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Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

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Post: Beijing

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Report Highlights:

The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) Decree 248 requires that facility and product registrations for select food product imports into the People's Republic of China must be completed and approved by GACC prior to shipment. Decree 248 additionally requires that each product (defined as a combination of one HS code plus a corresponding CIQ code) for those goods covered by the Decree that will be presented for customs clearance be linked to the facility's registration.

The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) Decree 248 requires that a facility or establishment exporting specific categories of food and agricultural products to the People's Republic of China be registered with GACC in the China Import Food Enterprises Registration (CIFER) system prior to shipment. Decree 248 additionally requires that registered CIFER facilities and establishments list each product (defined as a combination of one HS code plus a corresponding CIQ code) attached to their CIFER registration as it is essential for an importer or their agent to present the shipment for customs clearance. Facilities and establishments are strongly encouraged to verify that all facility and product registration information is complete and correct within the CIFER system prior to shipping product to China.

To verify that facilities or establishments are registered with GACC in the CIFER system, please consult the public-facing CIFER query website at: https://ciferquery.singlewindow.cn. To verify and update details of CIFER registration applications, the registrant can log into their CIFER account at https://cifer.singlewindow.cn. If a facility or establishment that exports products to China requiring approval by a competent authority needs assistance with their CIFER username or password, please contact the FDA Export Certification Team at cfsanexportcertification@fda.hhs.gov.

As of January 1, 2022, for products falling within the categories of products covered by the scope of Decree 248, GACC's Import and Export Food Safety Bureau no longer accepts facility or establishment lists not specified within in the United States-China Economic and Trade Agreement (aka "Phase One Agreement" – i.e. meat/poultry, dairy products, seafood products, and infant formula). Facilities exporting products in other food categories (see the list of categories on FDA's website at the link below) must be registered directly with GACC in the CIFER system.

FDA-regulated facilities within these categories needing to make changes to their registration after January 1, 2022, should be aware that they need to both 1) complete or update a listing application in the FDA Export Listing Module system to allow FDA to verify the compliance history of their facility as well as 2) complete an original or change registration application in the CIFER system. The CIFER User Manual is available after logging onto the CIFER system and includes details on how to complete and submit these applications. In addition, registrants should review previous FAS GAIN reports covering Decree 248 for information and guidance.

Please note that original registration applications for new U.S. facilities or establishments that are regulated by a competent authority seeking registration since January 1, 2022, are not being approved within the CIFER system. Discussions continue with GACC to fully understand the process and requirements for registration of new facilities within CIFER. New facilities seeking registration are urged to complete and submit these applications within CIFER and complete the information in the FDA Export Listing Module but should not expect that these applications can be approved.

For additional information, see FAS China's most recent reporting on Decree 248 in the GAIN System (currently, the most recent report is Introduction to Facility Registration Under Decree 248_Shanghai ATO_China - People's Republic of_CH2022-0064) which has links to other reports on the matter, including an unofficial translation of Decree 248. Also, U.S. facilities and establishments can write to FAS at decree248inquiry@usda.gov. For details regarding the categories of FDA-regulated products requiring registration with GACC via FDA, please consult FDA's Food Export Library website at: https://www.fda.gov/food/exporting-food-products-united-states/food-export-library#China

Related Links
http://www.customs.gov.cn/ (GACC Website)
http://www.customs.gov.cn//customs/302249/302266/302267/3625372/index.html (Decree 248 Original Announcement)
http://jckspj.customs.gov.cn/spj/zcfg18/bmgz91/3979122/index.html (Decree 248 Translation)
https://new.singlewindow.cn (Single Window Website)
https://www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/import-export/import-export-library/china (USDA FSIS)
https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-takes-steps-facilitate-export-food-under-chinas-new-facility-registration-requirements-decree (FDA)

Attachments:

No Attachments.