

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **China - Peoples Republic of**

## **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification**

## **FAIRS Export Certificate Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

This report lists major export certificates required by the Chinese government from exporters of food and agricultural products.

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## ACRONYMS

**FSIS-** USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

**APHIS-** USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

**AMS-** USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA)

**FGIS-** USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service

**FDA-** US Food and Drug Administration

**CIQ -** Chinese Inspection and Quarantine Bureau

**AQSIQ-** General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China

**MOFCOM-** Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China

NOTE:

1. Please refer to Appendix 1 for reference materials and more information relating to these organizations.
2. For a list of common agricultural trade abbreviations, please refer to our website:

[http://usdachina.org/info\\_details2.asp?functionID=11100408](http://usdachina.org/info_details2.asp?functionID=11100408)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DISCLAIMER

The passage and implementation of China's first Food Safety Law (GAIN Report *Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China*, 3/11/2009) has prompted accelerated changes in China's regulation of imported foods, particularly in the areas of food additives, dairy, meat and eggs, and fisheries.

This report was prepared by the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service Beijing Office of Agricultural Affairs for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate because policies have changed since its preparation, or 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.**

## SECTION I. LIST OF ALL EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT

China has strict documentation requirements for the majority of imported food and agricultural products, including those relating to quality, quarantine, origin and import control, and which can vary between products and product categories. Products may also have to meet other criteria such as packaging requirements, pre-clearance (if applicable), treatment options, labeling requirements, and container conditions.

An inconsistent record of sanitary and phytosanitary notifications to the WTO, means some import measures are modified and implemented without prior notice. These aspects make it vital for U.S. exporters to work closely with Chinese importers to ensure that documentation requirements are met before shipping. Failure to do so could result in delays in product entering the country or even a rejection at the border.

Export Certification Requirement Examples

The following provides a sample of products and certification requirements. Example copies of attestations are not available as they differ for each product and are subject to change.

Table 1: Documentation Requirements

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on	Purpose	Requesting
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		<b>Certificate</b>		<b>Ministry</b>
All Agricultural and Food Products	Quarantine Inspection Permit (QIP)	Information regarding the content, volume, and physical characteristics of the shipment.	General Import Certificate	AQSIQ
Milk and Milk Products	AMS Export Sanitary Certificate	Product has been heat treated and conforms to processing requirements of country.	Sanitary Certificate	AQSIQ
Dairy Products for Feed	APHIS Export Health Certificate	Certifies that the U.S. is free of animal diseases such as rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.	Health Certificate	AQSIQ
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables, Tree Nuts, & Forest Products	Phytosanitary Certificate	Varies by product. Certifies product is free of quarantine pests. (Note: For apples, the shipment must also show proof that cold treatment was applied.)	Plant Health	AQSIQ
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables, Tree Nuts	Certificate of Origin	Varies by product. State Chamber of Commerce or other official body certifies product originates from China-approved growing sites.	Product Origin	AQSIQ
Tree Nuts	Certificate of Quality	Processor or packer provides certificate authenticating quality and standards.	Product Quality	AQSIQ
Cotton	(1) APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate	Certifies cotton free of quarantine pests.	Plant Health	AQSIQ
	(2) AMS Quality Classification	Certifies quality of cotton imports.	Product Quality	AQSIQ
Poultry & Meat Products	(1) FSIS Export Health Certificate	Certifies quality and safety of products.	Food Safety	AQSIQ
	(2) Meat Quarantine Import Permit	Import permit that concerns the importer only.	Import Control	AQSIQ
Poultry	Automatic Registration Form	Import permit that concerns the importer only.	Import Control	MOFCOM
Pork	H1N1 Certificate	Certifies pork is free of H1N1	Animal Health	
Processed Products	Certificate of Origin	Varies by product. State Chamber of Commerce or other official body certifies product originates from China-approved locations.	Product Origin	AQSIQ
Animal Feed	(1) Imported Feed and Feed Additive Registration Regulation	Control imported feed and feed additives and to protect animal production safety.	Animal Health	MOA
	(2) Facility Registration	Certifies that the production facility meets phytosanitary requirements. IMPORTANT: Only applies to feeds containing non-ruminant animal components.	Animal and Plant Health	AQSIQ
	(3) Pending negotiation	For fishmeal and fishoil		
Animal Genetic	APHIS Export Health	Certifies animal health, and	Animal	AQSIQ

Materials	Certificate	certifies bovine genetic materials are BSE free	Health	
Live Animals	APHIS Export Health Certificate	Certifies animal health. (Note: Cattle cannot be exported to China due to BSE-related restrictions)	Animal Health	AQSIQ
Live Swine	APHIS Temporary Attestation for Live Swine Certificate for H1N1	Certifies live swine are free of H1N1	Animal Health	AQSIQ
Soybeans, Corn, Wheat, and other grains/oilseeds	(1) APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate	Certifies products are free of quarantine pests.	Plant Health	AQSIQ
	(2) FGIS Grain Inspection Service	Certifies product quality.	Product Quality	AQSIQ
Soybeans and Corn	Biotech Safety Certificate	An MOA certificate is needed that indicates that the product “contains registered GMO’s,” proper labeling is also required for all biotech products.	Plant Health	MOA
Soy Oil	APHIS Export Certificate– Processed Plant Products	Health and Phytosanitary	Plant Health	AQSIQ
Fisheries	(1) DOC (NOAA ) Health Certificate	Certifies imported fishery products come from approved establishments, and free of pathogenic bacteria, harmful substances or foreign substances.	Health Certificate	AQSIQ
	(2) Certificate of Origin	Varies by product. State Chamber of Commerce or other official body certifies product originates from China-approved sites (for FROZEN fish).	Product Origin	AQSIQ
Live Aquatic Animals	DOC (NOAA) Certificate for US-origin live aquatic animals, intended for exportation to China for direct human consumption	Certifies Health and Origin	Animal Health	AQSIQ
Wood and Wood Products	(1) APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate	Certifies wood and wood products are free of quarantine pests.	Plant Health	AQSIQ

	(2) Certificate of Origin	Certifies origin of wood and wood product imports.	Product Origin	AQSIQ
	(3) Declaration of No-Wood Packing Materials	To certify that shipments do not contain wood packing materials, if requested.	Declaration	AQSIQ
Wood	Certification of Fumigation	To certify that only logs with bark are fumigated to prevent pests.	Plant Health	AQSIQ
Hides/Skins/Wools and Fresh/Frozen Seafood	Animal Quarantine Certificate	Certifies products are free from rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, swine vesicular disease, African swine fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.	Animal Health	AQSIQ

## SECTION II. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATES

An original export certificate must accompany each export consignment at the time of entry into China. The certificate and attestation must match the container numbers in the shipment. Export declarations provided by suppliers or manufacturers and U.S. State issued phytosanitary certificates are not accepted. However, China will accept State-issued certificates of origin or certificate of free sale (see Section IV).

## SECTION III. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Apart from quarantine regulations, products imports may also have to meet other requirements, details of which are contained in the China Food and Agriculture Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report. The most recent update, August 2010, can be downloaded at FAS' website: <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

## SECTION IV. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

### Certificate of Origin/Certificate of Free Sale

For some products, China requires a certificate of origin issued by the relevant authority of the exporting country's government, local or state Chambers of Commerce, state government, industry association, or manufacturer/supplier. This certificate should accompany the export consignment of all food and agricultural products, including processed and packaged food. Some regional inspection offices (CIQ) in China require only a certificate of origin. However, in many instances, CIQs require both the certificate of origin and a certificate of free sale.

The certificate should mention the order number, container number, port of discharge, buyer's name, and product description, in addition to a declaration along the following lines:

"The undersigned for (relevant organization) declares that the following mentioned goods as consigned above (or below) are the products of the United States of America and are eligible for free distribution and use within the United States. We hereby certify the goods to be of United States of America origin."

### Quarantine Inspection Permit (QIP)

Any agricultural good imported to China must have a quarantine import permit to cover the contract amount. The importer must supply documentation regarding the volume of the shipment to AQSIQ with the QIP application. A QIP can technically cover multiple load/containers and is valid for six months.

Please refer to CH7043 (6/13/2007) for more information.

### Meat Quarantine Import Permit (MQIP)

A meat quarantine import permit (MQIP) covering the contract amount (the volume of the shipment must be included with the MQIP application) is required to import meat to China. A MQIP can technically cover multiple load/containers and is

valid for six months. An importer can have multiple outstanding MQIPs with different companies, but can have only one outstanding MQIP with a particular production plant. Please refer to GAIN report CH7043 (6/13/2007) for more information.

#### Automatic Registration Form (ARF) on Poultry

In addition to the AQSIQ regulated MQIP, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) administers a separate import permit system for poultry, the Automatic Registration Form (ARF), which allocates a specific volume to eligible importers. According to MOFCOM, there is no predetermined trade volume limiting the issuance of ARFs; virtually all traders who apply for an ARF receive one. Please refer to GAIN report CH7043 (6/13/2007) for more information.

#### Biotech Product Labeling Policy

China's labeling regulations, governed by Ministry of Agriculture Decree 10 (GAIN report CH7053, 6/22/2007), is "to strengthen the administration of GMO labeling, standardize the selling activities of agricultural GMOs, guide the production and consumption of GMOs and protect consumers' right to be informed." The regulations spell out the type of labeling required as well as the specific language that is required on the individual labels. The types of products listed are:

1. Soybean seed, soybeans, soybean powder, soybean oil and soybean meal;
2. Corn seeds, corn, corn oil and corn powder;
3. Rapeseed for planting, rapeseed, rape oil and rape meal;
4. Cotton seed;
5. Tomato seed, fresh tomato and tomato paste.

#### H1N1 Certification for Pork

China halted pork imports from all H1N1-infected countries in May 2009. In May 2010, AQSIQ lifted its A-H1N1 ban, but all pork imports from the U.S. must have H1N1 certification and pack dates must be on or after March 24, 2010.

#### H1N1 Certification for Live Swine

Effective March 2011, U.S. exports of live swine to China must be accompanied by an APHIS temporary attestation certifying that the live swine is free from H1N1.

#### Organic Certification

Organic field crops, livestock, aquaculture, wild plants, honey, fungus, processed foods, fertilizers, and pesticides products sold in China may qualify for organic certification. For certification, producers must pay the expenses associated with a Chinese certifier in-country inspection as well as the certification fee. The certificate is valid for one year. Renewal of the certification requires a follow-up in-country visit from Chinese inspectors. For more information, please refer to the GAIN *Organics Report*, 10/26/2010.

#### Food Safety Law

On June 1, 2009, China enacted a new Food Safety Law (FSL). For those ingredients or components not registered in China, GAIN report (6/9/2009) provides registration details for new-to-China ingredients/components. Any food or food ingredient/component that had an import history prior to the new FSL will be allowed entry even if there is no Chinese standard. **To check for** relevant Chinese standards on imported foods, food additives, and food colorings, please see the Excel (.xls) appendices found on the FAS China website under the Food Regulations – Food Safety Law link: [http://www.usdachina.org/info\\_details1.asp?id=2431](http://www.usdachina.org/info_details1.asp?id=2431)

#### Animal Feed and Feed Additive Regulations

Since 2009, China has published a host of feed quarantine regulations. Two key documents include AQSIQ Feed Quarantine Regulation 118 (GAIN *New Feed Quarantine Regulation*, 9/8/2009) and AQSIQ Feed Quarantine Implementing Announcement 372 (GAIN *Implementation of Feed Quarantine Regulation 118*, 9/25/2009).

According to Announcement 372, “AQSIQ will publish a list of countries/regions which are eligible to export their feed products to China, as well as a list of the permitted products, and will carry out this registration of foreign feed producers in an orderly manner. For those countries/regions who have completed registration, the imported feeds shall only be sourced from the registered producers or processors.” China has noted that this registration process is for quarantine, product safety and trace back reasons.

Exporters of non-ruminant animal derived feed (such as pet food) must complete AQSIQ’s quarantine facility registration process. To comply, they should request USDA’s Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) certify that their product(s) meet China’s quarantine requirements, and then request APHIS place their name on its list of certified exporters which is submitted to AQSIQ. Generally speaking, AQSIQ accepts the list several times a year and updates its internal list for distribution to provincial offices (CIQs). At this point, APHIS will certify a product is eligible for a “Health Certificate/Export Certificate for Animal Products” for export to China whose provisions are governed by the Protocol for Veterinary Health Requirements for Non-Ruminant Derived Animal Feed and Tallow to be Imported from the United States of American into the People’s Republic of China. For further information, please refer to APHIS IRegs site: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/ch\\_pf\\_fi.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/ch_pf_fi.pdf), and GAIN Reports CH9033 (2008 Catalogue of Feed Additives), CH9071 (AQSIQ Feed Quarantine Regulation 118), CH9074 (Implementation of Feed Quarantine Regulation 118), CH9075 (Risk Levels and Inspection and Quarantine Supervision Methods for Import and Export of Feed and Feed Additives), CH9057 (Corn Quality Standards), and CH9083 (Feed Labeling).

In addition, all non-grain or non-traditional feed and feed additives should be registered with the Ministry of Agriculture. This category is not clearly defined by MOA, but appears to apply to any feed except grains/oilseeds and their most basic/standard processed derivatives (e.g. soybeans/soy meal/soy oil or corn/corn meal/starch). Details on the feed registration process and history can be found in GAIN Reports CH6083 (2006), CH6084 (2006), CH6080 (2006), CH6099 (2006), CH6101 (2007), and CH6091 (2006). This process involves extensive submissions of information to MOA and can involve a significant amount of time. Many in the U.S. export industry complain that the current MOA registration process requests potentially proprietary production information. They note that MOA’s process does not provide additional value to Chinese regulators and that the proposed AQSIQ registration system makes it clearly duplicative and trade inhibiting.

Table 2. AQSIQ list for Countries and Product Categories that are permitted to be imported into China: U.S.

Products	Registration Status
Dairy products for feed usage	Import allowed, will complete the registration process step by step
Pet foods	Only from the facilities registered with APHIS and AQSIQ
Animal feed with non-ruminant origin ingredient	Only from the facilities registered with APHIS and AQSIQ
Fishmeal, fish oil	Import allowed, will complete the registration process step by step
Brine shrimp	Import allowed, will complete the registration process step by step
DDGS	Import allowed, will complete the registration process step by step/China conducting anti-dumping investigation
Wheat bran	Import allowed, will complete the registration process step by step
Alfalfa hay	Only from the facilities registered with APHIS and AQSIQ
Soybean cake and soybean meal	Import allowed, will complete the registration process step by step
Cottonseed meal	Import allowed, will complete the registration process step by step
Cacao shell	Import allowed, will complete the registration process step by step

(Updated on December 28, 2011)

Note 1: Pet Foods, Animal feed with non-ruminant origin ingredient, and Alfalfa Hay trade is governed by specific bilateral agreements, whose terms and restrictions can be found on the APHIS website.

Note 2: For other feed products, China requires commodities be accompanied by a quarantine import permit (QIP) issued by



AQSIQ/CIQ before export and an export certificate issued by the competent agency.

## **SECTION V. OTHER RELEVANT REPORTS**

### **FAS Beijing Reports**

Additional GAIN Reports for reference:

- CH11001 Pathogen Limits in Food
- CH11002 Biotechnology Annual
- CH11005 FAIRS Measures on Inspection, Quarantine, and Supervision of Entry-Exit Meat Products
- CH11006 FAIRS Measures on Inspection, Quarantine, and Supervision of Entry-Exit Aquatic Products
- CH11007 FAIRS Admin Measures on New Food Additive Varieties (Final)
- CH11015 FAIRS List of Banned Vet Drugs and Their Compound
- CH11017 FAIRS Measures on Inspection, Quarantine, and Supervision on Dairy Products
- CH11027 FAIRS Standard on Fermented Alcoholic Beverages
- CH11030 General Rules on Labeling Prepackaged Foods
- CH11031 Maximum Levels of Mycotoxins in Foods
- CH11037 FAIRS Standards for Uses of Food Additives-I
- CH11038 FAIRS Standards for Uses of Food Additives-II
- CH11045 FAIRS Notice on Implementation of Inspection and Quarantine on Entry/Exit Aquatic Products
- CH11064 Supervision and Admin Measures for Inspection of Import Cotton (draft)

### **Other Resources – U.S. Export Certifying Authorities**

#### **FSIS - Food Safety and Inspection Service - USDA**

Export Requirements for China:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&\\_policies/China\\_Requirements/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/China_Requirements/index.asp)

#### **APHIS - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - USDA**

International Animal Export Regulations: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

Intl Animal Product Export Regulations: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

Export Services: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_exports/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/)

#### **FGIS - Federal Grain Inspection Service - USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration**

<http://www.gipsa.usda.gov/GIPSA/webapp?area=home&subject=grpi&topic=is>

#### **FDA- Food and Drug Administration – Department of Homeland Security**

FDA Export Requirements: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/InternationalActivities/Exports/default.htm>

#### **NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Dept of Commerce**

National Marine Fisheries Export Services

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/PartnershipsCommunications/contactus.htm>

## **APPENDIX I. ELECTRONIC COPY OR OUTLINE OF EACH EXPORT CERTIFICATE**