

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: December 20, 2023

Report Number: CH2023-0191

Report Name: Decree 248 Guidance for US Exporters

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Beijing

Report Category: Beverages, Citrus, Coffee, Cotton and Products, Dairy and Products, Avocado, Canned Deciduous Fruit, Dried Fruit, Fresh Deciduous Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Kiwifruit, Raisins, Stone Fruit, Strawberries, Grain and Feed, Livestock and Products, MISC-Commodity, Oilseeds and Products, Planting Seeds, Potatoes and Potato Products, Poultry and Products, Sugar, Tomatoes and Products, Tree Nuts, Vegetables, Wine

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Report Highlights:

This report contains guidance from the Office of Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China for U.S. exporters who continue experiencing difficulties registering their manufacturing, processing, and storage facilities subject to General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) Decree 248.

NOTE: The following text does not apply to U.S. exporters of meat, poultry, dairy, infant formula, and seafood products for the below-mentioned reasons related to Article 11 of Decree 248. Exporters of those products should continue following procedures for exporting to China as outlined by relevant U.S. food safety regulators: [FSIS](#) and [FDA](#). In addition, this report does not apply to U.S. exporters whose products are subject to review by the GACC Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine (DAPQ) or other PRC regulatory agencies.

The GACC Bureau of Import Export Food Safety (BIEFS) requires facilities or establishments exporting specific categories of food products to the People’s Republic of China to register with GACC in the China Import Food Enterprises Registration (CIFER) system prior to shipping under Decree 248. Each facility must list the products it intends to export to China in its CIFER application. Products are defined as a combination of one Harmonized Tariff System (HS) code plus a corresponding Customs, Inspection, and Quarantine (CIQ) code. Chinese importers must present these HS and CIQ codes to GACC in order to clear imported shipments. 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.

Exporters of products subject to Decree 248 facility registration requirements risk detained shipments and other administrative delays if the relevant production or storage facility is not completely registered before the product is produced or shipped, as appropriate. The most recent FAS China report on the scope of Decree 248 can be found at [Decree 248 Product List Update - September 2023](#). Exporters should be advised that China regularly makes changes to this list but does not announce the updates, which could be new additions or removals from the list of those products which trigger registration requirements under Decree 248.

Article 11 of Decree 248 states: “If relevant countries/regions and China have separate agreements on registration method and application materials, (registration) shall be carried out following the agreement.” The U.S.-China Economic and Trade Agreement (Phase One Agreement) includes provisions on facility registration for certain food products, including beef, pork, poultry, dairy, infant formula, seafood, and rice. The United States continues to follow the provisions of the Phase One Agreement to register these facilities and expects China to do the same.

For general information regarding Decree 248, please contact: Decree248Inquiry@usda.gov.

For assistance with products regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), please contact: cfsexportcertification@fda.hhs.gov.

REGISTRATION GUIDANCE

Most facilities producing processed foods are eligible for self-registration; however, per Article 7 of Decree 248, companies that export products in the following categories cannot currently register without competent authority assistance: casings, bee products, stuffed wheaten products, milled grain industry products and malt, certain fresh/chilled vegetables, dehydrated vegetables, certain condiments/seasonings, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, foods for special dietary purposes, and health foods.

If you are unsure whether a product is eligible for self-registration or is unable to register without competent authority assistance, please see the following report and its attached spreadsheet, which lists products covered by Decree 248 by HS code and indicates which registration method is required: [Decree 248 Product List Update - September 2023](#). This list is updated periodically. GACC also updates the lists of products subject to registration in the Product Type Query module of the CIFER system.

China's CIFER system may be accessed at the following website: [E-government Platform for the Origin of China's Exports \(singlewindow.cn\)](#). FAS China has published an [unofficial guide](#) to self-register.

COMMON ISSUES

Registration Delays for New Applicants

Since January 1, 2022, GACC has not approved first-time registration applications for U.S. facilities seeking to export products listed in Decree 248, Article 7. Only facilities that initially registered in December 2021 are currently registered to export Article 7 products to China. GACC has not outlined a process for registering new facilities that is justified on a science- or risk-basis or that FDA and other U.S. agencies are currently resourced to administer. The United States continues to seek clarity from GACC to fully understand the process for registration of new facilities within CIFER.

New facilities seeking registration to export Article 7 products are urged to complete and submit applications within CIFER and in FDA's Export Listing Module. These new facilities should not expect, however, that these applications will be transmitted to GACC for approval at this time. U.S. government agencies are continuing to work toward a long-term solution for registration of these facilities in the CIFER system.

Production Date vs Shipping Date

For Article 7 products, GACC BIEFS personnel have communicated to FAS China staff that only products produced after the facility is completely registered are eligible for import into China. This is a change from earlier statements that the products are eligible for import as long as the facility is registered before the products are shipped. This change has not been notified to the World Trade Organization or communicated in writing to FAS China. According to BIEFS, facilities producing products included in Decree 248 Article 9 (i.e., all food products not listed in Article 7) still need to be registered before products are shipped. GACC BIEFS has also informed FAS China that frozen fruit needs to adhere to the same requirement as Article 7 products in regard to production date and shipping date, even though frozen fruit is eligible for self-registration. Please note that GACC's definition of "produced" is unclear. GACC informed FAS China that the shipping date means the date the product is loaded on vessels prior to departing U.S. ports. FAS China offices continue to seek clarification on this issue and have communicated to GACC that this change in policy is problematic for U.S. facilities.

Detained Shipment

If a shipment is detained, please refer to the instructions in [Clearing Detained Shipments Unofficial Guidance](#). Firms consolidating shipments from multiple facilities should ensure that each supplying facility is registered to export their constituent products within the shipment, and that product packaging carries appropriate facility-specific labeling. If the shipment is detained due to a registration issue, FAS may not be able to help clear the shipment.

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR U.S. EXPORTERS

Decree 248

[GACC Official Website](#)

[Decree 248 Original Announcement](#)

[Decree 248 Translation](#)

[CIFER Site for Registration](#)

[CIFER Site for Verification of Registered Companies](#)

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Reports

[Introduction to Facility Registration Under Decree 248](#)

[Decree 248 Product List Update - September 2023](#)

[Decree 248 Changes and the June 30 Deadline](#)

[Information for Industry Regarding Decree 248 and CIFER](#)

[Notice on Fake Registration Portals - Decree 248](#)

[Decree 248 Unofficial Self-Registration Guide for Overseas Food Facilities](#)

Food and Drug Administration

[FDA Notice on Decree 248](#)

[Food Export Lists](#)

[Online Applications for Export Lists](#)

[FDA FEI Search Portal](#)

[Video on ELM Process](#)

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Export Library for China](#)

Attachments:

No Attachments.