



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 01/23

### Food and drink exports to China – fast track applicant modifications

**Date issued: 20 January 2023**

#### Purpose

1. To inform Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) that the General Administration of Customs China (GACC) now require any food and drink businesses who were successful as part of the fast-track process in 2021, to modify their details on Cifer before 30 June 2023.

#### Background

2. The General Administration of Customs China (GACC) brought in new importing requirements on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food (Decree 248) when exporting a range of food products to China. The Decrees came into force on 1 January 2022.
3. The requirements sought to further strengthen processes to ensure the safety of imported food and extend the range of products where registration is required. Companies exporting to China now need to register their establishments with the GACC.
4. In advance of bringing in the new import regulations in January 2022, the GACC offered businesses who were or planned to export medium and low risk products (listed below) to China to 'fast track' their application. This enabled businesses who were successful to continue to export to China from 1 January 2022, without registering via the new Cifer system.

Medium and low risk products included in the 'fast-track' option:

- Casing
- Bee products

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

- Egg and egg products
- Edible oils and fats
- Stuffed pasta
- Edible cereals
- Products of the milling industry and malt
- Fresh or dried vegetables and leguminous vegetables
- Sauces and seasonings
- Nuts and seeds
- Dried fruits
- Raw coffee and cocoa beans
- Food for special dietary uses
- Health foods

## Action

5. Defra has been informed that, as part of Decree 248, the GACC now require all businesses who were successful as part of the fast-track process (in 2021) to modify their details on Cifer before 30 June 2023.
6. To modify an application, establishments are required to update and provide the necessary information required when registering with the GACC under their product category. This includes a signed and stamped checklist and declaration.
7. Failure to modify a registration could result in delays, blockages or inability to export to China.
8. Establishments can check if they were successful in the fast-track process (in 2021), by viewing their status on the [single window query site](#).
9. If a business was successful in the fast-track process, they can request their log in details by emailing [agrifoodexports@defra.gov.uk](mailto:agrifoodexports@defra.gov.uk). This will enable them to access their profile and modify the necessary information required by GACC.
10. FCCO's are asked to pass this information on to any colleagues to which it is relevant within their Local Authority.

## Further Information

11. Further information can be found in the [FAQs](#).