



DAERA Stakeholder/Industry: Chinese Import Regulation Changes

Bulletin: 07/21

Issued: 04 November 2021

Audience: All potential exporters of food products to China

Subject: 1. Requirement for pre-registration of exporting establishments with Chinese authorities by 01 January 2022
2. To make exporters aware of potential for fraudulent activity associated with this registration

Chinese Import Regulation Changes

Purpose

1. To remind Exporters of the new Chinese Import Regulations **and to make exporters aware of potential fraudulent activity relating to new Chinese registration processes.**

2. For your urgent attention

Defra has advised that fraudsters are actively seeking to engage potential exporters requiring to register with General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). Large sums of money (up to £10,000) are being sought for registration through bogus 'official' websites on line. Please note,

- China/GACC do **not** charge for registration/approval listing
- Exporters of meat, dairy and fish must follow the existing official UK procedures for registration via APHA/DAERA/Defra
- Other sectors which are required to self-register **should only use** <http://www.singlewindow.cn/> and avoid all other websites.

Please see below for further information relating to the registration process.

Background

3. Defra has been informed of new requirements that will be introduced under 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. The Decrees enter into force on 1 January 2022.

4. These seek 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 will need to register their establishments with the GACC.

5. Defra is working with Devolved Governments, the FSA/FSS and others on implementation of these measures. GACC is due to publish more detailed implementation guidance shortly which will clarify the scope of products impacted and the specific requirements that will apply. This will then inform the process put in place in the UK to ensure compliance.

6. Defra is currently engaging with GACC on this issue, including requesting sufficient time for companies to comply with any new requirements. Further communications will be issued when more information is available.

Key Changes

7. Registration will apply to **all UK manufacturers, processors, and storage companies which export food (excluding food additives and food related products) to China**. While GACC have not specified what the food related products are, Defra's understanding is that this also relates to food packaging, catering products, etc. This will be clarified when the more detailed implementation guidance is published.

8. Establishments which process/store meat, fish, dairy, and bird's nest products for exporting to China are already required to register with the GACC via UK competent authorities. **These businesses do not have to re-register**. From 1 January 2022, establishments who process/store any commodity listed below for export to China will **also be required to register via UK competent authorities**.

9. Establishments which process/store food products for export to China (which are not already registered for meat, fish, dairy, and bird's nest products) from the products listed below, are required to self-register with Chinese authority. The registration link is <http://www.singlewindow.cn/> and should be available online from 1 November 2021.

- Casing
- Bee products
- Egg and egg products
- Edible oils and fats
- Stuffed pasta
- Edible cereals
- Health foods
- 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
- Products of the milling industry and malt

10. For further information please see FAQs in **Annex A**.

Trade Programme

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Annex A

Frequently asked questions: Changes to China Regulations

Registration

A. Who needs to register with Chinese authority?

Registration will apply to all UK manufacturers, processors, and storage companies that exports food (excluding food additives and food related products) to China. While GACC did not specify what food related products are, our understanding is that this relates to food packaging, catering products, etc. We are expecting this to be clarified when the more detailed implementation guidance is published.

B. Which Establishments will need to register through the UK Competent Authority?

Establishments that process/store meat, fish, dairy, and bird's nest products for exporting to China are already required to register with the GACC via UK competent authorities. These businesses don't have to re-register. From 1 January 2022, establishments who process/store any commodity under Annex 1 for exporting to China will also be required to register via UK competent authorities.

C. Which establishments will need to self-register with Chinese authority?

Establishments that process/store food products for exporting to China that are not meat, fish, dairy, bird's nest products, or products listed in are required to self-register with Chinese authority. The registration link <http://www.singlewindow.cn/> will be online from 1 November 2021 according to Chinese authority.

D. How will I know when my registration starts?

Businesses already registered with the GACC will receive a confirmation of their registration start and end date. They will be able to apply for an extension three to six months before the end date, as required by Article 20 of Decree 248.

E. Which Chinese authority is responsible for the registration of overseas food establishments?

General Administration of Customs China (GACC) is responsible for this work.

F. Which UK competent authorities are responsible for the registration of overseas food establishments?

Defra is working with FSA, FSS and APHA to develop the registration process that will apply and through which competent authority registrations will need to be submitted.

G. Under which conditions would GACC approve the registration of overseas food establishments?

GACC has set out a number of requirements for food establishments exporting to China. These are designed to ensure there are effective food management systems in place and that exports comply with Chinese requirements. Defra will work with GACC to confirm the process for exports from the UK. This will be based on existing UK processes for monitoring and ensuring compliance with food safety requirements.

H. How do businesses register with GACC?

If products fall into the categories listed in point 9 above they will need to register with GACC through Defra. Defra will provide GACC with a list of registered establishments and associated assurances.

I. Is the template of registration application form available?

Not yet. We are expecting a registration application form when more detailed implementation guidance is published.

J. How long will the registration be valid for?

5 years

K. When does this regulation come into force?

1st January 2022. However, discussions are ongoing about the potential for applying an implementation period.