others, including text, graphics, letters, numbers, three-dimensional signs, color combinations, and sounds, etc., as well as combinations of the above elements, can be registered as a trademark. Trademarks must have distinctive features, be easy to identify, and must not conflict with the legal rights acquired by others in advance.

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.

Trademark registration process diagram

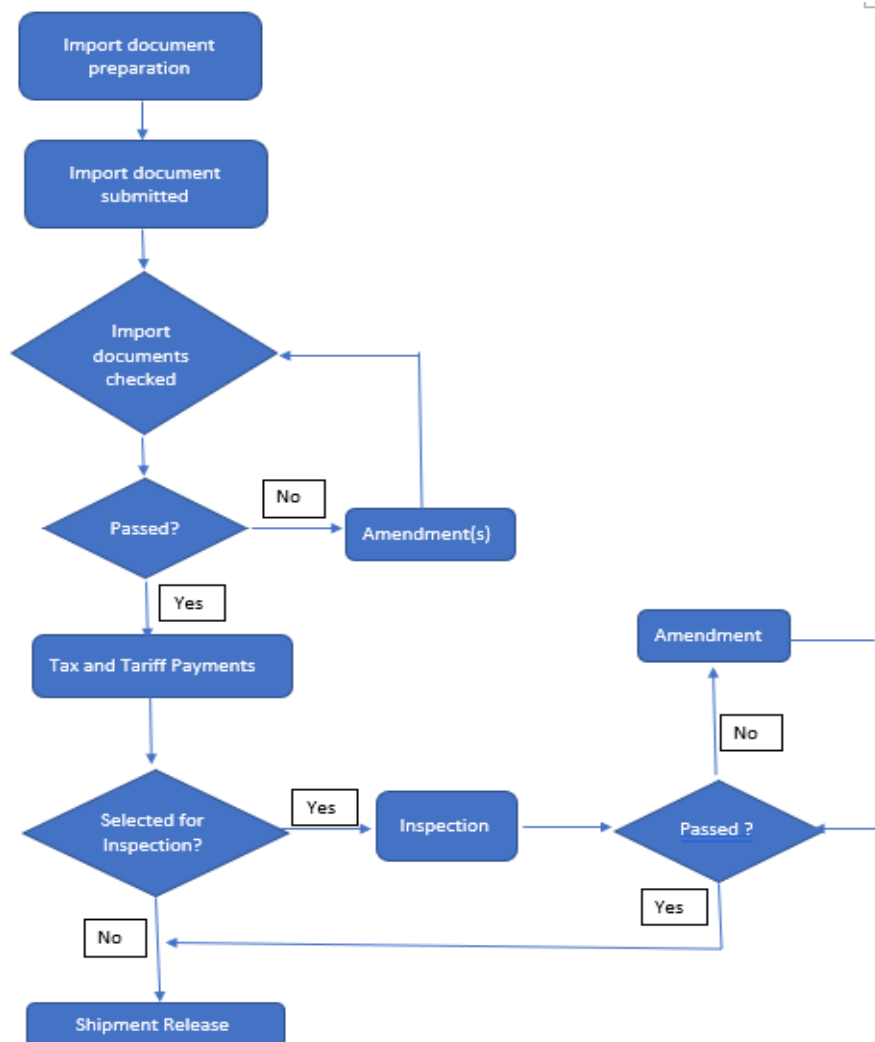


Source: Trademark Office of China National Intellectual Property Administration (Unofficial Translation).

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 [China IP Toolkit](#) for additional information.

IX. Import Procedures

GACC's Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety ([BIEFS](#)) formulates rules and procedures on safety control, inspection, and quarantine of imported and exported food. GACC's Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine ([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 which 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. 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. Most documents do not need to be translated into Chinese, exporters should work with importers in China to make sure the required documents are submitted. For 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 China International Import Exp (CIIE) and Canton Fair might have special channels to fasten the processes and obtain exemption for duties. Exporters should contact their importers or agents for additional product specific requirements. Please refer to upcoming FAS GAIN Report 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 Internet Plus](#) 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](#) 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 also established “high technology for goods inspection,” which also allegedly reduced clearance time by 80 percent. GACC also conducted some pilot projects for digital inspection and quarantine in Guangdong province for bulk mineral products, which GACC argues will reduce clearance time by 15 hours per shipment. GACC stated it will organize more specific actions, projects, and policies to facilitate cross border trade in 2025.

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 1500 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.

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 Import and Export Food Safety Bureau (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 portion 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

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

Agricultural Trade Office, Beijing

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

Agricultural Trade Office, Guangzhou

Phone: (86-20) 3814-5310

Email: atoguangzhou@fas.usda.gov

Agricultural Trade Office, Shanghai

Phone: (86-21) 6279-8622

Email: atoshanghai@fas.usda.gov

Agricultural Trade Office, Shenyang

Phone: (86-24) 2318-1380

Email: atoshenyang@fas.usda.gov

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – China Office

Phone: (86-10) 8531-3030

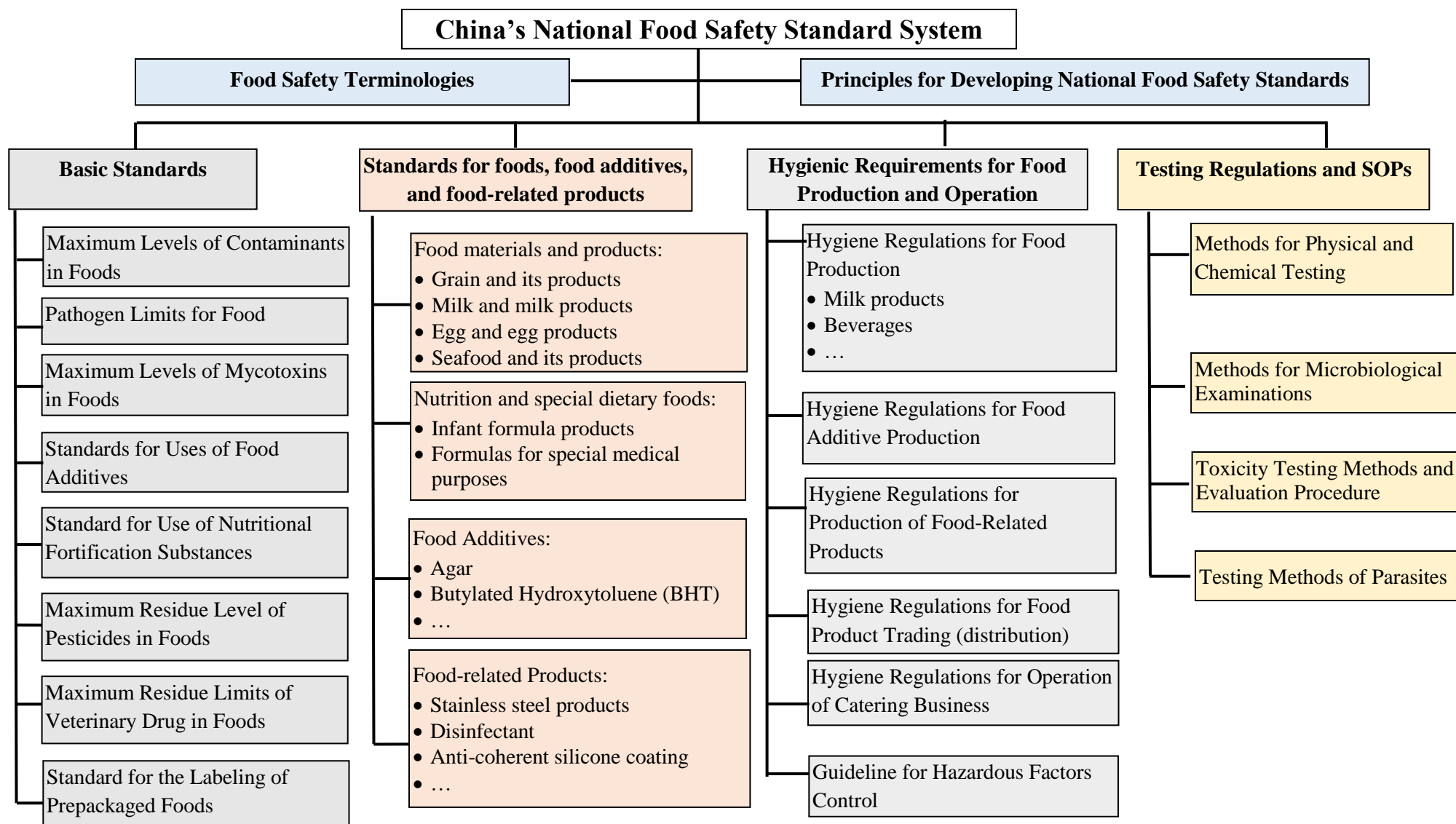
Email: IS.Beijing.China.Staff@usda.gov

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service – China Office

Phone: (86-10) 8531-3983

Email: BeijingFSISCorrespondence@usda.gov

I. Framework of the National Food Safety Standard System



Attachments:

No Attachments