

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary Public

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China - Peoples Republic of

Post: Guangzhou

AQSIQ's Directive #64 Bans U.S. Processed Meat Products

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Trade Policy Incident Report

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and
Standards - Certification

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Report Highlights:

Summary: On May 24, 2012, two shipments of U.S. cooked chicken powder with an estimated value of \$100,000 were unexplainably detained by the Guangdong Provincial quarantine and inspection bureau (CIQ). Post later discovered the reason for the detention was because of the Import and Export Food Safety Bureau of State Quality Inspection Bureau General ASQIQ's internal Directive #64 which was leaked to Post. This report contains an unofficial translation of Directive #64. Though Directive #64 is entitled "Warning of imported beef and sheep tallow products", the report also mentions imported processed meat products be included in this campaign of "proactive and heightened" approach to inspections. China currently does not have a national food safety standards for animal fats or processed meat products; and therefore, will require importers to apply for import permits that are issued by China's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA).

General Information:

AQSIQ specifically instructed CIQ Guangdong to block these two shipments even though the importer had been importing similar products for over ten years. It is important to note that the two shipments were detained without prior notification. The importer was asked by Guangdong CIQ to return the shipments back to the United States.

On May 25, ATO Guangzhou requested a meeting with Guangdong CIQ, but the meeting request was ignored. When ATO Guangzhou approached Guangdong CIQ for explanations on the case over the phone, CIQ said they were given specific instruction from Beijing AQSIQ to reject these shipments but did not provide any additional information. Guangdong CIQ suggested Post contact AQSIQ if we were interested in releasing the containers.

China currently does not have a national food safety standards for animal fats or processed meat products; and therefore, will require importers to apply for import permits that are issued by China's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). In the past ten years, all the ports were loosely implemented this policy and allowed imported animal fats and processed meat products to enter China ports without the hassle of registering for an MOA permit. A contact with the Australia Trade Commission in Guangzhou said Australian animal fat, meal and processed meat products have been stopped for two months now and the response CIQ port officials have provided them is that MOA is currently reviewing a new set of policies and standards and that until this internal review is complete, none of these products can be released by CIQs field offices.

From the tone and wording of Directive #64 and our interaction with Guangdong CIQ, it is clear AQSIQ has unilaterally banned the importation of animal fats and processed meat products from the United States. Post contacted the Austrian Consulate in Guangzhou to corroborate this claim. In Directive #64 AQSIQ asks all CIQs to "be proactive" (举一反三), leading Post to suspect that it would be safer for local CIQs to close the door tighter than looser, if they do not want to invite criticism from AQSIQ.

Unofficial translation of Directive #64

2012 Directive #64 on the "Warning of imported beef and sheep tallow products" (effective until further notice)

Import and Export Food Safety Bureau of State Quality Inspection Bureau General (AQSIQ)

Notification warning of risk

Date: May 10, 2012 Directive #64

Subject: Warning notification on the importation of beef and sheep tallow products

Products and HS codes: Edible Beef and Sheep Tallow 1502009000

Subject Matter: Recently, there were reports on CIQs allowing importations of edible beef and sheep tallow fats

Controlling Policies:

1. China manages imported rendered edible animal fats and **processed meat products** under inspection and quarantine systems. Each CIQ should strictly adhere to this policy. Products without an import permit cannot be imported. Simply because imported products are not required to go through a quarantine approval process, does not imply they acquire an import permit automatically either. Presently, no country or region has obtained an inspection and quarantine authority from China for rendered edible animal fat imports.
2. Each CIQ should be proactive and conduct complete risk analyses on imported food products to prevent the importation of products that are not qualified under the current national food safety standards or without an import permit. If any issues are uncovered during import and export inspection, quarantine and management, please handle according to regulations and report back to AQSIQ in a timely manner.

This risks warning notice is effective until further notification.

2012 年第 64 号 关于进口食用牛、羊油脂的警示通报(有效期另行通知)

国家质检总局进出口食品安全局
风 险 警 示 通 报

2012 年 第 64 号 5 月 10 日

标题：关于进口食用牛、羊油脂的警示通报
产品及 HS 编码：食用牛、羊油脂 1502009000
事由：近日，接到反映有关检验检疫机构允许进口食用牛、羊油脂。
控制措施： 1. 我国对进口炼制食用动物油脂、肉类制品实施检验检疫准入管理，各局应严格执行。未获准入的，不得进口；不实施检疫审批的，不等于自动获得准入。截至目前，任何国家或地区的炼制食用动物油脂未获得我国检验检疫准入。 2. 各局应举一反三，对进口食品进行全面风险排查，防止不符合食品安全标准或应获准入而未获准入食品进口。如在进出口检验检疫和监管过程中发现问题，请按有关规定进行处理并及时报总局。 本风险警示通报有效期另行通报。