



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 11/22

Chinese Import Regulation Changes

Date issued: 11 March 2022

Purpose

To inform Local Authorities, FCCOs and OV's of the updated Chinese Import Regulations and new registration process for dairy and non-live aquatics.

Background

New requirements regarding the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food (Decree 248) and Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety (Degree 249) when exporting a range of food products to China entered into force on 1st January 2022. China simultaneously released a new registration portal, Cifer, through which all exporters must apply for a new registration or a modification for the products identified above. General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) have proactively copied over the details of exporters currently approved to export to China onto their new Cifer site.

Action

1. Decrees 248 & 249

Decrees 248 & 249 seek to further strengthen processes to ensure the safety of imported food and extend the range of products where registration is required. All companies who currently export or plan to export to China will now need to register their establishments with the (GACC) and confirm that they meet Chinese standards.

2. Cifer

Cifer, the new registration site, has been designed to meet the requirements of Decree 248 which came into force from 1 January 2022.

Here is the link to the Cifer single window login page: <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn>

All new registrations and modifications are now to be completed on the Cifer site.

A significant amount of documentation and information is required when registering to export on Cifer. China has also introduced a requirement that each premises wishing to export to China undergo an inspection to verify that the FBO meets Chinese standards. FBOs have been informed of this and Defra is currently in the process of agreeing how this will work.

- **For all queries, including how to set up a new application or how to make a modification, please contact APHA and/or direct FBOs to contact APHA at exports@apha.gov.uk.**

3. Registration periods for non-live aquatics

- The registration for all FBOs currently **approved** to export to China **expires on 31st March 2023**. FBOs will need to re-apply 3-6 months in advance of the expiration date (1st October – 31st December 2022). FBOs will be contacted directly regarding how to do this closer to the time.
- New registrations (approved after 1st January 2022) will be valid for five years.

4. Labelling for non-live aquatic products:

China now requires the following labelling information for **non-live aquatic products**:

- Exporters should ensure that the inner and outer packaging must have labels in Chinese and English that are firmly attached, clear, and easy to recognise/ read.

Labels must include the following content:

- Inner and outer packaging must display either the FSA/FSS-issued **and/or** GACC-issued registration number*.
- Commodity name and scientific name.
- Product specification, particularly:
 - Number of pieces (total number in each package)
 - Size (average weight of each 'piece') & grade
 - Quality
 - Net weight of the product (*excluding* packaging)
- 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/county) of all involved production and processing facilities (including fishing vessels, processing vessels, transport vessels, and independent cold storage) **which are currently approved** by GACC for fishery product exports to China. Please note this may be subject to change in future.

- The destination must be marked as the 'People's Republic of China'.

* Exporters have been sent their unique GACC number directly. These approval numbers (and registration expiry dates) can also be viewed at the following site: [registration information of overseas production enterprises of imported food \(singlewindow.cn\)](http://registrationinformationofoverseasproductionenterprisesofimportedfood(singlewindow.cn))

5. Registration periods for dairy products

- The registration for all currently **approved** exporters **expires on 31st August 2023**. FBOs will need to re-apply 3-6 months in advance of the expiration date (1 February 2023 - 31 May 2023). FBOs will be contacted directly regarding how to do this closer to the time.
- New registrations (approved after 1st January 2022) will be valid for five years.

6. Labelling for dairy products

The new labelling rules (under Decree 249) apply to products exported to China from 1st Jan 2022.

Under Decree 249: Article 15, all labels on food products exported to China must now have either the FSA/FSS-issued or GACC-issued registration number* displayed on both the inner and outer packaging.

* Exporters have been sent their unique GACC number directly. These approval numbers (and registration expiry dates) can also be viewed at the following site: [registration information of overseas production enterprises of imported food \(singlewindow.cn\)](http://registrationinformationofoverseasproductionenterprisesofimportedfood(singlewindow.cn))

Further Information

All queries regarding the information above should be directed to exports@apha.gov.uk in the first instance.